



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



2024-3996
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 780 Taylor Road,
Gahanna, OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with civilian witnesses
Involves: David Willis, Madlyn Willis, Dawn Willis
Activity Date: 12/19/2024
Activity Location: 820 Taylor Rd., Gahanna, OH
Authoring Agent: SA Aja Chung

Narrative:

On Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 1242 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Aja Chung (SA Chung) and SA Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) interviewed David Willis, Madlyn Willis and Dawn Willis relative to the officer-involved critical incident which took place earlier that day. The interview took place at David and Madelyn Willis' residence, located at 820 Taylor Rd., Gahanna, Ohio. Also present during the interview was Dawn Willis, David and Madelyn's daughter. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by all three individuals.

Gahanna Police Department (GPD) attempted to make contact with Alex Russell (Russell) at SpringHill Suite at 665 Taylor Road regarding a fraud complaint. Russell fled his room through the room window and walked in an easterly direction. GPD officers followed Russell on foot to 780 Taylor Rd., where Russell reportedly aimed a gun at GPD officers. GPD officers discharged their weapons, striking Russell, who later died from his injuries.

Madlyn Willis (Madlyn)

Madelyn told agents she was in the kitchen, walked into another room and suddenly heard a loud noise, then a window shatter. Madlyn went on explaining how she initially thought her husband, David, made the noise. She then looked out her kitchen window and saw eight (8) police officers firing their weapons in her direction. It should be noted the broken kitchen window was located on the west side of the residence.

Madlyn confirmed she could tell the officers were law enforcement by their uniforms. Madlyn said she heard the police officers yelling but could not tell what they were yelling.

Madlyn advised she did not see Russell until her daughter, Dawn, said there was someone on the ground.

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David Willis (David)

David told agents he was in another room just off from the kitchen when he heard the gunshots. It should be noted that the room was located on the southwest corner of the residence.

After the gunshots, he looked out the window and saw Russell on the ground and three (3) police officers in the same area as Russell. David confirmed the police officers were dressed in their uniforms and clearly distinguishable as law enforcement.

David indicated he only heard yelling but could not tell who was doing the yelling.

Dawn Willis (Dawn)

Dawn stated she was in another part of the house when she heard gunshots. Dawn initially thought they were fireworks, or someone was shooting at the deer that frequent her parent's backyard.

Dawn said she walked into the kitchen and saw the police officers and Russell on the ground.

Agent note: the projectile that shattered the window was observed by interviewing agents. This item was collected as evidence.

The interview concluded at approximately 1248 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.

References:

None

Attachments:

1 - Willis' interview

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