



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



2022-1564  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South  
Charleston, OH (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** Aaron Hayes (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 08/10/2022  
**Activity Location:** Hayes, Aaron – Business – 130 N Fountain Ave, Springfield, OH  
45502, Clark County  
**Author:** SA Kenneth J. Smith, #53

**Narrative:**

On July 24, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place at 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, Clark County. During the OICI, Deputy Matthew Yates was shot and killed by subject Cole White. This occurred after White had killed his mother, Jodie Arbuckle. Multiple agencies and SWAT teams responded and attempted multiple rescue attempts of Deputy Yates. During the standoff the mobile home caught fire and White was killed in the fire.

On August 10, 2022 at 0845 hours, BCI Special Agents Richard Ward (SA Ward) and Kenneth Smith (SA Smith) interviewed Springfield police officer and SWAT team member Aaron Hayes (Officer Hayes) regarding his involvement in the OICI. The interview was conducted at the off site, SWAT training facility in Springfield. 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. 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 audio recording be reviewed to clarify the content of the interview.

Officer Hayes has been employed with Springfield PD for almost five years and has been on the SWAT team for almost two years. His role on the SWAT team was that of an operator and breacher.

On July 24, 2022, he was notified by an application on his phone. He was off duty and on vacation leave when he responded to the SWAT facility and met with Det. Justin Allender and they responded to the scene in a marked police cruiser. Once on scene they met with Captain

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Michael Kranz and then Officer Aaron Hayes got into one of the MRAP armored vehicle on the front door side of the trailer. He was told that he would be on the team to go in and get Dep. Yates. They had been told that Dep. Yates had possibly been struck by gunfire and was in the trailer not answering his radio.

The sheriff's office had made a previous attempt and had been fired on and unable to retrieve Dep. Yates. There was a group of Springfield officers on the entry team including Eric Fleming, William Sanders, and others. Officer Hayes stayed at the MRAP and eventually assisted Officer Sanders in dragging the wounded Dep. Justin Nawman back to the cover provided by the MRAP.

They remained with the MRAP nearby the trailer while another plan was devised. Officer Hayes described other tactical team members were deploying gas and flashbangs prior to the attempted extraction. Officers Fleming, Hayes, Calvin Burch, Det. Kevin Miller and Det. Joseph Lewis attempted to retrieve Dep. Yates a second time. Officer Hayes and Det. Burch were able to grab Dep. Yates and pull him from the trailer back to the MRAP and then the Clark County armored BearCat. Officer Hayes stated that he observed no signs of life in Dep. Yates during the extraction. Officer Yates did hear someone yell that there was a fire inside the residence but he did not observe one. Officer Yates fired no rounds during his participation in the callout.

The interview was concluded at 0857 hours.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-10 / Interview of Ofc. Aaron Hayes Springfield PD

# **Exhibit 1**

**Included as a separate file.**