



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



2022-0310
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 913 Lebanon Street, Monroe,
Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Dustin Booth (S)
Date of Activity: 03/22/2022
Activity Location: Monroe Police Department – Business – 601 South Main Street,
Monroe, OH 45050, Butler County
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at 1030 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward and Steve Seitzman met with Monroe Police Sergeant Robert "Eddie" Myers at the Monroe Police Department, 601 South Main Street, Monroe, Butler County, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview. Also present for the interview was Myer's Ohio Police Benevolent Association Attorney George Gerkin. On February 11, 2022, Myers was the on-duty field supervisor when Monroe police officers shot and killed Dustin Booth. Although Myers was present during the shooting, Myers did not discharge his service weapon.

Sergeant Myers stated he has been employed with the Monroe Police Department for fifteen years and has held the rank of sergeant for nearly one year. Myers is assigned to second shift (1415–2245), but patrol's second shift hours are 1445–2315 hours.

On February 11, 2022, Sergeant Myers worked the above described hours, and when he arrived to work was informed officers were at 120 Bluegrass Lane with a barricaded person. Myers informed his officers to get dressed and respond to the scene. Once Myers arrived on Bluegrass Lane, he directed officers to certain positions in and around the residence. Myers has previous knowledge of the person's (Dustin Booth) mental episode a week prior and personally knows Dustin Booth.

While at the scene, Sergeant Myers briefly verbally communicated with Booth from his position outside and in front of the residence. Booth informed Myers he wanted the MRAP tactical vehicle and a helicopter. Myers had visually seen Booth briefly twice and noticed a tan bandoleer style belt in his possession. Myers wanted Booth to put the gun away and exit the residence. Agent Ward asked Myers if and when he knew Booth was in possession of a firearm and he stated it was known to him "pre-arrival" that Booth had a handgun. Myers recalled officers communicated via the radio if the matrix/criteria was met to activate SWAT.

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.

Myers stated he met with Brandi Booth who was nearby and obtained information; specifically, weapons inside the residence and Dustin's cell phone number. Booth did not answer his calls and informed Myers his phone was inside his truck. The phone was removed from his truck and placed on the porch for Booth to retrieve. Agent Ward asked Myers if anyone communicated with Booth and he stated the West Chester police negotiators did speak with him, but were unsuccessful.

While at the scene, Sergeant Myers stated Lieutenant Beacock and the Chief Bob Buchanan arrived on the scene and had began to talk with family. After a coupled of hours, Myers stated the decision was made to removed the marked patrol vehicles from the area; to prompt Booth to communicate. Once unmarked withdrew, plain clothes police officers remained in the area to monitor the residence.

Sergeant Myers stated during the early evening hours, they responded to the police department to debrief the situation and draft a plan, which was to have remain in the area plain clothes officers to ensure the safety of the public. Additionally, if Booth were leave; to conduct a traffic stop and transport Booth to the hospital. According to Myers, Officer Aspacher signed charges on Booth for fleeing and eluding for his earlier attempt to stop Booth on the 11th along with a mental health 72-hour hold.

Myers stated he believed people had come and gone from Booth's residence; possibly Booth's mother and a friend "Justin" (Duh). Myers believed Justin was communicating with Detective Ledford and the information was relayed in a group text and communications via the radio. According to Myers, Duh had left the Booth residence to pick up and bring back a pizza. Eventually, Myers stated they were informed Justin and Booth were about to leave the residence. The goal of Justin was to have Booth leave the residence and attempt to ensure Booth did not have a gun with him. Once Booth and Justin left the residence, Myers wanted to conduct a "high risk" felony traffic stop and have Booth removed from the passenger of vehicle first. Agent Ward asked Myers if had chosen the area the traffic stop would be conducted and he stated he had not preselected the location and made the decision after the two had left the residence. Myers had officers positioned in the area to cover either direction the two would travel.

Myers was informed Booth, prior to leaving with Justin, went back inside the residence and retrieved a handgun, which was inside a bag. This information was relayed by Justin to detectives. Because of the shift change, Myers was informed officers from third shift were responding to assist. Myers made the decision because a gun is involved, to have the driver with the vehicle keys removed from the vehicle first to reduce the likelihood of a hostage situation.

Myers stated the vehicle moved from the neighborhood and onto Lebanon Street toward the highway. Knowing the direction of travel, Myers stated he wanted to conduct the stop in front of OTS located on Lebanon Street at New Garver Road. Agent Ward provided Myers with a diagram of the intersection of New Garver, Lebanon Street and Ohio State Route 63 who indicted the positioning of Justin's truck and the police vehicles. Additionally, Myers was the third car behind Justin's truck with Officers Halsey and Whitt in front of him. Just prior to the traffic stop and because he knew a K-9 (Officer Doughman) was enroute, he had K-9 Officer Doughman move up if a K-9 became necessary. Once the stop was conducted, Myers stated he was behind Doughman, Whitt and Halsey's patrol vehicles. Halsey reported via the radio that

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.

Justin and Booth were fighting inside the vehicle.

Myers stated as he exited his patrol vehicle, he observed Justin exit the vehicle and go to the ground facing the officers. Booth had exited the passenger side of the vehicle and began to walk toward OH 63 and indicated Booth's path on the diagram previously mentioned.

Myers stated he was focused on tracking Booth and walked the same path as Booth. As he approached, Myers observed a white bag toward the front passenger side of Justin's truck and knew Booth had a gun inside a bag. Myers grabbed the bag and noticed the bag was empty, which he yelled to the officers approaching Booth. Myers discarded the bag and approached Booth along with other officers. Agent Ward asked Myers who made contact with Booth first and Myers believed Doughman and the K-9 did make contact with Booth and observed someone to Booth's left side. Once Officer Doughman made physical contact with Booth, Myers observed Booth fall to the ground and indicated the positioning on the diagram. Myers ran to the location and observed Booth stand up and turn toward the direction of the officers with a handgun in his right hand. Myers stated Officers Doughman and Halsey positioned on his right began to shoot, but indicated there were officers to left also. As the shots were fired, Myers turned away from the gunfire because of potential crossfire. Agent Ward asked Myers if the handgun was pointing toward the officers and Myers stated the handgun was raising up as Booth stood and turned toward the officers. Myers demonstrated Booth's movements when he turned with the handgun.

Once he was shot, Myers observed Booth fall to the ground on a concrete medium and the handgun approximately one to two feet from Booth's right hand. Myers stated officers yelled commands for Booth not to move. Myers requested medics, moved to Booth and kicked the handgun away from Booth's hand. Officers began administering first aid and Myers observed bullet wounds to Booth's front torso. Myers stated Booth talked to the officers saying he loved them, requested water and did not want any medicine. Myers described several tourniquets being placed on Booth.

Myers stated he directed and assisted with scene security. Myers was asked who fired by Sergeant Caudill and he replied Doughman and Halsey, but was unaware if any other officers fired their weapons.

Agent Ward asked it was correct to state Justin was not prompted by law enforcement to become involved in the situation and Myers stated, 'correct." Agent Ward asked Myers why, on the Body Worn Camera video, he was yelling no repeatedly. Myers stated officers were approaching; closing the gap of an armed subject and was a warning. Myers stated he had known Booth for years and was not the same person he had known.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Sergeant Myers at 1115 hours. Attached below is the audio recorded interview Myers.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-03-22 / Sgt. Eddie Myers audio interview

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.

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.