

Witness Statement Form

Incident Date: 01-18-2024 Time: 0214 Incident # 2024-015839
 Address of Occurrence: 7702 Spafford Ave. District: 4 Zone: 1
 Officer Name: P.O. Andrew Crytzer Badge# 1178 Bureau/District SWAT Platoon A
 Citizen Name: Robert Perkins

Witness Statement

Sir,


This is a Witness Statement for the events that took place on Jan. 17th, 2024 at 7702 Spafford at 0214 hrs. This event was in connection with CAD # 24-015839. During this situation, the SWAT Unit was deployed to an active situation, where the suspect (Robert Perkins) was consistently shooting a rifle at residences, moving vehicles, and toward Officers, once arrived on scene.

Around 0145 hrs. I was repositioned from rear cover at 7712 Spafford, into the Cuyahoga County Armored Vehicle. Once inside the vehicle, we positioned the Armored Vehicle on the southern side (1/2 Corner) of 7702 Spafford, observing the entire front and southern sides doors and windows in case of suspect break out. Specifically I was placed into the County Armored Vehicle in order to ready and fly the Cleveland SWAT Unit drone once ordered.

During this time I observed the Cleveland SWAT Unit Armored Vehicle make continuous audible announcements for the suspect to exit the residence through the front door with nothing in his hands and surrender to the Officers who were outside. The suspect either did not respond to the exit requests, or at other times turn music on inside of the residence and use a microphone to say random things.

After a Judges' signing of a search warrant on the residence, an order was given for the Cleveland SWAT Armored Vehicle to use the Ram Extension to force the front door open, which was done. This evoked a response from the suspect who was seen with a rifle in his hand and he attempted to re-secure his damaged door.

After approximately a half hour, without any sightings of the suspect inside the residence, I heard 5-8 shots coming from inside the residence that sounded like rifle fire. I then observed Officers in the northern perimeter position begin to run from their vehicle cover positions. Then I observed the Cleveland Police Armored Vehicle get hit with rifle rounds on its' windshield and sustain damage. At that point, Sgt. Blaine who was inside the Cleveland Armored Vehicle broadcasted that his Vehicle sustained damage to the front windshield and was not sure if the glass could take any more shots from the suspect before compromising the integrity of the glass. He then broadcasted he was planning to reposition the Vehicle, and mentioned that the suspect was shooting his rifle from the second floor (elevated), front side window. I looked to see if I could determine where the suspect was inside the second floor windows for Intel purposes when I heard 2-5 more shoots that seemed toward the County Armored Vehicle. The front passenger, who was a Cuyahoga County Deputy, stated that the Vehicle sustained heavy damage on the passenger front window. He inspected the window and determined that the window was probably compromised. We made a broadcast that we also sustained possible compromised window damage and needed to reposition as well. I then observed the top hatch of the Cleveland Police Armored Vehicle open and saw that the rear door of the same vehicle open and close. Then I observed muzzle flash from the SWAT Member [REDACTED]. Then there was a broadcast from the Cleveland Police Armored Vehicle that they had shots fired from CPD SWAT Members, and believe that the suspect was down.

Signature:  Badge# (if applicable) 1178
 Address/Agency Name: 2001 Payne Ave / SWAT Unit Date: 1/17/2024
 Phone Number: 216-623-5545 Email address _____