



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



2021-1772

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 300 Wood Street Apt. A8, Mansfield,
OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with John Black
Activity Date: July 29, 2021
Authoring Agent: SA Cory Momchilov #64

On July 29, 2021, at approximately 2100 hours, Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) interviewed John Black (Black) at the Mansfield Police Department, 30 N. Diamond Street, Mansfield, Ohio. Also present in the interview was Mansfield Police Detective Terry Butler.

Black was identified by the Mansfield Police Department as the individual who lived at 300 Wood Street, Apartment A-8, the location where the shooting occurred and that Black may have observed some portion of the incident.

Prior to the interview, SA Momchilov informed Black that he works for the State of Ohio, and the state was requested to investigate the officer-involved shooting portion of the incident. SA Momchilov asked Black if he could explain what had occurred.

Black stated he was home, had just woke up and was going to make something to eat when he heard a knock at the door. Black stated he believed the person at his door was named Aaron.* Black stated he knew Aaron's dad, James Black, but was no relation to him.

*Aaron is James Haynes' middle name - For simplification purposes, Aaron will be referred to as Haynes for the remainder of this report.

Black stated that Haynes asked him for \$5. Black advised Haynes that he did not have \$5 and that he does not get paid until tomorrow. According to Black, Haynes then said, "Your friend is coming up." Black responded, "Who?" Black stated the next thing he knew, "Von" [Jaron Von Ginn] (Ginn) walked through the door.

Black stated that Ginn stated, "Uncle John, do you have \$5?" Black, once again, stated that he did not have it. Black then asked Ginn where his car was at. According to Black, Ginn had told him that he allowed someone to use it. Ginn then informed Black that they took a cab to his apartment. Black then said, "Let me go out and talk to the lady [cab driver]." While on his way down to talk to the cab driver, Black said he saw a friend of his who he attempted to borrow \$5 from; so he could pay the cab driver but his friend told him no.

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Black advised that when he exited his apartment, he noticed that there were police officers already on scene. Black advised he told the cab driver "they're friends of my sister, and they came here and asked me for \$5, I said I don't have it but I can pay it tomorrow."

Black advised he then heard Ginn yelling, "Help, help." Black described Ginn as heavier set and Haynes as skinny. At this point, Black advised that he needed to back up and provide additional prior details.

Black explained that when he was in his apartment with Haynes and Ginn, he told Ginn to use his phone to call the individual who had Ginn's car so Ginn could get it back. Black further explained that Ginn turned away to use Black's phone and Black was at his kitchen sink preparing some ground beef. At this point, Black stated that Haynes came up beside him and said, "I'm going to slice someone's face up." Black replied, "Who?" Black stated that Haynes then walked away from him and stood next to Ginn. Black later stated that Haynes also told him that "He [Haynes] was going to die tonight."

Black stated that he had just woken up and was confused by Haynes' statement. Black stated he wanted to deal with the cab situation because he did not want the police to be called to his apartment. Black explained that it is well known that if the police get called to your apartment, you will get evicted. Black then stated he walked outside.

Black stated that he then made contact with the cab driver when he heard Ginn yell, "Help, help." A minute or two later, Haynes exited the apartment door holding a knife with blood on it. Black also stated that Haynes' shirt was torn (and it was not torn before).

Black stated the two officers who were already on scene ran past him and ran up the stairs. Black explained that Haynes then attempted to get back into the apartment through the front door but could not get back in. (Black stated that Ginn had locked Haynes out of the apartment.) At this point, the officers reached the top of the stairs. Black advised that Haynes began to walk towards the officers and stopped in front of Black's apartment window. Black stated that the officers told Haynes to "Drop the knife, drop the knife." Haynes then began to hit the apartment window with his elbow, at which point an officer fired a Taser. According to Black, the Taser "didn't faze the guy at all." Black stated that Haynes hit the window twice and then put his shoulder "into it."

Black stated, "When the officers saw the glass give and trying to get in, that's when they said shoot." Black stated that one officer then fired his gun but did he did not know how many shots were fired. Black further stated, "The black officer had his gun out. The white officer had his

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Taser out, and I'm pretty sure the white officer said shoot because the Tase wasn't fazing him." Black then stated that Haynes went into the apartment through the window.

SA Momchilov asked Black how far away the officers were from Haynes when they fired. Black estimated 15 feet. SA Momchilov asked Black if Haynes was still walking toward the officers when they fired. Black replied, "No." Black stated he felt that Haynes was trying to get back into the apartment to "take Von [Ginn] out."

Black was asked to describe the knife that Haynes had. Black stated he believed the knife was his kitchen knife, and it was a "saw cutting knife" with "ridges on it." (It was later determined that Haynes probably did not use one of Black's knives and that Haynes likely brought the knife with him.)

Black stated that he met Ginn through his sister, and that Ginn and Black's sister were together earlier in the day. Black stated that his sister was also at Black's apartment earlier but she ended up leaving. Black stated he believed that Ginn and Haynes came to his apartment because they thought that Black's sister was there.

SA Momchilov asked Black how long he knew Haynes for. Black advised that he knew his dad, and Haynes would come from Milwaukee to visit and then went back. Black stated that he never really knew Haynes personally and described him more as an acquaintance.

Black explained that Haynes was in prison and on social security. After Haynes was released from prison, he did not have anywhere to go and stayed from house to house. Black also advised that awhile back, he allowed Haynes to stay at his apartment for one night. Black stated that Haynes was acting violent and was acting like a "tough guy" during his stay, so Black had to kick him out.

SA Momchilov asked Black if he knew that Haynes and Ginn knew each other. Black stated that Haynes and Ginn really just met five days ago. Black then stated, "Von is gay, Aaron was in prison, Aaron don't got nowhere to go, Von got a car, Von lives in Columbus." Black stated that he believed that Haynes and Ginn ended up having a "relationship."

SA Momchilov asked Black if he had ever seen Haynes and Ginn together prior to today. Black stated, five days ago, Haynes and Ginn met each other at Black's apartment. Black stated, five days ago, Ginn came to his apartment with Black's sister. Haynes stopped by Black's apartment looking for a ride. Black stated he had not seen Haynes or Black since.

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Black also confirmed that no one else was in his apartment during this incident.

The interview with Black was recorded via video. The video recording was placed onto a DVD; the DVD was placed into the item section of the physical case file, labeled as Item 65.