



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



2023-1835
 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 114 North Ninth St, Byesville,
 OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Courtney Ryan (W)
Date of Activity: 07/11/2023
Activity Location: Guernsey County Sheriff's Office – Business – 601 Southgate Parkway, Cambridge, OH 43725, Guernsey County
Author: SA Craig Call

Narrative:

On July 11, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Investigations and Crime Scene Units were requested by the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (shooting) involving members of the Byesville Police Department (BPD), GCSO, and Jeremiah Wise (Wise). It was reported to BCI the incident occurred at Wise's residence, 114 North 9th Street, Byesville, Ohio, and resulted in Wise being shot by officers and transported to a nearby hospital where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries. BCI Special Agent Craig Call (SA Call) was designated as the lead investigator.

BCI was informed BPD [REDACTED], [REDACTED], BPD Auxiliary Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED], and GCSO Deputy [REDACTED] Deputy [REDACTED] were the officers that fired weapons during the incident. SA Call was informed Attorney Bob Sauter (Attorney Sauter) would be counsel for the above officers. SA Call and Attorney Sauter spoke on the phone and were able to schedule interviews for the above officers for July 20, 2023. Attorney Sauter also indicated he would sit in and provide counsel if needed or requested by any non-shooting witness officers.

After an initial review of the body worn camera footage available in the event, it was determined the following officers would be interviewed due to their involvement in the incident:

- Sgt. Bill Patterson (Hostage Negotiations)
- Detective Brian Carpenter (Lead Hostage Negotiator during the event)
- GCSO Special Deputy Courtney Ryan (Tactical Emergency Medical Services)
- GCSO Deputy Jeff Barton (GCSO SWAT)

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· GCSO Deputy Jon Simmerman (Perimeter during the incident)

On July 20, 2023, SA Call met with Courtney Ryan (Ryan) and Attorney Sauter at the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office in reference to obtaining a witness statement from Ryan. Prior to beginning the interview SA Call explained to Ryan the investigation was not an internal investigation by the GCSO and BPD, but an independent third-party investigation. SA Call further explained the interview was voluntary and could be stopped by Ryan at any time. Ryan indicated she understood and agreed to be interviewed by SA Call. Attorney Sauter did remain present for the interview.

The audio recording began at approximately 1042 hours.

Ryan described her position at the GCSO as a Special Deputy and TEMS provider. Ryan described TEMS as tactical emergency medical services and indicated she has been in that position for approximately two years. Ryan described her work experience relevant to a TEMS position as being a former military police officer and receiving combat life saver training through the military in her position. Ryan described her current occupation as a full-time cardiology nurse practitioner. Ryan said after she accepted the TEMS position she was sent through ATOMS training at the Ohio Fire Academy sponsored by Tri-Med Tactical. SA Call did not ask Ryan to elaborate on the ATOMS training, however from previous law enforcement experience SA Call knows ATOMS to stand for Advance Tactical Operations Mission Specialist training with the training being a several day class focused on the development of medical professionals in a tactical setting. Ryan said she has also been through EMT (emergency medical technician) basic training.

In reference to her involvement in the July 11, 2023 incident, Ryan indicated she was with the GCSO SWAT team on an operation in Cambridge when the team was requested to respond to a staging area near North 9th Street in Byesville. Ryan indicated her only knowledge of the call for service was there was a suicidal male barricaded in his residence and law enforcement was trying to get the male to come out. Ryan described the staging area as a parking lot of an old industrial complex and later pointed out the area to SA Call on an overhead view of the area obtained from Google Maps. The physical location Ryan described is located at the corner of Glass Avenue and North 8th Street in Byesville. Ryan said the SWAT team was staged in this area for approximately two hours before she heard radio traffic indicating the male subject was exiting the residence. Shortly after the radio traffic, Ryan described hearing several gunshots fired. Ryan described her response to hearing the shots as running to the scene on foot through backyards and ultimately ending up at the corner of the neighboring house to 114 North 9th Street. Ryan did refer to the overheard view previously referenced and drew an approximate route she ran while describing her response.

Ryan said a medic was quickly requested once she arrived and she then proceeded into the 114 North 9th Street residence. Ryan described observing Wise as lying on his side, handcuffed, and having multiple apparent gunshot wounds. Ryan described the wounds as one to the upper posterior back area and two in the right lower chest area. Ryan said she applied chest seals to the injuries. Ryan identified GCSO Deputy Jeff Barton (Deputy Barton) as helping her apply pressure to one of the chest seals on Wise. Ryan described the emergency medical

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squad's response as almost immediate and she assisted with moving Wise into the squad. Ryan indicated Wise was moving, breathing, and making eye contact during this process, however he did at no point say anything.

Ryan described continuing with the squad to Southeast Medical Center in Cambridge, Ohio. Ryan said Wise remained responsive during the transport, however he became unresponsive upon their arrival to the hospital. Ryan said she assisted emergency room staff with chest compressions and blood transfusions. Ryan indicated she remained helping the emergency room staff until Wise was ultimately pronounced dead at 2040 hours by Dr. O'Hanlon.

Ryan indicated she did not observe any officers fire their weapons at any point in time during the incident. Ryan confirmed she was unarmed during the incident. Ryan indicated she has no previous contact with Wise and did not know he was the male involved in the incident until after her involvement in the incident concluded.

The audio recording ended at approximately 1053 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: GCSO TEMS Courtney Ryan Interview

Attachment # 02: Ryan Overhead View



Google

Courtney