



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



2022-0310
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 913 Lebanon Street, Monroe,
Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Charles Ernie Malott (W)
Date of Activity: 03/17/2022
Activity Location: West Chester Township Police Department – 9577 Beckett Road,
West Chester, OH 45069, Butler County
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On March 17, 2022 at approximately 1033 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward (SA Ward) and Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) interviewed West Chester Township Police Officer Charles Ernie Malott (Officer Malott) regarding his involvement as a crisis negotiator on February 11, 2022 at 120 Bluegrass Lane in the City of Monroe. Officer Malott was identified as a witness via body-worn camera footage Monroe PD Captain David Chasteen provided to BCI. The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are not a verbatim account unless noted by quotations.

Officer Malott advised he has been employed by the West Chester Township Police Department (West Chester PD) for approximately thirty-one years. He is currently assigned to the West Chester PD property room. He also has an ancillary assignment as a crisis negotiator, which he has held for approximately twenty years.

Officer Malott advised West Chester PD Sergeant Doug Farris requested he assist Monroe PD with a subject experiencing a mental health crisis. Sergeant Farris informed him of the nature of the incident. He was initially advised the subject was not a threat to himself or others; however, Monroe PD officers saw Booth wearing a firearm on his hip. He responded to 120 Bluegrass Lane with another West Chester PD crisis negotiator, Officer Michelle Berling (Officer Berling).

Officer Malott was advised by the Monroe PD Police Chief Bob Buchanan (Chief Buchanan) that Dustin Booth (Booth) was inside his residence and was not responding to officers. He was also advised, prior to his arrival, officers got Booth's phone out of his truck and placed it on the front porch. Through police radio traffic, Officer Malott learned Booth peaked out of his window multiple times, presumably to look at the police, but he did not go outside to retrieve the phone.

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Officer Malott spoke with Chief Buchanan (Chief Buchanan) and the decision was made to move the perimeter out of Booth's eye sight. After approximately thirty minutes, Booth retrieved his phone and went back inside. Officer Berling called Booth and spoke with him. Officer Malott advised the call sounded "one-sided," as he could hear Booth rambling to Officer Berling. Booth requested the "smarter male version" of Officer Berling and hung up.

Officer Malott attempted to call Booth. After several attempts, Booth answered. He advised Booth ranted about China and an array of political and religious topics. He stated Booth acted as if he was a superior being and no one was worthy of speaking with him. After several minutes, Booth hung up on him.

Officer Malott advised he attempted to re-contact Booth. Booth answered one of the calls; however, he acted as if he was speaking with someone else. Once Officer Malott identified himself, Booth hung up again. That was the last phone contact with Booth.

Officer Malott had some discussions with Chief Buchanan. Officer Malott was advised Monroe PD officers were going to "back off and leave." Officer Malott and Officer Berling were relieved at that point.

On February 12, 2022, Sergeant Farris requested Officer Malott complete a statement regarding his involvement in the incident. He completed a statement, a signed copy of which was provided to BCI.

The interview was concluded at approximately 1048 hours. See the attached audio recording and written statement from Officer Malott for more information.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-03-17 / Officer Charles Ernie Malott Interview

Attachment # 02: Officer Charles Ernie Mallot Written Statement

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 2

Monroe Negotiator Request 2/11/2022

On 2/11/2022 at approximately 1530 hours, Monroe PD requested negotiators to assist with a possible barricaded subject at 120 Bluegrass Ln. Monroe, Ohio. P.O. Michelle Berling and I responded to the scene and met with the Monroe Chief of Police and scene personnel. Officers on scene were trying to make contact with Dustin Booth who had retreated into his house and was not responding to officers. Officers had placed Mr. Booth's cell phone on his porch but he would not retrieve it. To this point, Mr. Booth had not made any threats of harm to himself or others. Since Mr. Booth was actively looking out windows a decision was made to pull back the perimeter cars in hope that he would come out to see where we were and pick up the phone from the porch. He did come out and pick up the phone at approximately 1720 hours. Officer Berling tried calling Mr. Booth and he answered on the third attempted call. I listened to the conversation in a secondary role. Mr. Booth was very amped up his conversation was not rational. When Officer Berling would try to speak, he would cut her off and continue changing topics without any logical pattern. After approximately 7 minutes, he stated something to the effect, that he wanted to talk to a man, was mad and needed to smoke more weed to calm down and hung up. I waited a couple of minutes and tried calling him back multiple times over the next 15 minutes. At approximately 1745 hours, Mr. Booth called our phone back and I answered. He was still making irrational comments. He would not engage in any type of conversation I attempted. This lasted for approximately 8 minutes at which point he hung up. I made more attempts to call him back. He answered once at approximately 1813 hours but as soon as I told him who I was, he hung up immediately. At no point in his ramblings of comments did he make any direct threats of harm to himself or others. We gave Monroe updates throughout that process and cleared the scene at approximately 1900 hours.

P.O. C.E. Malott 57

3/17/22

P.O. C.E. Malott #57

West Chester Police Department