



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



2023-1614

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 428 Foster Ave, Cambridge (L)

Investigative Activity: Records Received
Involves: Byesville Police Department (O)
Date of Activity: 09/06/2023
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On June 15, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by Cambridge Police Department (CPD) for assistance in reference to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI). It was reported by CPD that during a domestic disturbance call at 428 Foster Avenue in Cambridge, Taurean Brown (Brown) allegedly fired a weapon at responding officers and a CPD officer had returned fire. CPD further reported Brown had barricaded himself inside the residence and was in a stand-off with officers and multiple SWAT teams that had surrounded the home. BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) agents arrived while the scene was still active with SWAT officers attempting to call Brown out of the residence. Officers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) Special Response Team (SRT) were requested by CPD to assist with the barricade situation. OSP SRT deployed a drone into the residence and Brown was discovered in the upstairs hallway deceased, with several firearms in his vicinity.

Officers from multiple agencies responded to the incident including CPD, OSP, Guernsey County Sheriff's Office (GCSO), Muskingum County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), and Byesville Police Department (BPD). BCI requested written statements from these agencies for officers who responded to the incident at 428 Foster Avenue.

On September 6, 2023, BCI Special Agent Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) received copies of responding officers' written statements from BPD Chief Daulton Dolan (Chief Dolan). Written statements were received for the following BPD responders:

- Chief Daulton Dolan
- Officer Andrew Stewart

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Byesville PD – Responding Officer Statements

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

To whom it may concern

This is a recount of the events that took place on June 15th, 2023, between the hours of 1800-0200 on Foster Ave in Cambridge Ohio.

I Chief Dolan was contacted by Officer Andrew Stewart, the Officer on duty in the Village of Byesville, just after 1800hrs informing me that Cambridge Police were requesting additional units for assistance. At this time, I ordered Officer Stewart to stand by while I contacted Cambridge Police Department. At this time, I spoke to Cambridge Police Dispatch who advised that Officer's had been shot at and [REDACTED] had requested additional manpower to the area of 5th and Foster Ave. I made Cambridge Police aware that Officer Stewart will be responding now and that I will be leaving from my son's baseball game in Buffalo to Byesville and once ready will be heading that way as well. Officer Stewart was called and advised to respond to 5th and Foster and to locate whatever command is established once this is done do exactly what he is told by an OIC until I can make it to that location.

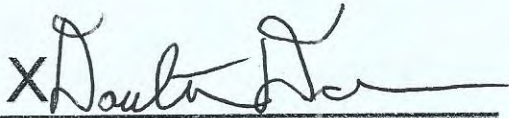
After this call is made I Chief Dolan left my sons baseball game stopped at my residence in Byesville to switch back into uniform before responding. This Officer went into service and advised GCSO dispatch that I will be responding into the area of 5th and Foster. Once in the area this Officer advised Officer's on scene and asked where I am needed. Cambridge unit 31 advised on the radio to take another Officer and relieve swat members on the west side of the house on Foster. This Officer radioed Officer Stewart to meet me out front of the House on the West side to relieve the Two Officer's that was positioned at that location. This Officer grabbed my Smith & Wesson AR patrol rifle and advanced to the Officer's needing relief. Upon making it to Officer's Branager and Silvis from Cambridge PD in front of the house on the West side Officer Stewart joined shortly after. Officers Branager and Silvis now gave a short brief on the situation and then took the opportunity to step away.

Officer Stewart and I were now both positioned behind Cambridges Swat van with our patrol rifles. Both Officer Stewart and I were at this post for a good duration of the incident. We were relieved later by members of Muskingum County Swat team, but these units had no radio connection to command on the East side of the home. Officer Stewart and I stayed at this post primarily for radio communication but also the large crowd that has now formed close to our location. This crowd at times would yell at Officer's and be cursing making a tense situation worse. Some of the individuals were consuming alcohol and were getting worse as time went on. With the amount of people that had formed it was not possible with number of Officer's that was at our location to move them back only to keep them from going into the home where the armed suspect was located. After some time had passed this Officer observed a car come down the alley behind this Officer where the crowd was located and park close to where this Officer was posted. A black male driver exited and walked in quick pace toward me and the other Officer's. This male was stopped by this Officer and advised he couldn't come any closer to the home. The male advised he was the suspects father and was at this time escorted safely around to the East side of the home where command was stationed. This Officer was met from Detectives from GCSO and the male was turned over. This Officer returned to the West side of the house with Officer Stewart and SRT members from Muskingum County was located.

Officer Stewart and I would remain at this post until relieved by OSP SRT. Once relieved this Officer and Officer Stewart would now be on crowd control for the rest of the evening. The Command on the east side of the home recognized the growing issues with the crowd and sent multiple Officers from GCSO and CPD to the west side of the home. It was at this time this Officer along with multiple other Officer's ordered the crowd back to a safer distance and caution taped off the area. Once the tape was secured the additional Officer's walked away and Officer Stewart me and one CPD Officer Johnson remained at the tape to keep the crowd from breaking it and reforming in the hot zone. This crowd would comply and stay behind the tape but voiced aggression the hole time.

