



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



2022-0826

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Unknown, David Ward, Jr., [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (S)

Investigative Activity: Scene Processing

Activity Date: 4/13/22

Activity Location: 46th St. between Valley View Blvd./Collins Blvd., Ashtabula, OH 44004

Authoring Agent: S/A Justin Soroka

Details:

On April 13, 2022, at approximately 0155 hrs., S/A Justin Soroka received a call from S/A Ed Staley in reference to an agent request. A Police Officer with the Ashtabula City Police Department was involved in a critical incident and the Ashtabula City Police Department was requesting assistance with the investigation.

On April 13, 2022, at approximately 0405 hrs., S/A Justin Soroka arrived at the scene, which was located on the 46th St. bridge between Valley View Blvd. and Collins Blvd. S/A Soroka met with Lieutenant William Parkomaki and learned that Police were contacted by the subject, David Ward Jr., who stated he was armed with a firearm and made statements indicating he was suicidal. Police made contact with the subject by phone and attempted to negotiate with him. At some point Lieutenant [REDACTED] who was in a position at the west end of the bridge, reportedly fired his rifle striking and killing the subject. Lt. Parkomaki reported that all officers on scene were in the approximate areas of the east and west end of the bridge and did not approach the subject. An unmarked police vehicle near where the subject was reportedly shot was driven there after the shooting occurred.

S/A Soroka photographed the scene as it was found. The 46th St. bridge between Valley View Blvd. and Collins Blvd. was a three-lane bridge that ran east and west and crossed over a valley and the Ashtabula river. Sidewalks ran the length of the bridge on either side of the roadway. The bridge was approximately 1000' long, and was lit with ambient light from light poles. Police were reportedly positioned in the general areas of the east and west end of the bridge, and the subject was located approximately in the middle of the bridge on the north side of the roadway. Two, marked police cruisers were located at the west end of the bridge and were reportedly there during the incident. There were reportedly no visible marked cruisers at the east end of the bridge during the incident. From the approximate location where the subject was shot, the cruisers at the west end of the bridge were identifiable to S/A Soroka as Police vehicles. The emergency lights were not activated upon S/A Soroka's arrival, however their condition during the incident is unknown. In the approximate area the subject was reportedly shot, S/A Soroka observed a shotgun lying in the west bound lane near the curb, and two cell phones and suspected bloodstains on the sidewalk to the north of the roadway. Numerous first aid supplies and a tactical shield, which were reportedly used by Police, were also observed on the sidewalk.

