



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



2022-2121
Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 6463 Tara Brooke Court,
Hamilton, OH 45011 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Mark Bartlett, Jr. (W)
Date of Activity: 10/14/2022
Activity Location: Fairfield Twp. Police Department – Business – 6485 Vonnie Vale Court, Hamilton, OH 45011
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On October 14, 2022, at 1245 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) and Special Agent Richard Ward (SA Ward) conducted an interview with former Fairfield Township Police Officer Mark Bartlett, Jr. (Bartlett) regarding his involvement in an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place on October 8, 2022, in Fairfield Township. The interview took place at the Fairfield Township Administration Building. Bartlett confirmed that he was speaking with BCI agents voluntarily. The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device.

The information provided below summarizes key points from the recorded interview and is 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.

While the terms "suspect" or "subject" may have been used by Bartlett during the interview to identify Jones, knowing that Jones had been identified earlier in the investigation, his name will be utilized in this report.

Reed advised BCI agents that he was working for the Fairfield Township Police Department (FTPD) on October 8, 2022. He was working the evening shift. He had been employed by FTPD since February 2022. He did not have any prior road patrol experience, though he did have prior experience in corrections for both Hamilton and Butler Counties from 2016 until his appointment with FTPD. He attended the Great Oaks Police Academy in 2016. He further advised the BCI agents that he had resigned from FTPD on October 13, 2022.

Regarding his involvement in the OICI, Bartlett advised the following:

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Bartlett advised that he had received a dispatch regarding a reckless vehicle operator. Dispatch later advised that the vehicle was involved in an incident in the city of Hamilton and that the operator likely had a firearm. The vehicle was described as a light blue sedan. The vehicle pulled into the driveway of 6322 Morris Road. At that time, Bartlett and former FTPD Officer Austin Reed (Reed) arrived.

Bartlett observed a silver Ford Focus in the driveway with the airbags deployed. As he got out of his cruiser, he observed Jones standing outside the vehicle. He described Jones as a Black male with dreadlocks who was wearing a green camouflage hooded sweatshirt. He said Jones pointed a black handgun straight out in his direction. He was unable to recall whether Jones was holding the handgun with one hand or two hands. He said the handgun was pointed in his direction for "at least a few seconds." He estimated he was approximately fifty feet away from Jones.

Bartlett took cover behind his cruiser and drew his duty weapon. He observed a civilian on a lawn mower by the residence at 6322 Morris Road. He had the impression that the civilian was "in the crosshairs." Based on the distance between Jones and him as well as the civilian, he did not feel comfortable taking a shot at Jones.

Jones moved behind a tree on the north side of the driveway. Bartlett said Jones took a "crouching position." He observed Jones get up and "dart toward the tree line." Reed then discharged his TASER, which failed. He estimated that Jones was fifty feet away from Reed. Bartlett provided updates over the police radio throughout the entire encounter.

Bartlett advised that Officer-in-Charge Scott Singleton (Officer Singleton) and Officer Adam Green arrived. Bartlett remained with Jones' vehicle. He recalled officers from other agencies arriving to assist FTPD with clearing the woods. He looked inside Jones' vehicle and observed blood on the driver's seat and floorboard. He also observed a cell phone on the driver's floorboard.

Bartlett said a West Chester Township Police Department (WCPD) canine officer arrived [Officer Michael Veeneman], as well as another WCPD officer [Officer Bradley Popplewell]. He briefed the WCPD officers as to what occurred. He went on the canine track with the WCPD officers. As the canine tracked to Tara Brooke Court, he heard "multiple shots." He was unable to discern whether the gunshots were from a handgun or a rifle. He estimated he was a tenth or two-tenths of a mile away from where the shots were fired. He then heard radio traffic indicating that shots were fired, and Jones was secured.

Bartlett ran up to the scene with the WCPD officers. He stayed with one of the involved Hamilton police officers, though he did not learn the name of the officer. He asked the officer how he was, to which he responded, "all right." No other words were spoken between them. He advised that several officers rendered medical aid to Jones while he stayed with the Hamilton officer. He said the Hamilton officer did not have a rifle during his contact with him.

Bartlett assisted with placing crime scene tape around the scene. He remained at the scene until he was removed by another FTPD officer, who took him to his cruiser on Morris Road. He then stayed with Jones' vehicle until relieved by the Hamilton police detectives.

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The interview was concluded at 1308 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-10-14/ Interview with Former Fairfield Township Police Officer Mark Bartlett, Jr.

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.