A rainstorm would eventually move in, and the crowd dispersed from the area entirely. Once the crowd was no longer an issue this Officer and Officer Stewart went to my patrol car on Foster close by to wait out the rain and to ensure no bystanders interfered. It was around this time that CPD SRT went into the home and advised the scene was safe. Prior to leaving the area Officer's was called one last time to the front of the home for angry crowd members that had been in a home across from the suspect home. This Officer and Officer Stewart returned, and once tempers calmed both Officer's cleared the area just after 0100HRS and returned to Byesville.

This Officer nor any Officer under my command ever used lethal or non-lethal force. Verbal commands were met with opposition throughout the events, but members of the crowd would eventually comply before force became necessary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daulton Dolan", written over a horizontal line.

Daulton Dolan
Chief Of Police

To whom it may concern,

This is a firsthand recount of the events that took place on June 15th 2023, between the hours of 1800-0200 on Foster Ave in Cambridge, Ohio, written by Officer Andrew Stewart, Byesville Police Department.

While on-duty in my full-time capacity as a patrol officer in the Village of Byesville, I was listening to radio traffic from neighboring agencies within Guernsey County, Ohio when I overheard an officer from the Cambridge Police Department coming across the radio, advising of being in need of immediate assistance to help with whatever was happening at the time. I listened further for a brief period of time until I heard mention of gunshots actively being fired at officers over the radio by CPD officers, at which time I contacted Byesville Chief of Police Daulton Dolan to advise him of the mutual aid request I had heard come across the radio. Chief Dolan, who was off-duty at the time, advised me to standby while he placed a call into our dispatch center to inquire more details pertaining to that request. I received a call a couple minutes later from Chief Dolan, advising that I was to respond to the scene of the incident in Cambridge (5th and Foster) and to obtain orders from the Incident Command Post that had been established at that location to assist.

I proceeded to respond to that location and parked my cruiser in a nearby alley so that it would be completely out of the immediate area of the scene. Before leaving my cruiser, I retrieved my patrol rifle and placed it in combat-ready condition in preparation of entering an active shooter location. I located Incident Command posted at the intersection of 5th and Foster and was almost immediately given orders by the Command Officer to respond to the backside of the residence the suspect was reportedly inside of in order to relieve the officers who had been posted at the backside of that residence for quite some time prior to my arrival. I proceeded to locate the officers at the rear of the suspect residence after safely working through the active scene in which gunshots had been exchanged. I advised several officers that I located behind a cruiser providing cover at the rear of the residence that I was there to relieve them, at which time I took my first post behind that same cruiser. I was advised by the officers who I had relieved that, to the best of their knowledge, the shooting suspect was in the second story of the residence, and they directed my attention to a window on the second story of the residence that appeared to have its window/blinds completely broken out or otherwise removed, leaving that window open and providing a reasonable view into a small portion of the residence.

After being posted at the rear of the residence for what I would estimate to be about an hour, I received radio traffic from Chief Dolan, who had arrived on-scene, requesting that I begin relocating myself towards the front of the residence in order to assist him in relieving officers who had been on the frontlines of the incident, directly in front of the suspect residence. I proceeded to relocate as requested and eventually met up with Chief Dolan where I found him positioned near an all white SWAT van parked on Foster Avenue in front of the suspect residence.

Once with Chief Dolan at that van, we advised the officers who had already been posted at that location that we were there to relieve them. Chief Dolan and I then obtained primary control of that posted position for several hours, armed with our duty rifles. We maintained that position, which was in the immediate vicinity that gunfire had been exchanged in prior to our arrival, however a large mass of people congregated directly behind where Chief and I were posted. Several people in that mass could be heard speaking to Chief and I directly, badgering us for being involved in the city's matters. Around the time that the sun began setting, I would estimate that the crowd forming behind us had grown into 100 or more people. It was around this time that we received radio advisements from the Incident Command to tape off the opposite side of the street from the suspect residence to aid in keeping the engaged crowd under control.

The attempt to secure the area using Police Tape was met with quite a bit of resistance from the crowd as they expressed their discontent over that decision. I personally did not observe any uses of force by any of the involved officers who assisted in taping off the area, although it did become necessary to warn members of the crowd that force WOULD be used if their lack of compliance persisted. A few members of the crowd were more problematic and antagonistic than others, but ultimately, no force was necessary and no arrests were made against those crowd members. Once the scene was taped off securely, Chief Dolan, Cambridge Officer Greg Phillips, and myself remained posted along the interior portion of the taped off area across the street from the front of the suspect's house while multiple SWAT agencies engaged the house.

It eventually began to rain extremely hard, causing the crowd to disperse. Once the crowd no longer presented itself as being an issue, Chief Dolan advised we could relocate ourselves to his cruiser parked about 50 yards away, which still permitted us to maintain a visual on the front-house portion of the scene. We remained in his cruiser for what I would estimate to be about an hour before we were radioed by Incident Command, asking us to come to the immediate front of the residence to assist in what was anticipated to be a negative reaction from the crowd following the determined conclusion involving the suspect. Chief and I remained posted at the front of the suspect residence as a crowd of people did in-fact begin to assemble in the immediate area, although no direct resistance or interference from that crowd occurred. Once the situation had settled down and the scene was fully secured, Chief advised that I could return to my cruiser parked nearby in the alley and then return to the Village of Byesville, which I did without further incident.

Andrew Steward #204