



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



2022-2085

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 2347 East Waterloo Road, Akron,
Ohio 44312, Summit County

Investigative Activity: Witness Interview
Involves: Kellie Chapman (W), BCI (O)
Activity Date: 10/5/2022
Activity Location: Kellie Chapman Residence –
2214 Canton Road, Akron, Ohio 44312
Authoring Agent: SA Charles Moran #67

Narrative:

On Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at about 1900 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chuck Moran (Moran) and SA Matt Armstrong (Armstrong) interviewed Kellie Chapman (Chapman) at her residence. The interview was conducted in reference to Chapman possibly witnessing the incident and officer-involved shooting that occurred earlier that day involving a subject, Jeremy McCracken (McCracken), and officers with the Springfield Township Police Department (STPD).

Chapman said she has served as a trustee for Springfield Township since January of 2022. She said there are three trustees for Springfield Township and they oversee matters related to the township, including the police department, fire department and zoning, among others.

BCI agents asked Chapman to explain the zoning rules in Springfield Township related to junk vehicles and specifically McCracken's vehicle. Chapman said there was a vehicle parked at McCracken's residence that was in the yard. It appeared to be a junk, abandoned or nuisance vehicle that had not been moved in months. Part of the zoning rules in Springfield Township are that any vehicle that needs to be fixed must be under or inside a covered building or structure. McCracken's vehicle was in the open yard and was not covered by any structure. Chapman said the township had been looking at the issue of McCracken's vehicle for the past several months. The Springfield Township Zoning Department sent multiple notices over the past several months to McCracken about the vehicle.

Chapman said McCracken attended a zoning meeting or workshop in either August or September of 2022. Chapman said McCracken was confrontational and was "scary." Chapman said McCracken had his cell phone in his hand horizontally, leading her to believe that he was audio recording his interaction with the zoning members. Chapman said she texted STPD Chief Jack Simone (Simone) about McCracken and his behavior at the meeting, and Chief Simone responded to the meeting.

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BCI agents asked Chapman to provide details about the incident and officer-involved shooting she witnessed earlier that day. Chapman said she was riding in a marked STPD cruiser with Chief Simone, checking on various zoning matters, when they drove by McCracken's residence (north side, rear yard) and saw the junk/nuisance vehicle parked in the yard. The vehicle was covered with loose pieces of wood. Chapman believed McCracken covered it with multiple pieces of wood in an effort to claim it was under a structure.

It was decided that a tow company would be contacted to respond to the residence and tow the vehicle. When the tow company arrived, the driver backed the tow truck into the yard to prepare to tow McCracken's vehicle. Chief Simone removed the objects that were covering or blocking the vehicle. The tow truck driver lifted the open trunk lid and Chapman heard a few "pop" sounds. She looked at the rear of McCracken's residence and saw McCracken pointing a gun at her, Chief Simone and the tow truck driver.

Chapman said Chief Simone began yelling at McCracken to put the gun down, and Chief Simone told Chapman to take cover. Chapman moved behind a trailer camper to the east. She saw STPD Sergeant (Sgt.) Joe Gaffney (Gaffney) arrive at the scene and run into the yard from the street. She heard a few more "pop" sounds and heard the officers yelling at McCracken. Chapman saw McCracken move to the east and toward the area where she was hiding behind the trailer camper. Chapman ran further east and hid behind another structure. She heard multiple "pop" sounds. Chapman said she believed the "pop" sounds were gunshots. She said the first several gunshots were fired by McCracken, and she believed that the multiple gunshots fired at the end of the incident were by the officers, although she did not see them shoot.

BCI agents asked Chapman what she thought was going to happen to her, Chief Simone or the tow truck driver when McCracken pointed the gun at them and likely fired at them. Chapman said she had "no idea" why someone would point a gun at someone else if they were not trying to shoot and kill them. Chapman added that she believed that Chief Simone and Sgt. Gaffney acted professionally and kept the community safe during the incident.

The interview with Chapman was not completely audio recorded, due to SA Armstrong's digital voice recorder malfunctioning during the interview. The portion that was recorded has been attached to this report.

On October 7, 2022, Chapman informed SA Armstrong that the date McCracken attended the zoning meeting/workshop and appeared to be recording was August 18, 2022.

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Attachments:

2022-10-05 Interview - Kellie Chapman

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