



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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

Investigative Activity: Interview of Involved Officer
Involves: Officer [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 05/22/2024
Activity Location: North Ridgeville Police Department, 7070 Ranger Way, North Ridgeville, OH 44039
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente #139

Narrative:

On May 22, 2024, at approximately 1040 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente and SA John Tingley interviewed North Ridgeville Police Department (NRPD) Officer [REDACTED], (Officer [REDACTED]) who was accompanied by his attorney, Danielle Chaffin, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the NRPD located at 7070 Ranger Way, North Ridgeville, Ohio. The interview was audio and video recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report and the video recording was saved as Reference Item F.

Officer [REDACTED] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form prior to beginning the interview. The BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form signed by Officer [REDACTED] was also attached to this report.

This report only 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. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Lieutenant West
Radio Channel Utilized: NRPD Dispatch	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: Ford Explorer with NRPD graphics and lettering.	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Solo
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]

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In-Car Camera: Operational & Utilized	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present and utilized to respond to the scene.	Siren: Present; Not Used
Shift Day of Incident: Night shift, 1900 hours through 0700 hours	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: Could not recall at time of interview.	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: Did not believe so.
Total Length as Officer: Approximately 10.5 years. Previous experience with Tiffin Police Department (~5 years), Pickerington Police Department (~1 year), Grandview Heights Police Department (~3 years)	Length at Current Agency: Approximately 9 months.
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Standard issue marked NRPD patrol uniform with department patches on shoulders, badge on chest, large police patch on back.	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Taser and O. C. spray.
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: Current SWAT team member and previously with Tiffin P.D., Crisis Intervention Training.	OPOTC Certification: Current
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: Last received during Field Training Program with NRPD.
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline related to Use-of-Force: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Aero Precision	Model: Not asked.
Caliber/Gauge: 5.56	Serial: [REDACTED] (from collection photos)
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Condition 3 - Magazine inserted without a round chambered.
Magazine Capacity: Reported - 28 cartridges loaded into the magazine with a second larger capacity magazine that remained in the patrol vehicle throughout the incident	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): Reported: 28 *Note examination of weapon at time of collection showed the rifle had two magazines coupled together with one magazine containing 26 cartridges and one magazine containing 28 cartridges
Extra Magazines: Reported - 1 in cruiser and no additional magazines on his person or at scene	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: Reported - One magazine in cruiser containing approximately 38 to 40 cartridges
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Not asked	Number of Rounds Fired: 1
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Approximately 3 weeks prior with the SWAT team.	Type of Holster, if any: No holster.

Narrative:

After obtaining the above preliminary information Officer [REDACTED] provided the following information:

Officer [REDACTED] had not watched any of the body-worn camera (BWC) or security /surveillance video recordings of the incident prior to his interview with agents.

Officer [REDACTED] was traveling to the NRPD in his assigned take home marked patrol car to start his shift when he overheard radio traffic that a vehicle wanted in connection with a murder in Tennessee had been located on James Drive in North Ridgeville. Officer [REDACTED] joined other NRPD officers in responding to James Drive.

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Officer [REDACTED] was directed to respond to the street directly north of James Drive and approach the subject residence from that location. After parking, Officer [REDACTED] removed the patrol rifle from his vehicle and chambered a cartridge into the rifle. Officer [REDACTED] then briefly met with Lieutenant Lee and viewed a picture of the subject, Jason Norris (Norris). Lieutenant Lee also provided Officer [REDACTED] with brief but additional background on the subject and the call for assistance in locating the subject.

Officer [REDACTED] approached the subject residence from the north / rear of the home. Officer [REDACTED] reached a chain link fence separating the backyard of the subject residence from the home directly to the north. Officer [REDACTED] held his position at this location as the situation unfolded further. Officer [REDACTED] was able to see the subject vehicle in the driveway of 4802 James Drive from his vantage point. Officer [REDACTED] stated "The situation evolved very rapidly. Um, and the suspect we were looking for exited the house (16:27)." Officer [REDACTED] overheard other NRPD officers as they gave the subject verbal commands. Officer [REDACTED] himself began to give the subject verbal commands to "show me his hands and put his hand on his face (17:18)."

