

**Witness Statement Form**

Incident Date: 01-17-2024 Time: 1838 Incident # 2024-015839  
 Address of Occurrence: 7702 Canton Ave District: 4 Zone: 1  
 Officer Name: David Bloxton Badge# 32 Bureau/District 4 Platoon C  
 Citizen Name: Robert Perkins

**Witness Statement**


On January 17th, 2024, around 1838 hours, while assigned to 4A35, in company of P.O. Morrison #1017, we received a Code-1 radio broadcast for the area of 7702 Canton Ave, in connection with Shot Spotter and shots fired calls for service. Following are the circumstances of the incident.

Upon our arrival, we began touring the area. We then learned that a male was shooting from a house located at 7702 Canton Ave. We then began to secure the perimeter of the building. While securing the perimeter, we were able to make contact with the male, later identified as Robert Perkins, from his front first floor window. From my position at the first floor window, I was able to see what appeared to be an AR-15 style rifle laying on a back table in the front room, and Perkins walking around the room speaking into a microphone.

Perkins began explaining that the system was broken and could not get any help. He explained that he as had a life of trauma and decided that being destructive towards himself was no longer working. Perkins then made statements that discharging his firearms was a better outlet. I then began trying to explain that other people could get hurt due to him discharging his firearms. Perkins explained that there was no good people around him. During this conversation, Perkins made numerous comments that he wanted us to kill him.

Perkins then decided that it would be easier to confer with us by going to the second floor's middle window, due to it being open. We then continued to confer regarding multiple issues and topics. During the progress of building a rapport and attempting to get Perkins to allow us to help him, a male from the address of 7629 Spafford Rd came outside. This male then began yelling towards Perkins and us. I then ordered the male to go back inside, which he complied, but continued to yell towards us while doing so. Perkins then appeared to become upset and made statements towards the male being a drug dealer.

Perkins then left the second floor window and went back down stairs into the front room. Perkins then began to pick up his rifle and what appeared to be extra magazines.

Signature:  Badge# (if applicable) 32  
 Address/Agency Name: 9333 Kinsman Rd Date: 1-18-2024  
 Phone Number: 216-623-5400 Email address dbloxton@clevelandohio.gov



While Perkins was grabbing the rifle, I began to order him to not grab it and to put the rifle down. At this time, I was ordered to fall back to seek cover and defilade by Lt. Schneider #8566. Once we were behind cover, we began to hear about two gunshots from Perkins' house. We then learned via radio that an officer on scene witnessed Perkins shooting the rifle out of the second floor window towards the northeast. We then held a perimeter of the house until SWAT arrived on scene and took over.

I then was ordered to be relocated to the staging area of E. 78th St. and Spafford Rd. in order to confer with supervisors regarding the incident. After I was complete with conferring with supervisors, I learned that there was a safety issue at Broadway Ave. and Canton Ave. regarding the media being in the line of fire from 7702 Canton Ave. I then told the supervisors at the staging location that I would go and handle that issue.

Once I arrived at Broadway Ave. and Canton Ave., I ordered the media to move to a safe location. I then had to stay in that area to control that intersection and to ensure the safety of citizens. While there, I was able to see SWAT's vehicles approach Perkins' house. I then began to hear gun shots coming from the direction of Perkins' house. During the second wave of gun shots, I saw what appeared to be smoke coming from the front of SWAT's vehicle. I then saw SWAT's vehicle quickly reverse from their location. I then heard over radio that Perkins began shooting at SWAT and to maintain cover.

Some time later, SWAT made entry into Perkins' house. Once Perkins was being conveyed to the hospital via EMS, I was then relieved at my location and helped P.O. Morrison with the crime scene log.

Multiple horizontal lines for additional notes or signatures.

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] # 32 Badge# (if applicable) 32

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[Handwritten Initials]