



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



2024-4082

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 303 S. Main St. Celina, Oh.  
45822

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness  
**Involves:** Errin Johnson (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 12/31/2024  
**Activity Location:** Marathon Gas Station – 303 S. Main Street, Celina, OH 45822

**Narrative:**

On Tuesday, December 31, 2024, at 0841 hrs., the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), Special Agent (SA) Jason Snyder (Snyder) and SA Tiffany Najmulski (Najmulski), interviewed Errin Johnson (Johnson), relative to the officer-involved critical incident (OICI) which took place on Tuesday, December 31, 2024. The interview took place at 303 S. Main St. Celina, Oh. 45822. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by Johnson

On December 31, 2024, the Mercer County Sheriff's Office (Mercer SO), contacted the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). Mercer SO requested BCI to investigate an OICI in their jurisdiction.

Due to the nature of the investigation, SA Snyder was requested to assist the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) with the OICI.

During a search for witnesses, Johnson was found to have witnessed some of the incident. Due to this, SA Snyder and SA Najmulski conducted a recorded interview of Johnson in the back seat of SA Najmulski's issued agency vehicle. This was due to the weather conditions at the time of the interview.

Before the recording was turned on, SA Snyder advised Johnson that he did not have to talk to agents and that he was free to leave at any time. SA Snyder also described BCI's role in the investigation and contact information was provided to Johnson.

SA Snyder asked Johnson if he was willing to speak to agents. Johnson agreed to speak to the agents.

SA Snyder asked Johnson a little about himself. Johnson explained that he is a high school graduate, he works full time and is a recovering addict. Johnson was not under the influence of drugs or alcohol at that time.

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SA Snyder asked Johnson about an incident that occurred that morning at the gas station located at 303 S. Main St. Celina, Oh. 45822.

Johnson said that he had arrived at the gas station about 0300 hrs. When he arrived, Johnson left his car running and entered the Marathon gas station for some coffee. When he exited the gas station, he noticed that a man was sitting in his car's driver side front seat. Based on the man's movements, Johnson believes that the man was attempting to place the car in gear to leave the parking lot.

Johnson told the man to get out of his car several times. When the man did, Johnson believed that the man was under the influence of something. Due to Johnson's past experiences, he believed that the man was under the influence of illegal drugs.

The man stated to Johnson "there is some guy chasing me". Also, "they are invisible" and "they are in your car". The man told Johnson that if "he smoked, he would see them too". The man then went into the gas station.

Johnson then entered his car and did a quick inventory of the items in his car. Johnson did not believe there was anything missing from his car. But, due to the man's behavior, Johnson thought he would contact the police.

Johnson called the main line to the Celina Police Department (Celina PD) and reported the man attempting to take his car.

While contacting the police, the man walked outside "in a tizzy". The man walked to the rear of the building.

A few minutes later, two (2) officers showed up. One officer, which Johnson believed was a supervisor, drove to the rear of the building. The other officer made contact with Johnson. It was later determined that the officer who contacted Johnson was Officer (Ofc.) Kyle Balthis (Balthis). When Ofc. Balthis contacted Johnson, Ofc. Balthis body worn camera was activated. Some of the statement of Johnson was captured in this video. See the video of Ofc. Balthis for further details.

Johnson reported to Ofc. Balthis that the man was wearing a puffer jacket and looked like "Mario". Referring to the game character. Ofc. Balthis asked Johnson if he was willing to press charges concerning the man being in his car attempting to take it. Johnson stated that he did want to press charges.

Johnson provided Ofc. Balthis with his information and Ofc. Balthis went into the gas station.

While in the gas station, Ofc. Balthis received some kind of information and exited the building. He went to the corner of the gas station and pulled out his flashlight and walked around the corner cautiously. Johnson believed that another officer who was on scene and was wearing a sweatshirt, followed Ofc. Balthis around the corner.

A few moments later, Johnson heard four (4) gunshots. Johnson did not see what happened to the officers or the man who was in his car. Johnson stood by his car until he was released from the area by officers.

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SA Snyder asked Johnson about the make and model of his car. Johnson's car is a 2008 Ford Echo two door. It is two-tone with a silver/grey coloring as the main color.

SA Snyder asked Johnson what the man in the car looked like. Johnson described the man as about 5'04", 130 pounds, wearing a puff coat, possible of Hispanic background, with facial hair. The man had an accent which Johnson could not determine the origin of. The man was also wearing tan in color shoes, maybe "timberland boots".

SA Snyder asked Johnson to draw a sketch of the area and where he was located and other people during the incident.

The recording is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details

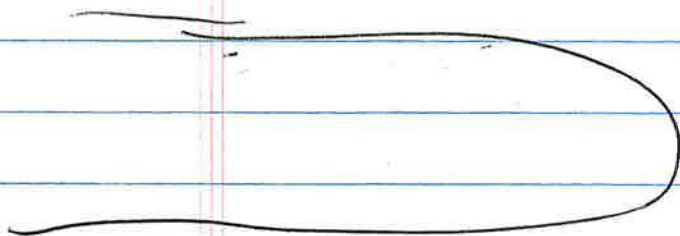
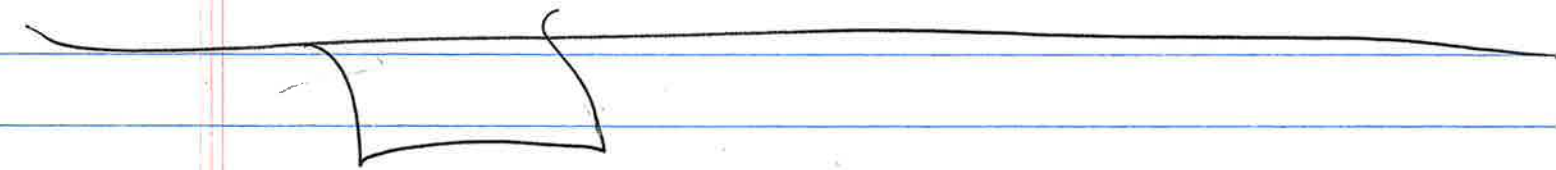
This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2024-12-31, Interview of Errin Johnson

Attachment # 02: Sketch from Johnson

S. MAIN



Officer 2



my  
CAR  
2

FIRST  
CONTACT  
my  
CAR 1

STORE  
FRONT

10/31/2024  
E. Johnson