



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



2021-0957

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 3171 Legion Ln, Columbus

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness

Involves: John Ballard

Activity Date: 4/20/2021

Activity Location: Legion Ln

Authoring Agent: Matt Collins, #151

Narrative:

On Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 2057 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed John Ballard (Ballard), relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. The interview took place on Legion Lane. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

Ballard was asked where he was when he first realized there was an incident going on. Ballard stated he was in his upstairs bedroom and he believed it was around 1700 hours. He described the room to be over-top of the garage, facing the street. Ballard said he heard some females "talking." He heard one of them saying, "Hey, hurry up. Come on, come out the house, so we can go." Ballard said the girls were loud, which was normal. Ballard said the shouting continued, but then it got quiet.

Ballard said he looked out his window and just as he was looking out, he heard three (3) shots being fired. Ballard further described he was looking straight forward, toward the street and then when the shots were fired, he looked to his left. When Ballard looked in that direction, he saw an officer had his weapon drawn. Ballard described the female to be on the passenger side, so he could not see if she had anything in her hand at the time. He further stated that he could only see the top of her head.

Ballard further explained that he did not see the officer fire his gun but had only heard the shots, looked that direction and saw the officer with his gun drawn. Ballard stated the officer was approximately 15-20 feet away from the female.

Ballard was asked if he'd seen anyone else that was there, who he could describe. Ballard said he'd seen an older woman. He said he did not get a good look at her at the time. However, when he'd come downstairs and outside, he witnessed several people in the area. Ballard said other officers began to arrive, in order to "contain the situation." Ballard was asked to describe what



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he'd meant by that. Ballard said officers were trying to get people to stay back because they were trying to do CPR on the girl.

Ballard was asked if he'd seen any males present, other than officers. Ballard described a male in a gray pull-over with a hood (later identified as Myron Hammonds). Ballard said there was another male who was yelling a lot, escalating the situation. Ballard said he did not know where that male had come from and Ballard told him he was just making things worse. Ballard further stated, he did not believe the male even lived on their street, because he'd never seen him before. Ballard described him as a black male, having a goatee and wearing a fisherman hat.

The interview concluded at approximately 2108 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.