



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2022-2016

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 5611 East Third Street, Mineral City,
OH, Tuscarawas County 44656

Investigative Activity: Interview of Officer
Involves: Tuscarawas County Sheriff Deputy Megan Cox #7933 (W)
Activity Date: October 19, 2022
Activity Location: Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Todd A. Clark #139

Narrative:

On October 19, 2022, at 1048 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joseph Goudy (Goudy) and SA Todd Clark (Clark) interviewed Tuscarawas County Sheriff Deputy Megan Cox #7933 (Cox) at the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO). Cox was accompanied by Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) attorney Tom Hanculak.

This report summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Cox has been a law enforcement officer for approximately one year and two months. Cox attended the Buckeye Career Center for the police academy. Cox graduated in August 2021. Cox has worked for the TCSO for approximately 10 months and is currently assigned as a road deputy. Cox is assigned badge number 7933.

During the incident, Cox wore the standard TCSO deputy uniform (with TCSO patches), which consists of a black shirt and gray pants. Cox wore a ballistic vest (exterior carrier) which held her badge. Cox wore a duty belt which held her handcuffs, keys, duty weapon (Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm), flash light, radio, and three extra magazines. Cox indicated her magazines held 17 rounds each, but she only loaded 16 rounds in each magazine. Her duty weapon has a magazine (16 rounds) with one round in the chamber. Cox carries an ASP baton and knife in her uniform pocket.

Cox operated TCSO vehicle 156, which was a marked (TCSO markings), black, Ford Explorer with lights, siren and spot light. Vehicle 156 is equipped with a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) but did not have an in-car camera. Cox did not have a body camera. Cox indicated she operated on the TCSO radio channel. Cox did not use any audio or video recording devices during this incident.

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Cox was on a rotating schedule; in which, she worked 12-hours shifts (0600 hours to 1800 hours) with a "short day" consisting of an 8-hour shift. Cox was off on Wednesday and Thursday on one week and the next week Cox was off Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Cox indicated her 8-hour shift usually began at 1000 hours.

On September 28, 2022, Cox was on a "short day," which meant Cox did not have to report for duty until 1000 hours. Cox indicated she did not work any secondary employment prior to the start of her shift. Cox indicated she was getting ready for work when she heard a call come out. Cox heard Sergeant [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) respond to the call. Cox indicated within approximately one to two minutes of [REDACTED] arriving on scene, [REDACTED] requested another unit. Cox indicated she knew "something was up" because he called for another unit. Cox stated she got into her vehicle and drove to the scene. Cox indicated she was "going hot" (lights and siren). Cox recalled dispatch asking what "level" (status) [REDACTED] was at. [REDACTED] responded he was at level 2. Level 2 meant something was up and [REDACTED] stated the male (on scene) had a knife. Cox indicated, based on [REDACTED] response, she was trying to decide (as she was driving to the scene) as to whether she would be responding with the less-lethal shotgun or the lethal cover rifle.

When Cox arrived, she indicated Deputy [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) and Lieutenant [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) arrived at the same time. Everyone exited their vehicles. [REDACTED] grabbed the shotgun. [REDACTED] grabbed his lethal cover (rifle). Cox noticed Sergeant [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) was already on scene.

Cox indicated [REDACTED] was trying to tell them where to go. [REDACTED] wanted them to go to the back of the property and get over the fence. Cox saw [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) by the "suspect." It should be noted Cox was referring to Everett Martin (Martin), the involved individual in this investigation.

Cox believed [REDACTED] was attempting to de-escalate the situation by talking with Martin. Cox indicated she was attempting to figure out where to go in order to avoid a "cross fire" situation. Cox indicated this was due to the way the house was set up. Cox ended up going to the back of the house with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] climbed over a privacy fence (into the yard). Cox indicated the privacy fence was approximately seven feet tall. Cox stated she was standing on some racks, which allowed her to see over the fence. Cox indicated [REDACTED]'s shotgun (less lethal) malfunctioned during this time and [REDACTED] was unable to use it. Cox gave [REDACTED] her less-lethal shotgun after he climbed the fence into the yard. Cox was instructed to stay on the outside of the fence in case Everett ran.

Cox recalled [REDACTED] asking Martin to "Show me your hands bud." Shortly after [REDACTED] asked Martin to show him his hands, [REDACTED] shot him with the bean bag shotgun. Cox did not hear

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Martin say anything and did not see Martin do anything prior to [REDACTED] shooting Martin with the bean bag shotgun. Cox indicated she was approximately 30 yards away from [REDACTED] when [REDACTED] fired the bean bag shotgun. Cox could not see what [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] were doing but could see [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Cox indicated her view was obstructed by bushes that were in the way. After [REDACTED] discharged the bean bag shotgun, Cox recalled hearing [REDACTED] say, "He's got a gun." Cox believed she heard [REDACTED] say it twice. Cox stated she heard shots and she ducked down. Cox could not see where the shooting was coming from. Cox did not know who shot first.

After the shots, she "popped back up" and heard [REDACTED] call for a squad (ambulance). Cox stated when the shooting occurred, she stayed where she was at because she knew [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] knew where she was and she was concerned about getting caught in a cross fire. Cox retrieved her "med bag" from her vehicle and came back. Cox stated she was checking on Martin to help him. Cox recalled [REDACTED] had retrieved his "med bag" also. Cox stated [REDACTED] handcuffed Martin.

Cox did not fire her duty weapon during this incident.

Cox indicated no one has asked her to lie about the events in connection with this incident.

The audio file of this interview is attached to this report for review.

Attachment:

Dep. Megan Cox