



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



2023-0052

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1785 Rt. 28, Lot 419, Goshen Township, OH 45122 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Sgt. Dillon West (W)
Date of Activity: 01/23/2023
Activity Location: Goshen Twp. (Goshen) Police Department – Business – 6757 Goshen Road, Goshen, OH 45122
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On January 6, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) was called by the Goshen Township Police Department in Clermont County, Ohio, to assist with an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred at 1785 State Route 28, Lot 419 AA, Goshen Township, Ohio, between the Goshen Township Police Department and subject, Thomas Dewald Jr. (Dewald).

On January 23, 2023, Special Agents Lauren Frazier and Douglas Eveslage interviewed Sgt. Dillon West at the Goshen Township Police Department, located at 6757 Goshen Road, Goshen, Ohio. Also present for the interview was Attorney Douglas Behringer. The interview began at 0949 hours. This report only includes the pertinent portions of the interview. Please refer to the audio recording for additional information.

Sgt. West stated that he has been a police officer for approximately ten years with the Goshen Township Police Department. He stated that he was in a clearly marked police uniform working dayshift on the date of the incident and was wearing a body worn camera (BWC).

Sgt. West stated that he was told by night shift officers that there was a domestic incident the night before at Lakeshore, where a male, Thomas Dewald, had fled the scene. Officers filed felony warrant charges on him. He stated that on January 6, 2023, around noon, officers were called for a possible domestic. The girlfriend/fiancé (Donna Dewald) had shown up at the house to get clothing and the male with warrants was located at the residence. Information was being relayed by another male inside the house, the son of the fiancé (Brian Hendrigsman). Radio dispatch stated that there were no weapons and no intoxication.

Sgt. West said that he brought their detectives out because they thought the subject would run again. Detective [REDACTED] and Detective Christopher McMillan arrived first, followed by

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.

Officer Matthew Richwine, then Sgt. West. Officer Richwine told Sgt. West that the subject had a knife and had slit his own throat. Sgt. West said he went into the bedroom where he observed that Detective [REDACTED] had deployed his taser and then had the subject at gunpoint.

Sgt. West stated that there was a butcher knife lying on the ground and that the subject was still "clenching a box cutter in his right hand." He said that he kicked the subject's hand and the box cutter came out. Sgt. West said that Officer Richwine moved the knives and they were eventually put on top of a dresser in the bedroom.

Sgt. West described that the subject had agonal/gargled breathing and was lying on the ground. He stated that he called for EMS, got a medical bag, and requested an AED. He stated that officers were already adding pressure to subject's neck and they continued treatment until medical staff arrived on scene.

The interview concluded at 0956 hours. A copy of the audio recording is attached (see attachment #01).

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-01-23 Sgt. Dillon West Audio Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.