



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



2022-2608

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 28 North Paint St., Chillicothe
(L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Sgt. Eric Kocheran (S), Nicholas Casey Mitchell (S), Captain Max Adair (W)
Date of Activity: 11/17/2022
Activity Location: Adair, Captain Max – Business – 28 North Paint St, , Chillicothe, OH 45601, Ross County
Author: SA Shane R. Hanshaw, #102

Narrative:

On Thursday, November 17, 2022, at approximately 2001 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Shane Hanshaw (Hanshaw) conducted an interview with Ross County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) Captain Max Adair (Adair), relative to the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on Thursday, November 17, 2022. The interview took place at a RCSO facility located at 28 North Paint Street in Chillicothe, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information regarding the activities that occurred in the area of 28 North Paint Street, Chillicothe, Ohio.

Prior to conducting the interview, SA Hanshaw advised Captain Adair that the investigation was a criminal investigation. The interview was audio recorded.

Captain Adair was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the November 17, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 28 North Paint Street, Chillicothe, Ohio. Reportedly, Captain Adair did not discharge a firearm during the course of 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 interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information obtained during the interview and 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 from the interview.

At the onset of the interview SA Hanshaw identified himself as a BCI Special Agent and began by asking some preliminary questions. Captain Adair stated he is a Patrol Captain at the RCSO.

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.

He has been employed by the RCSO for about 11 years. Captain Adair normally works Monday through Friday from 0800 hours until 1600 hours. On this date, Captain Adair stated he arrived at work at his normal start time and fulfilled his normal work duties throughout the day. Captain Adair stated he concluded his work day at approximately 1615 hours.

Captain Adair stated after leaving work, he and his wife, Deputy Kristin Adair, were walking downtown to eat dinner. Captain Adair said he saw two Chillicothe Police Department (CPD) cars. The CPD cars turned onto Paint Street and then turn into the alley between the law complex and the court house. Captain Adair said the CPD cars were running in emergency status. Captain Adair said he thought it was strange, so he and his wife walked to the back of the RCSO building. At that point, Captain Adair stated he received a phone call stating that Sergeant (Sgt.) Kocheran had been shot at the office. At that time Captain Adair stated he was on scene.

Captain Adair said when he came around the corner of the building he saw one or two CPD officers and RCSO Sgt. Gallagher standing over a male that was bleeding. The male was lying on the ground near the back door of the RCSO. Captain Adair said one of the officers appeared to be holding pressure on a wound located on the male's head. Captain Adair said he observed a small black handgun lying on the ground near the unknown male and multiple bullet casings lying on the ground between the male and Sgt. Kocheran. Sgt. Gallagher stated Sgt. Kocheran was inside the building and had been shot.

Captain Adair stated he entered the building and saw several corrections officers, a city dispatcher, and the jail nurse attending to Sgt. Kocheran. At that point, Captain Adair felt he was in the way so he walked back outside and made phone calls to other RCSO management personnel in order to get additional resources.

Captain Adair said Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and additional deputies arrived at the scene. Captain Adair said he assigned a deputy to go with the ambulance that transported Sgt. Kocheran and assigned another deputy to ride in the ambulance with the unknown male.

When asked, Captain Adair stated he did not recall having any strange encounters with anyone throughout the day and had no knowledge of any threats made to the agency or Sgt. Kocheran prior to the incident.

At approximately 2013 hours, SA Hanshaw concluded the interview with Captain Adair.

The audio recording of the interview with Captain Adair is attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Recorded Interview with Captain M. Adair