



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Aaron Dickinson (O)
Date of Activity: 12/21/2022
Author: SA Christopher Hamberg, #69

Narrative:

On December 20, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved critical incident (OICI) that occurred on the railroad tracks near Section Street, in LaRue, in Marion County, OH. The OICI occurred when the Marion County SWAT Team (MCST) [which encompasses deputies from the Marion County Sheriff's Office, along with police officers from the Marion, Ohio, Police Department] came in contact with Travis Hellinger (Hellinger), as the MCST was attempting to execute a search warrant at the Hellinger residence. Hellinger succumbed to his injuries.

On December 21, 2022, BCI Special Agent (SA) Chris Hamberg (Hamberg) interviewed Officer Aaron Dickinson (Dickinson) of the Westerville Police Department. [It should be noted that Dickinson is part of the Delaware County Tactical Unit (DTU), and they assisted on the Marion County Operation that involved the OICI.] The interview took place at the Coliseum X laser tag, 100 Dillmont Dr., Columbus, OH, as the Delaware County SWAT had training. The interview was digitally recorded. The audio file is attached to the case file.

The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what Dickinson may have witnessed at the scene of the Marion OICI.

SA Hamberg asked Dickinson to describe how the events unfolded and what he witnessed in regard to the OICI. Dickinson stated they were assisting the Marion County SWAT unit on a drug search warrant execution. Dickinson stated he was assigned to the "Bearcat" team, which was assigned to the pole barn on the Hellinger property. Dickinson stated he heard radio traffic that Hellinger left the residence and was walking backwards on the railroad tracks. Dickinson stated he could observe Hellinger walking backwards with the flashlight for short period of time. Dickinson stated he did not observe the shooting incident but overheard several gunshots a few minutes later.

Dickinson had no additional information to share on the incident.

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 reader refer to the audio recording in its entirety.

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Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Interview with Aaron Dickinson Westerville PD

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