



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Involves: Beau D Purtee (V)
Date of Activity: 07/18/2024
Activity Location: Purtee, Beau D – Home – 1917 Delence St, Toledo, OH 43605
Author: SA Tiffany Najmulski, #49

To: Prosecutor Paul Dobson

CC: SAS Scott Stranahan

From: SA Tiffany Najmulski

Date: 07/31/2024

Case Title: Beau Purtee

Case Number: 2024-1584

Investigative Request

On May 23, 2024, at approximately 2250 hours, the Perrysburg Township Police Department (PTPD), received a phone call from a male individual, later identified as Beau Purtee (Beau), that was walking around with a gun and pointing it at individuals. The PTPD located Beau walking along a ditch area near 27695 Tracy Road, near Lot #327 of Friendly Village Trailer Park. When Officers approached the area, Beau began shooting at officers. One officer returned fire with his rifle striking Beau. Beau succumbed to his injuries at the scene. No officers were injured. PTPD requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Crime Scene Unit and the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) to investigate the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI). Special Agent (SA) Tiffany Najmulski (Najmulski) was assigned as the case agent.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the May 23, 2024, officer-involved shooting in Wood County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail are not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is

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derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of the officer's actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent Tiffany Najmulski was assigned as the lead SIU case agent. SA Najmulski received assistance in the investigation from SA Chris Hamberg, SA Jason Snyder, SA James Keen, and SA Josh Rammel. SA Dave Hammond and Crime Scene Tech, Emily Miller of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident, documenting, preserving, and collecting possible evidence. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Scott Stranahan and Acting Supervisor Chris Hamberg. Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview of the officer who discharged their weapons
- Recorded interviews of officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Interviews of civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interview of first responders
- Interviews of family members or associates
- Special agent attendance to postmortem examination (autopsy) of the deceased
- Obtained and reviewed postmortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the

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involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.

- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) trace on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine ownership history)
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available dash cameras involved in the incident- none
- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident

- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans / model of incident area
- Processing of involved vehicle(s) for potential evidence
- Reviewed audio communications of the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911 /phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) communications relative to the incident
- Issued preservation letters for phone records of the numbers believed to have some relevance to the incident
- Reviewed phone/text records obtained via search warrant from wireless service provider
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Obtained search warrants for the subject's phone and performed an analysis of the data present
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include, if applicable:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
 2. Firearm operability testing
 3. Chemistry (drug identification)

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4. Gunshot residue testing (GSR)
 5. Fingerprint analysis
 6. DNA
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
 - Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
 - Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapon(s)
 - Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
 - Enhancement of audio/video recordings through the assistance of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission
 - EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered

Incident Summary/Overview

Through the investigation it was learned that earlier on the day of the incident, Beau had attended the funeral of his cousin, Arthur Purtee. Beau was seen drinking mini shot bottles of alcohol at the funeral. He was then invited back to Arthur's residence at 27695 Tracy Road Lot #293 by Arthur's childhood friends who were from out of town and staying at Arthur's residence.

While at the residence, Beau was observed to be intoxicated and brandished a handgun. People in attendance reported being scared for their lives. They said Beau pulled the weapon from a holster in the front of his waist band. Beau took the clip out and witnesses saw the clip was loaded. Beau was telling stories and asking who the bad guy was. When he was told that no one was the bad guy he stated he was the bad guy. Beau was confronted by witnesses to put the gun in the trunk of his car which he refused to do.

Beau took off walking through the trailer park to an unknown destination. Witnesses contacted Beau's cousin, Chris Purtee, to see if someone could come to the location to take care of Beau. During this time, Beau called 911 advising dispatch that the "whole family" was trying to kill him. Beau advised that he was on Tracy Road and near First Solar. He stated that he had a gun, but that he "put it down". Prior to being able to provide a more precise location, Beau can be heard saying "get back" multiple times and saying, "I will shoot you". Beau said multiple times that he did not want to hurt anyone and could be heard making angry noises such as grunting and yelling to himself. Beau is heard yelling at someone to "get back", "get back in the house", "let me go", "and "let me out". Beau did not respond to dispatch when additional information was sought. Dispatch announced that they may have heard a gunshot, but it was not clear. Beau continued to disregard dispatch's questions.

