

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



2024–1376 Officer Involved Critical Incident – Interstate 77 Southbound at Exit 85 , New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Investigative Activity:	Interview with Witness
Involves:	Lieutenant Shane Wells (W)
Date of Activity:	05/16/2024
Activity Location:	Dover Fire Department Station #2 - 200 Dublin Drive, Dover, OH 44622
Author:	SA John P. Tingley, #154

Narrative:

On Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at approximately 1253 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (Tingley) interviewed Dover Fire Department (DFD) Firefighter/Lieutenant (Lieutenant) Shane Wells (Wells). Wells was identified as a DFD Emergency Medical Services (EMS) medic who responded to the officer-involved critical incident at Interstate 77 Southbound at the Exit 85 Off-Ramp on May 3, 2024.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information obtained during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions nor is it a word for word translation of either the questions or answers. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

After obtaining Lieutenant Wells' general information, SA Tingley asked Lieutenant Wells to describe his involvement in the incident.

Lieutenant Wells advised that at about 0215 or 0220 in the morning, DFD EMS squad from DFD Station #2 were dispatched to assist the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) on the off-ramp Exit 85 from I-77. However, Dispatch was only able to provide limited information on the call for service.

As Lieutenant Wells' EMS unit, also staffed with Firefighter/Paramedic Anthony Miceli (Miceli) and Firefighter/EMT Nick Stelzer (Stelzer) arrived at the scene, Lieutenant Wells observed two (2) OSHP Troopers standing behind a cruiser while a third OSHP Trooper was speaking with a subject (Kendall Woodard) who was seated in his truck.

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Lieutenant Wells instructed Firefighter Miceli to pull in front of Woodard's vehicle. Lieutenant Wells then exited the EMS unit and contacted the unidentified OSHP Trooper who was standing near and speaking with Woodard. The OSHP Trooper advised Lieutenant Wells that he believed Woodard was possibly having a psychological event.

Lieutenant Wells observed that Woodard was rocking back and forth in the driver's seat and if anyone got close, Woodard would say "Step away". After a few minutes, a Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) Deputy arrived at the scene and began talking with Woodard.

A short time later, the DPD EMS unit was asked to move and block the off-ramp to keep traffic from getting into the area where officers were speaking with Woodard. Lieutenant Wells had the DPD EMS unit move and block the off-ramp and remained in that position for a few hours.

While stationery and blocking traffic, numerous other OSHP and TCSO units were observed as they arrived at the scene.

Eventually, an OSHP Trooper motioned for the Dover EMS unit to pull forward. The unknown OSHP Trooper also advised Lieutenant Wells that Woodard had agreed to go to the hospital.

Lieutenant Wells then instructed Firefighter Miceli to pull forward. The DFD EMS unit pulled forward and stopped with the front bumper of the DFD EMS unit, even with the rear bumper of Woodard's vehicle. However, the DFD EMS personnel remained in the unit.

After a few minutes, Woodard cracked open the driver's door and continued talking with the TCSO Deputy. However, after a few minutes, as Woodard continued to refuse to exit his vehicle, the TCSO Deputy moved forward and opened the driver's door.

Lieutenant Wells then observed Woodard as he threw his shoe out the open door. Woodard, however, stayed in the vehicle. The law enforcement personnel on scene continued speaking with Woodard, who remained in his vehicle, and tried to get him to exit his vehicle.

Lieutenant Wells then heard law enforcement personnel as they began yelling at Woodard to show his hands. Lieutenant Wells also observed an OSHP Trooper as he approached the passenger side of Woodard's vehicle. The OSHP Trooper on the passenger side of Woodard's vehicle then began yelling that Woodard had a gun.

Shortly thereafter, Lieutenant Wells heard gunfire and saw Woodard's back window get "spidered" and saw other holes appear in the rear window. At that point, all the DFD personnel ducked down inside their vehicle.

Lieutenant Wells then watched as OSHP Troopers approached Woodard's vehicle. The OSHP Troopers removed Woodard from his vehicle and handcuffed him. The DFD personnel were then motioned to come forward. The DFD EMS crew then approached Woodard who was lying face down on the ground with his hand cuffed behind his back.

Lieutenant Wells observed that Woodard had a gunshot wound to the rear of his head and another gunshot wound to his back. The DFD EMS crew then rolled Woodard over and checked for a pulse, which was not present. A heart monitor was then attached to Woodard.

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Shortly thereafter, the DFD EMS crew determined that Woodard had injuries that were incompatible with life and stopped medical treatment.

The interview then concluded at approximately 1302.

This interview was audio recorded and is attached to this report.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-1376 Interview DFD LT Wells

References:

No references.

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