



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



2022-1564
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Corey A Hildenbrand (W)
Date of Activity: 07/24/2022
Activity Location: Hildenbrand, Corey A – Home – 1131 Ashwood Dr, South
Charleston, OH 45368, Clark County
Author: SA David Wieging, #122

Narrative:

On July 24, 2022, at approximately 1754 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent David Wieging (SA Wieging) interviewed Corey Hildenbrand (Hildenbrand) at his residence located at 1131 Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, Ohio, (Harmony Estates Mobile Home Community). The purpose of the interview with Hildenbrand was to obtain all relevant information regarding the activities that occurred on this date at the residence of 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Charleston. It was reported that the Clark County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) responded to the 1132 Ashwood Drive address upon receiving a complaint that Jodie Arbuckle (Arbuckle) may have been shot inside of the residence while checking on the welfare of her son, Cole White (White). CCSO Deputy Matthew Yates was one of the responding deputies and was reportedly struck by gunfire when he entered the residence. As the incident progressed, BCI Agents learned that Deputy Yates had succumbed to his injuries. BCI Agents further learned that Arbuckle and White were found deceased inside the residence after it caught fire.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author 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.

Hildenbrand related he had stepped outside to smoke when he observed two females outside the 1132 Ashwood Drive residence, which is directly across from his and his mother's (Lelah) residence. The time was approximately 1000 hours. Hildenbrand said the two females, one of which he referred to as the mother, walked to the back of the trailer and he could hear the mother saying, "Hey, if you can hear me, I just need to know if you are okay...I just want to know if you're safe, you're okay." Hildenbrand related the mother continued to ask (her son

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inside) to bang on the wall or say something to know he is safe. Hildenbrand stated there was not a response at which time the mother retrieved a ladder, took off a screen to a window and climbed inside the residence through the window. Hildenbrand approximated the mother was inside the residence for 4–5 minutes and then he heard 5 shots go off and heard her scream. Next, Hildenbrand went inside his residence to grab his phone and called the police when he heard another gunshot. The other woman outside screamed "Jodie, Jodie. Say something, say something. Jodie. Jodie."

Approximately 15–20 minutes later, three sheriff deputies arrived on scene, go up to the front door and identified themselves. Hildenbrand stated the deputies had their weapons drawn and were in a "tactical position." The deputy with a shotgun then kicked open the door and identified themselves again, "Sheriff's Office, Sheriff's Office" before they made entry. Hildenbrand said he heard the guy inside the residence shooting at the officers first when the shotgun went off. Hildenbrand added you could see it (the round) go through the roof of the residence with smoke coming out. Hildenbrand heard the deputies say "Shots fired. Shots fired. Man down." and observed two deputies retreating. Another attempt to enter the residence was made by deputies, which Hildenbrand stated he recorded (on his cell phone), and more shots were heard. Hildenbrand mentioned he dropped to the ground when he heard the shots. Hildenbrand commented that another deputy got shot in the leg.

Shortly after deputies retreated, they began clearing the immediate area. Hildenbrand related SWAT had not arrived yet. From down the way, Hildenbrand subsequently observed the Springfield Police and Ohio State Highway Patrol arrive. He stated a 3rd entry was made to go inside the residence and another officer got shot. After 3 1/2 hours, law enforcement shot their cannons inside the residence with the residence subsequently catching on fire.

Hildenbrand acknowledged speaking with BCI Special Agent Supervisor Justin Root earlier about the photographs and video recordings on his (Hildenbrand's) phone as well as the video recording from their residential Ring doorbell system.

SA Wieging's interview with Hildenbrand ended at approximately 1806 hours.

A copy of the audio-recorded interview with Hildenbrand is attached to this report.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-24 Audio Interview with Corey Hildenbrand

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.