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It was learned that a person had confronted the resident from Lot 330. Mark Telles advised that he was home with his wife around 2300 hours. He was watching T.V. and heard gunshots outside. Telles wanted to see what was going on and opened his door. He saw a white male who was wearing a light-colored shirt. The male was standing in his yard near his porch. The male stated, "there you are mother fucker". Telles closed his door and called 911.

Officer Interviews

Officer's Tyler Gearig (Gearig), James Brazeau (Brazeau), Hunter Johnson (Johnson) and Sgt. Ross Wheatley (Wheatley) from PTPD were dispatched. According to officers and a witness statement, they drove lights and sirens to Tracy Road where two police cars went silent and black, and the other had it's lights on and siren turned off.

Once there, officers began looking for the subject who had called 911. They heard shouting and approximately five gunshots and found that it was coming from a ditch that runs north and south in front of the trailer park. Sgt. Wheatley saw a light coming from the ditch with puffs of smoke coming from it. Through his experience he determined the light was a gun mounted light and the puffs of smoke were from the gun being fired. Officer Brazeau stated he saw muzzle flashes coming from the ditch but could not see a person. Officers Wheatley and Johnson retrieved their rifles. Officers Brazeau, Gearig and Sgt. Wheatley took cover at a trailer near the subject's location. Officer Johnson took cover behind a large tree near the trailer.

Officers were concerned not only for their safety but the safety of the traffic driving on Tracy Road and the residents at the trailer park. The light coming from the subject's direction was directed towards officers. Officers took this as an immediate threat. Officer Brazeau said he saw what looked like a flashlight moving around at the bottom of the ditch. Officer Brazeau said they were having trouble seeing in the ditch, even when using their own lights because of how deep, steep and dark the ditch was. Officer Brazeau said the subject was yelling and the subject's flashlight was panning around. Officer Brazeau said he was concerned to use his own flashlight because he would be revealing his position.

Officer Brazeau told agents the subject began firing approximately five shots and the rounds were going past the officers. Officer Brazeau went on to say, he could hear the rounds hitting the tree that Officer Johnson was behind. Officer Gearig stated it looked like a flashlight on a cell phone, as it was moving back and forth. Officer Gearig stated he had no idea at that time, that it was a flashlight that was affixed to the subject's Glock 9mm handgun, until after the incident was over and they located the subject in the ditch.

Officer Johnson said he turned on the light to his duty rifle to attempt to see where the subject was, but it was still too dark. Officer Johnson then called out to the other officers what he was seeing because he had the better vantage point. Officer Johnson then used his sights on his rifle, saw a light and saw the subject peeking "around the corner". Officer Johnson said he was having trouble seeing the subject because he was still far away. Officer Johnson thought the subject must have seen the light coming from Officer Johnson' direction and started shooting at his light. Officer Johnson said he was scared and tucked behind the tree. He could hear the gunshots hitting the tree. Officer Johnson said a couple seconds went by and it got quiet. Officer Johnson did not know that Sgt. Wheatley had fired his gun. He said

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there was so many gun shots going off he could not tell which was which but knows he was shot at first.

Officer Gearig stated that Officer Johnson utilized his flashlight that was affixed to his patrol rifle to try and locate the subject. Officer Gearig stated that Officer Johnson told them he could see the subject moving around in the ditch area. Officer Gearig stated a few seconds after that, the subject started shooting toward Officer Johnson at the tree. Officer Gearig stated that they could hear the bullets striking the tree that Officer Johnson was using for cover.

Sgt. Wheatley thought he fired his rifle, five or six times. Sgt. Wheatley could still see movement in the ditch and fired another shot. After this, the movement stopped. Sgt. Wheatley said the question came up with the officers about whether or not the subject left the area because the light the subject was using appeared to be on the ground. Sgt. Wheatley used his patrol car to provide cover to see where the subject was and if the subject was wounded. Sgt. Wheatley was still unable to see the subject in the ditch but thought he was probably there somewhere, injured.

