



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



2022-0001

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 2307 10th Street SW, Canton, Ohio

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview
Activity Date: January 13, 2021
Activity Location: Canton Police Department
Authoring Agent: SA Matthew Armstrong #146

Narrative:

On January 13, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) and SA Charles Moran interviewed Canton Police Department (CPD) Officer Christian Paris (Paris). Officer Paris was accompanied by Bill Adams, the president of the Canton Police Patrolman's Association. The interview took place in a conference room at the CPD. The interview was audio and video recorded and the recording has been attached to this report. The video has been stored in the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item G.

Officer Paris was identified as a CPD officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the January 1, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred at 2307 10th Street SW, Canton, Ohio. Officer Paris did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by Officer Paris.

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 of the 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. It may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information obtained during the interview.

Throughout the interview, Officer Paris provided the following information:

Officer Paris has been a police officer for approximately six to seven years. He has worked for the CPD for the past two years. On January 1, 2022, he was wearing the uniform of the day, which included dark navy-blue uniform pants and a dark navy-blue uniform shirt with Canton Police patches on each shoulder. Over his shirt he wore an external vest carrier which had his name and badge displayed on it and a duty belt which contained his duty equipment. He also wore a black coat which was marked with Canton Police patches on each shoulder and had a badge affixed to the chest. He was equipped with a body camera. He did not have any other

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recording devices on his person. During the incident, he drove CPD marked police cruiser #44. Officer Paris believed he was well represented as a police officer during the incident.

Officer Paris explained he had two radio call signs. When using the police radio from inside his cruiser, his radio call sign was Unit 44. When using his portable radio, his call sign was 167, his unit number. Officer Paris had no prior knowledge of the subject involved in the shooting and did not recall any prior encounters with the subject. He learned the identity of the subject at the police department after the shooting incident.

Prior to the incident, he was parked in a gravel parking lot owned by Aultman Hospital finishing a report he had taken. The lot was located near Tuscarawas Street West and Arlington Avenue SW, which was north of 2307 10th Street SW.

While he was parked in the lot, Officer Huber advised he heard gunfire in the area of South West Arlington Avenue SW. Officer Paris also heard the gunfire, which sounded like it was south of his location and behind Aultman Hospital. While driving to Officer Huber's location, Officer Huber advised he was out at a house in the 2300 block of 11th street SW. When he got there, Officer Huber advised he was actually at a house on 10th Street. He then drove to that location. As he was pulling up to the house, he could hear rapid gunfire which sounded like it was coming from a rifle and he saw Officer Huber fire one shot. He was not focused on Officer Huber but was focused on the house Officer Huber was facing.

He described the area as a dark-lighted roadway. He exited his cruiser and retrieved his patrol rifle from the trunk of his cruiser. He then went to Officer Huber, who was at that point standing at the trunk of his cruiser in the roadway. He asked Officer Huber where the subject was and Huber indicated he did not know.

Officer Paris provided cover when they saw the occupants of the residence at the front door. They ordered all the occupants out of the house. Once everyone was out of the home, they went inside the residence.

When he entered the home, he saw a male inside with what appeared to be gunshot wounds to his chest. He began performing CPR which included cutting off clothing so he could medically assess the subject's injuries and apply chest seals to the gunshot wounds. Officer Little and Officer Jatich assisted him in providing medical care until EMS personnel took over. During that time, the subject did not say anything.

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After the subject was taken away by medics, he remained on the porch of the residence to help with the crime scene and ensure no unauthorized personnel entered the residence.

Officer Paris said the rapid gunfire he heard, as he pulled up to the residence, was more than five shots. He could not provide an exact number but said, "It was a lot." He said the windows in his cruiser were rolled up and he could still hear it. Since he did not know the gunfire he was hearing was the same gunfire Officer Huber was out with, he radioed Officer Huber and asked if he could hear it. He did not get a response, which Paris believed was because Huber could not hear the radio transmission over the gunfire.

Officer Paris believed the gunfire was coming from a rifle. He explained his belief was based on his experience with hearing rifles being fired.

When Paris arrived, Officer Huber's cruiser was in the roadway. As Paris drove toward Huber's cruiser, he was uncertain which house Officer Huber was at. He believed Huber was close to where his cruiser was parked. Paris did not remember where Huber was positioned when he first saw him, but said Huber was between his cruiser and the residence. Paris explained his focus was on the house; he was looking all around the house from side to side and up and down because he did not know where the shooter was. He was unsure if the shooter was outside, inside, on the first floor, the second floor, on the porch or running.

Paris has worked previous shifts during the New Year's Eve holiday. He described working the holiday as similar to other holidays. He said there are a lot of alcohol-related disturbances and more shots fired calls. He could hear some gunfire throughout the area while he was in the parking lot at Aultman Hospital. He described it as one or two gunshots at a time and sometimes maybe a few more, but he was out of service to complete a report and not in a position to go investigate it.

Officer Paris described the difference between the gunfire coming from Officer Huber's location and the other gunfire he heard in the area saying, "It was a lot more rounds...the volume of rounds and just it, uh, it just did not stop. It was relentless for what appeared to be an eternity when I'm pulling up." (Quote began at 14 minutes 47 seconds.) He explained it made him feel "Very uncomfortable, um, very concerned for my safety and officer Huber's um, cause I had, obviously a rifle being shot off very rapidly um, it didn't seem like there's any end in sight and not knowing where this person is or where they were aiming." (Quote began at 15 minutes and 5 seconds.)

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Paris was asked if he has received training in responding to persons with firearms or active shooter situations. Officer Paris explained Canton Police Officers have training in responding to active shooter incidents. It is usually once per year and usually part of their firearms qualifications. It involves locating where the shots are being fired from. The training is in an abandoned building like a school and involves the use of simunitions to train officers to advance toward gunfire. Officers are trained to move to the gunfire and eliminate the threat. They are not supposed to wait for backup.

Prior to the conclusion of the interview, Officer Paris was offered to review his body-worn camera video footage. He indicated he had reviewed it in detail when he completed his report, and he did not believe it would assist him in recalling any additional information.

Reference Items:

Reference Item G – DVD containing video recorded interview of Officer Paris

Attachments:

2022-01-13 Recorded Interview - Officer Paris

2022-01-13 Criminal Investigation Notification - Officer Paris



Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

CHRISTIAN PARIS
Printed Name of Interviewee

1/13/22 1304
Date / Time

Christian Paris
Signature of Interviewee

SA CHARLES MORAN #67
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature] #67
BCI Agent (Signature)