



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



2022-1480
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 5945 SR 48, Clearcreek
Township, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness

Involves: David Ward (W)

Date of Activity: 07/12/2022

Activity Location: Clearcreek Twp. Police Department – Business – 7593 Bunnell Hill Road, Springboro, OH 45066

Narrative:

On July 12, 2022, at approximately 2300 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Dave Hornyak interviewed David Ward regarding the Officer-Involved Critical Incident that resulted in Clearcreek Township Police Officer Eric Ney being shot by Mark Evers and Evers subsequently being shot and killed.

The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device. This report is a summary only. The entire interview can be reviewed on the recording.

Mr. Ward stated that he was attending the interview voluntarily and then provided the following information:

He was a friend and employee of Mark Evers and Sylvia Norris who raise race horses at their farm known as Velocity Standardbreds. He has known Evers since he was 15 years old, was employed by him once previously, and again now works as a horse trainer at the property. He has resided on-site in an apartment in the barn for the past 3–4 months.

Earlier in the evening, Evers and Norris had a domestic dispute that resulted in Evers driving a John Deere Gator into Norris' Denali. Norris was later observed speaking to two police officers at the house. Evers called Ward numerous times, but would not say where he was located. Ward tried to get Evers to return and talk to the officers. During one of the conversations Evers said he was not going to jail. Evers was also crying and told Ward "...this is it (between Evers and Norris). Ward was told by the officers that Evers would not be arrested tonight and Ward relayed that Evers. Ward asked Evers if he was armed to which Evers replied, "David, you know I always have a gun on me." Ward said Evers was "...not in a good frame of mind..." responding in a way Ward has never heard before.

Evers eventually agreed to talk with the police officers, if they would stay 10 feet away from him. Evers then came up to meet the officers on the gravel road near the barn where the officers

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asked him to fill out a form. Shortly after, Ward heard gunshots and came outside to find both Evers and the male officer had been shot. Ward tried tending to Evers and attempted to "save" the officer, but could not immediately see where he had been shot due to all of the blood. Evers was lying on his back and had been shot in the head. Evers' gun was partly visible underneath him.

The male officer was turned to his side while aid was being rendered. Ward called Megan Cranmer, Norris' cousin and former employee of the farm, to tell her that Evers had been shot and instructed her to call an ambulance. Ward knew that Norris was with Cranmer when he called.

Although a nearby tractor had blocked Ward's direct view of the shooting, Ward believes that Evers shot at the police and they returned fire. Ward stated he was "...almost 100% sure..." that Evers shot first. Ward said the officers would have had no reason to shoot Evers, reiterating this conclusion by restating, "None."

Ward said that Evers had "an arsenal" of firearms and had just "...picked up another one yesterday." Ward is not sure what type of gun it was, but believes it was a pistol. Evers had been waiting on the gun to arrive and told Ward that it fired 30 rounds. Ward said Evers also had "...anger issues." Ward stated that Evers had no other known friends and described him as very difficult to get along with. Ward said he has heard Evers threaten violence on others in general by saying, "I'll kill them," or "I'll kill you," but Ward clarified those statements were not to be taken seriously. Ward described Evers as being very political saying "...he's Trump! Trump! Trump! You know he loves Trump. And he's you, know, maybe a little racist." Ward tempered that claim by further stating that Evers had hired minorities in the past.

Ward is aware that the male officer was involved in a previous and separate incident with Evers in which the officer arrived at the property and Evers was behind a tree with an AK-47. Ward added that Evers and Norris had just sold one of their race horses for approximately \$2,000,000.

Before the interview ended, Ward showed the agent the call log from his cell phone, which displayed calls between him and Evers at the following times/hours during the overall incident: 1917, 1923, 1933, 1945 (3 calls), 1947, 2003 (2 calls), and two more calls at 2021 hours. Ward said that most of these calls were initiated by Evers. Ward further stated that Evers only had a flip phone.

The interview terminated at approximately 2329 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-12 / David Ward Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.