



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



2022-0310
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 913 Lebanon Street, Monroe,
Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Det. Aaron Ledford (W)
Date of Activity: 02/12/2022
Activity Location: Monroe Police Department – Business – 601 South Main Street,
Monroe, OH 45050, Butler County
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On February 12, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) received a request for assistance from the Monroe Police Department (Monroe PD). The request was in regard to an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place on February 11, 2022. The OICI occurred at the intersection of New Garver Road at Lebanon Street in Monroe, Ohio. Officers made a traffic stop on a vehicle containing Dustin Booth (Booth), who was a subject from a previous mental health call that occurred at 120 Bluegrass Ln. in Monroe. The traffic stop turned into an officer involved shooting where Booth was shot numerous times. Booth was transported to Atrium Medical Center in Middletown, Ohio, where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

BCI Special Agents Rick Ward (SA Ward) and Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) interviewed Monroe PD Detective Aaron Ledford (Det. Ledford) regarding his involvement in the incident. The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device. The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are not a verbatim account unless noted by quotations.

Det. Ledford provided agents with the following information:

Detective Ledford has been employed by Monroe PD for six years and has been assigned as a detective for approximately two years. Prior to his employment with Monroe PD, he was employed by the Clearcreek Township Police Department and the Grandview Medical Center Police Department.

On February 11, 2022, between 1400 and 1500 hours, Detective Ledford was requested to respond to 120 Bluegrass Lane. At the time, he was uncertain about the nature of the incident. He later learned it involved Booth, whom he graduated high school with. He also learned from

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other officers the incident began after Booth's wife, Brandi Booth (Ms. Booth), whom he also graduated high school with, requested officers check the welfare of Booth. Ms. Booth reported Booth threw money out of his car and was not acting right. Monroe PD Officer Drew Aspacher responded to Ms. Booth's request for a welfare check and located Booth operating his vehicle. Officer Aspacher attempted to make a traffic stop. Booth failed to stop for Officer Aspacher and continued to his residence. After Booth went inside his residence, officers set up a perimeter. Officer Aspacher returned to the police department to complete failure to comply warrant paperwork.

Sergeant Eddie Myers (Sgt. Myers) used a PA system to communicate with Booth. After Detective Ledford later spoke with Sgt. Myers, he learned Sgt. Myers spoke with Booth at the front door. Booth had a pistol on his hip at that time.

Detective Ledford was requested to change into "plain clothes," so he left to change and returned to Bluegrass Lane. He parked at the end of the street and spoke with Ms. Booth and Justin Duh (Mr. Duh), a family friend. He estimated that occurred between 1800 and 1900 hours.

At 1946 hours, Detective Ledford called Ms. Booth after she contacted Monroe PD Dispatch and made reference to Booth threatening their children. He contacted her to obtain more information, at which point she told him that Booth said he was going to find their children so they could "stand guard" while he took a shower. Ms. Booth did not present him with any threats of harm made by Booth.

Detective Ledford received a phone and email from Monroe PD Dispatch indicating Mr. Duh wanted to speak with him. He later learned from Detective Matthew Parker that Mr. Duh was inside Booth's residence. He called Mr. Duh at approximately 2138 hours. Mr. Duh told him Booth needed help and was not acting right. Mr. Duh further told him he left to get pizza while Booth took a shower. Mr. Duh expressed his fear that Booth was going to "do something stupid."

Detective Ledford devised a plan and told Mr. Duh to see if he could get Booth in his vehicle. The plan was to have Monroe PD officers make a traffic stop on the vehicle. Mr. Duh provided him with updates via text message. At 2220 hours, Mr. Duh sent a message stating, "moving soon." At 2232 hours, he said, "closer." At 2235 hours, he said, "moving." Det. Ledford did not respond to those messages as not to tip off Booth. He saw Mr. Duh and Booth walking back and forth through the grass; however, he did not have a good view due to the weather and a street light. He later learned from Mr. Duh that Booth went back inside the residence.

At approximately 2237 hours, Mr. Duh called Det. Ledford and said he was afraid Booth was getting a gun. He also told him he wanted the traffic stop to occur outside of the neighborhood. He relayed that information to his sergeant. At approximately 2242 hours, Mr. Duh called him and confirmed Booth had a gun inside of a bag.

Detective Ledford remained in the area after Mr. Duh and Booth left in Mr. Duh's truck as he suspected they might return to the residence. He was given updates on their location over the police radio. After a period of time, he left to trail behind Mr. Duh and Booth. As he was on Lebanon Street near Breaden Drive, he heard "shots fired" over the police radio. He briefly

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stopped his vehicle to get out and don his police vest. He ran to the scene and recalled hearing several shots being fired, however, he did not witness the shots being fired. He did observe unknown Monroe police officers rendering first aid to Booth. Through his police radio, he heard that officers applied a tourniquet. While officers were tending to Booth, he stood with Mr. Duh and he later took pictures of the perimeter of the scene.

The interview was concluded at approximately 0402 hours. See the attached audio recording of the interview for additional information.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-02-12 / Det. Aaron Ledford Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.