



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



2024-1584

Officer Involved Critical Incident, 27695 Tracy Road, Walbridge,
OH 43465, (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Richard L Shope (W)
Date of Activity: 07/17/2024
Activity Location: Shope, Richard L – Home – 27695 Tracy Rd. Lot 561, Walbridge,
OH 43465
Author: SA Tiffany Najmulski, #49

Narrative:

On 07/17/2024, Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Scott Stranahan (Stranahan) and Special Agent (SA) Tiffany Najmulski (Najmulski) went to 27695 Tracy Road Lot 561, Walbridge, Ohio, to speak to Richard Shope (Richard). Shope was interviewed the night of the incident by another agent during a neighborhood canvass. The purpose of this interview was to ask Shope if he had contact with Beau Purtee (Beau) that evening of the incident.

Agents received information from Beau's mother, Tracy Jurski (Tracy), that Richard and Beau were cousins on Beau's father's side. After listening to Beau's 911 call, Tracy believes someone from the Purtee side of the family harmed Beau before the incident with the police occurred. Richard's trailer is located in close proximity to the area where the incident between Beau and the Perrysburg Township Police Department occurred.

The following is a summary of the interview which was recorded and is attached to the case file.

Richard told agents he was sleeping when his wife woke him and told him there was gun shots outside. After getting his kids to another part of the house, Richard grabbed his own pistol and sat at his kitchen table and heard another shot. Richard then exited his residence and noticed two officers taking cover by his trailer and one officer by a tree approximately 30 feet from his deck. Richard said he saw the police lights on the cars after he walked outside to investigate after hearing the last couple shots.

Richard described the first shots like a handgun (approximately two or three) and then heard three shots that sounded like a rifle. Richard said the handgun shots sounded close outside his window, but he never actually saw anyone.

SA Najmulski told Richard agents were also there because he was cousins with Beau. Richard

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Approved By SAS Scott A. Stranahan on
07/31/2024

said he has not seen Beau since Beau was about three years old and would not have been able to recognize him if he had seen him. Richard said he did not hear that it was Beau who was involved in the incident until the next day.

Richard said he heard a rumor that Tracy was telling people she thought Richard was the one who shot Beau. Richard said he was not in a confrontation with anyone the night of the incident. Richard said he knew Arthur Purtee, who was also his cousin, and knew he lived in the back of the trailer park. Richard said he has never been to Arthur's trailer but when Arthur would drive through the trailer park he would stop, and they would talk. Richard said he was going to try to go to Arthur's funeral but did not make it.

Richard had no additional information and the interview concluded.

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 audio recording. 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 or responses. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the audio recording.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Richard Shope