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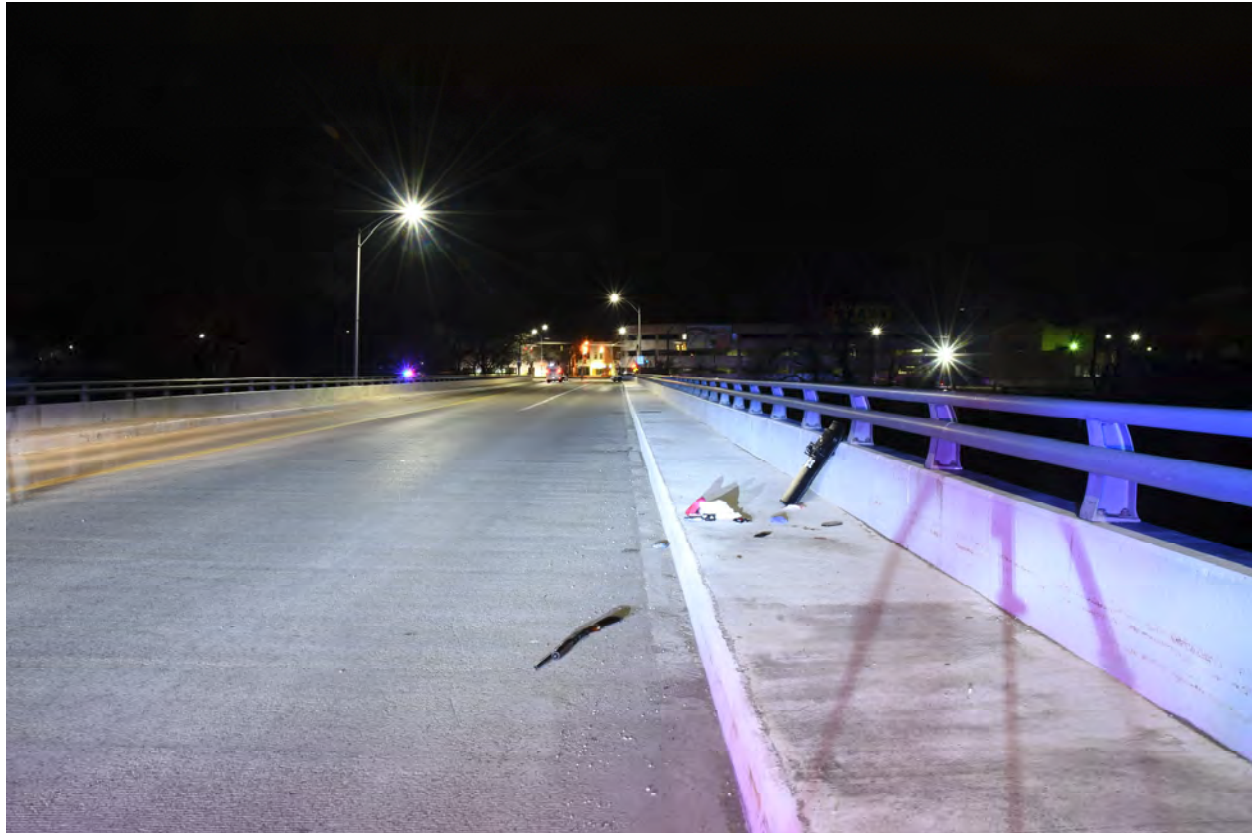


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Appx. Position of Subject / Looking West

The shotgun was marked as item #1. The shotgun was found to be a pump action, Remington Model 870 Express Magnum 20 gauge, bearing serial number B573172U. The safety was found to be in the "on" position. The ejection port was opened and no shotshells were found in the chamber or in the magazine tube. The Samsung cell phone was marked as item #2. S/A Soroka attempted to place the phone in airplane mode, but the phone would not power on. The TCL cell phone was marked as item #3. S/A Soroka attempted to place the phone in airplane mode, but the phone would not power on. A representative swab of the suspected blood on the sidewalk was collected.

Lieutenant [REDACTED] was reportedly positioned near the intersection of W. 46th St. and Collins Blvd. and had left his rifle in the position it was at during the incident. Approximately 482' to the west of the items located on the bridge, S/A Soroka observed the position Lt. [REDACTED] had reportedly taken. A scoped rifle that was equipped with a bi-pod and was resting on shooting rests was observed on the sidewalk to the north of the roadway. The bolt action of the rifle was in the "open" position and the

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magazine was still seated. Around the rifle were a pair of black binoculars and, what appeared to be, a range/distance finding optic device. A cartridge was observed on the sidewalk near the curb next to the scoped rifle, and a cartridge case was observed in the roadway to the rear of the scoped rifle. Parked in the roadway behind the scoped rifle was marked, Ashtabula Cruiser L-2. The scoped rifle was marked as item #4. The rifle was found to be a Ruger Precision .308 WIN, bearing serial number [REDACTED]. A bipod was attached to the front of the rifle, and a Vortex Optics 4-16 x 50 Viper scope was attached to the top of the rifle. The PMAG 10 magazine was removed and found to contain 8 cartridges marked with headstamp "Hornady .308 WIN". The cartridges were placed back in the magazine and the magazine was packaged with the handgun. The cartridge and cartridge case were marked as item #5 and item #6, respectively. Both were marked with the headstamp "Hornady .308 WIN".



Position of Lt. [REDACTED] / Looking East

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Google Earth Image

Measurements for the scene and items within it were taken.

All items collected were sealed and initialed by S/A Soroka. All items collected were transported to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation in Richfield. The phones were secured in a temporary evidence locker, the cartridge and the representative sample of the suspected bloodstain were transferred to the evidence room, and the shotgun, scoped rifle, and cartridge case were submitted to the laboratory for analysis. The original photographs were uploaded into the Matrix.

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