After Officer [REDACTED] gave Norris verbal commands, Norris "decided to discharge a firearm to the east where officers were um, where other officers were located. Fearing for my safety and the safety of my fellow officers as well as the surrounding public, I discharged my rifle at the, um, suspect. Um, from there the suspect dropped to the ground (17:23)."

After Norris fell to the ground, Officer [REDACTED] approached the subject home, approaching from the front right (southeast) corner of the home. As Officer [REDACTED] approached the subject, he observed other officers had already approached Norris and were rendering aid. Officer [REDACTED] noticed a second male outside the home near the subject. Officer [REDACTED] directed his attention to this second male who was lying down in the yard at the time. Officer [REDACTED] approached and detained this second male for safety purposes. After placing the second male in handcuffs, Officer [REDACTED] helped this male up and turned him over to another NRPD officer who walked him out of the scene. Officer [REDACTED] then took a position on the northwest corner of the home while other NRPD officers conducted a protective sweep of the subject home.

Officer [REDACTED] was eventually relieved from this position and returned to the front of the home where he observed a 9mm pistol lying in the front yard which he watched over until it was collected. Officer [REDACTED] then returned to the rear west corner of the home before walking out to the road where he notified his supervisor he fired at

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the subject. Officer [REDACTED] then turned over his patrol rifle and returned to the police station.

When asked, Officer [REDACTED] described there to be no adverse weather and the visibility to be clear at the time of this incident.

When asked, Officer [REDACTED] reported he first visually observed Norris when he was standing in the driveway of the home. When asked, Officer [REDACTED] stated he recognized Norris as the same person whose image he had seen as the wanted individual moments earlier.

When asked, Officer [REDACTED] stated he first noticed the subject possessed a weapon when he located the subject through the optic on his patrol rifle. Officer [REDACTED] stated because he was a sniper on the SWAT team, he had a magnified optic on his rifle that gave him a close view of the subject holding a pistol.

When asked to further describe what he observed the subject do with his weapon, Officer [REDACTED] stated, "Uh, he pointed towards officers at the east and discharged it at them (26:16)."

When asked what lead him to believe the subject discharged his weapon, Officer [REDACTED] stated, "Um I heard a loud pop that was indicative of, um, a handgun being discharged (26:16)." When asked what happened next, Officer [REDACTED] stated "I, I don't terminology, hit the selective switch from safe to fire on my patrol rifle and fired one round at the suspect (26:44)."

When asked if he observed the subject pointing his firearm at him or in any other direction, Officer [REDACTED] stated he only observed the subject pointing his weapon to the east.

When asked if he feared for his safety or the safety of the other officers at that time, Officer [REDACTED] again stated he feared for his safety and the safety of others in the area, including other officers at that moment. When asked to reiterate what his fears were, Officer [REDACTED] stated, "My fears were that um another person was going to be shot (28:15)."

When asked, Officer [REDACTED] stated he did not perceive any other options available to him at the moment he fired his weapon.

When asked, Officer [REDACTED] stated he did not hear the subject make any verbal statements to him or other officers before or after the shooting.

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When asked, Officer [REDACTED] stated he had not previously responded to the residence where the incident took place and was not aware of it as problem home at the time of the officer-involved shooting. Likewise, Officer [REDACTED] stated he had no known previous interactions with the subject.

When asked, Officer [REDACTED] stated he did not believe any actions taken by any other officers could be considered improper or criminal.

References:

F - Officer Interview Videos DVD

Attachments:

1. [REDACTED] Criminal Investigation Notification
2. 2024-05-22 Audio Interview [REDACTED]

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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

[Redacted] _____
e

5/22/2024 1037
Date / Time

[Redacted] _____
viewee

Nick Valente #139
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)