Officer Brazeau said after Sgt. Wheatley shot his rounds, Officer Brazeau thought he heard a round go off that was different from Sgt. Wheatley's gun and believed it was from the subject's gun. Officer Brazeau said Sgt. Wheatley fired his gun approximately two more times and that time the flashlight the subject had stopped moving.

Officer Gearig stated they made their way to the ditch where they located the subject lying face down in the ditch, with the Glock 9mm having a flashlight affixed to the barrel, and the Glock still being in the subject's right hand. Officer Gearig stated that Sgt. Wheatley made his way down the ditch, while he and the other officers gave Sgt. Wheatley cover. Officer Gearig stated that Sgt. Wheatley removed the Glock from the subject's hand and checked for a pulse, which he did not find.

Officer Brazeau and Gearig were wearing and operating their body camera during the incident. Sgt. Wheatley failed to turn his camera on during the incident and Officer Johnson left his body camera at the station where it was being uploaded for information from another call for service.

Physical Evidence

The BCI Crime Scene Unit processed the scene. They located a Glock 34 GEN 5 9x19 handgun with serial number CAPP107 close to the subject's body. A "Trijicon" brand scope was attached to the slide of the handgun and a light was affixed to the underside of the muzzle. The handgun was unable to be made safe due to the extensive damage to the slide/scope area. One full cartridge could be seen in the chamber. The magazine contained five hollow point 9mm SIG LUGER cartridges. Damage was noted to the right side of the gun at the time of recovery. A small portion of the metal, near the serial number had been broken off. The shape of the break was slightly rounded. The weapon's slide would not cycle at the time of the recovery and had to be packaged with a live round in the chamber. It is possible that the weapon may have been impacted by a fired bullet or like item.

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A trace submission on the 9mm Glock 34 with serial #CAPP107, that was found at the scene, was submitted to the ATF (Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms) Tracing Center. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Beau has been identified as being involved in the officer involved critical incident.

A fired 9mm SIG LUGER cartridge casing was located in a grassy area north of the deceased's body in the ditch.

Sgt. Wheatley's "Rock River Arms" rifle, CAL 5.56MM, LAR-15 was taken as evidence. The rifle contained a scope with working light and was found locked in the "safe" position. One HORNADY 5.56 NATO full cartridge was found in the chamber. Four fired 5.56 NATO cartridges were found located in the ditch toward the west slope (approximately 122 feet away from the deceased). It should be noted these items were close to the southeast corner of a home located on Blue Jacket Drive, west of Tracy Road. The magazine contained twenty-three (23) HORNADY 5.56 NATO full cartridges.

The surrounding area was searched again during daylight hours. One fired cartridge casing HORNADY 5.56 NATO was located on the west slope of the ditch near the east side of house Lot #327 located on Blue Jacket Drive.

A phone with a black "LIFEPROOF" case and a STREAMLIGHT WEDGE flashlight was found.

South of the house located on Blue Jacket Drive and west of the ditch, was a tree that appeared to have apparent damage of potential bullet impacts to the north side of the trunk area. No fired bullets could be located. Some damage to the tree was visually consistent with kids hitting it with axes or knives, creating linear shaped damage. Other damage was circular in shape with rough edges. These were consistent with a bullet impact or ricochet. Excavation of the surrounding tree wound did not locate any fired bullets.

BCI was notified by the PTPD that Beau's mother, Tracy Jurski, found an article of potential evidence, in the ditch at 27695 Tracy Road, Walbridge, Ohio days after the scene examination. The item found was a .22 caliber magazine. The magazine was submitted to the BCI lab for latent prints examination. The lab report indicated there were no prints found on the magazine. The magazine is not compatible with the AR's carried by the Perrysburg Township Police Department officers.

Video Recordings

SA Najmulski submitted the recording of Beau calling 911 to the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OCIC). The purpose of the submission was to ascertain a clearer recording of what Beau was saying and to determine gun shots being fired. The results of that analysis have yet to be returned to SA Najmulski.

Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent, Beau Purtee was obtained from the Lucas County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Conclusion

When the complete autopsy and the OCIC examination of the 911 recording is complete, SA Najmulski will forward those reports to the Wood County Prosecutor's Office.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Tiffany Najmulski. SA Najmulski can be reached via email at tiffany.najmulski@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov or by telephone, at 419-455-5824.

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