



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



2022-1090
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 8643 Werger Road, Windham
Township, OH

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Cora Baughman (S), Aaron D. Baughman (W)
Date of Activity: 05/14/2022
Activity Location: UH Portage Medical Center – Business – 6847 N. Chestnut Street,
Ravenna, OH 44266, Portage County
Author: SA Stacey A. Fifer, #116

On May 14, 2021, BCI Special Agents Stacey Fifer (SA Fifer) and William Conn (SA Conn) interviewed Aaron Baughman (Aaron), grandson of officer-involved shooting subject, Cora Baughman (Cora). The incident occurred on May 14, 2021, at 8643 Werger Rd., Garrettsville, Portage County, Ohio 44231, and involved a Portage County deputy sheriff. Cora died as a result of her injuries.

Aaron resides at 8657 Werger Rd., Garrettsville, Ohio, and was home at the time of the incident. The interview with Aaron took place at University Hospital Portage Medical Center (UHPMC). The interview was audio recorded and a digital copy of the audio recording was placed in the case file.

SA Fifer and SA Conn briefly addressed approximately 20 family members who had gathered in the family waiting room at UHPMC. The family members had several questions and the investigative process was explained by SA Fifer and SA Conn. Aaron was accompanied by John Lee (Cora's nephew), and the interview took place in a UHPMC hospital room separate from the other family members.

John Lee indicated Aaron resides with Cora, Cora's boyfriend "Dugan", and Aaron's girlfriend. Aaron identified his girlfriend as Alani Miller. SA Fifer asked if the others were present during the incident and Aaron relayed that Dugan was in the shower when the incident happened. Regarding Aaron's girlfriend, Aaron said, "She basically experienced the same thing I experienced because we ran outside together."

When asked to describe his activities of the day, Aaron explained at approximately 0930 hours he was in bed with his girlfriend and got woken up by the cat who knocked over a box. He got up to use the bathroom and looked for his Grandma (Cora), but did not locate her.

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.

Aaron went to lay back down and he and his girlfriend heard yelling outside. When asked to describe what kind of yelling, Aaron said it sounded like "muffled yelling" from inside the residence so he ran outside. Aaron continued to explain he made it about 3 steps down the porch when he heard, "put it down, put it down...then between...I would say 5 and 8 gunshots." Aaron said he ran off the front porch into the front yard where he finally saw the sheriff's cars. He noticed the neighbor's garage door was open and he observed a "larger sheriff gentleman" running down the driveway toward the sheriff vehicle. Aaron further stated it was complete "panic" and the "cops" would not tell him anything. Aaron reiterated it was 5-8 gunshots he heard and described them as occurring "very fast."

SA Fifer asked Aaron if he was aware of any weapons in the home. He responded by saying Cora had a "CCW" and they looked for her weapon after the incident occurred. He described finding Cora's gun in the house without a magazine in the gun. Aaron explained the gun was in Cora's house next door and did not appear to have been moved. It was a handgun and he was unsure the make/model. According to Aaron, the handgun was located in Cora's bedroom in or around the nightstand. It was later learned that Aaron resides in a separate building on Cora's property behind the residence where Cora resided.

SA Conn asked Aaron if he was aware of any issues Cora had lately with her neighbors. Aaron said the neighbors have harassed Cora for the last 20 years since she lived at the property. Aaron said the neighbors have "weaponized the inspections" by calling and making complaints to the health department, city, and township officials. When asked if the police have responded to the property in the past, Aaron said they have called the police on the neighbors for shooting guns and explosions. Aaron and John Lee were unaware of the police being called by the neighbors to respond to Cora's residence.

The most recent complaint had to do with a septic tank issue. Aaron said Cora had been "stressed" over the septic tank issue and tests had been done over the past couple weeks that were coming back "fine." Aaron explained they qualified for a grant to have septic tank replaced and the stress from that "kind of dissipated." Aaron added that the neighbors also complained he was living full-time in her back building on the property as a separate dwelling that "we approved wrong to the township." Aaron explained the neighbors have made their lives miserable as much as they could.

Aaron had a conversation with Cora's boyfriend after the incident and said Cora seemed "normal" today. She had talked about mowing the grass in the evening and Aaron wondered if she was "heated" and decided to go over to the neighbors, but indicated she was not. Aaron clarified he did not speak with Cora that morning, but Cora's boyfriend relayed the information to Aaron.

When asked which neighbors they are referring to, Aaron (and John Lee) said, "Barb and Rick." Aaron said Barb and Rick "do it to everyone" in the neighborhood, but mainly targeted them because they "wanted our land...and they want our well."

SA Fifer asked if there were any violent confrontations with the neighbors. Aaron said it's been verbal only and "passive aggressive...inspections, fireworks, taking pictures when we are coming in and out of driveway." Aaron explained to investigators that he thought Cora seemed fine "by all accounts" and the neighbors must have antagonized her when she possibly took the

dog outside. Aaron said that Cora is not the type of person to "just fly off the handle...and just go over there with a gun." He said he had no logical explanation as to why Cora would be in the neighbor's garage. Both Aaron and John Lee reiterated that Cora has never done anything in the past. Aaron denied any problems with the dog and their neighbors. Aaron said the situation is "very weird" and he didn't know if she "just snapped."

SA Fifer asked if there were other weapons other than the one Cora kept in her nightstand. Aaron explained there were some weapons kept in a closet that had once belonged to his uncle. He said there was "a shotgun and stuff...accessible yes...always put up." Aaron said he was ranting about the neighbors the other day and Cora was the one to calm him down. According to Aaron and John Lee, Cora had no mental problems or history regarding mental health.

As far as camera's are concerned, Aaron said the neighbors have cameras on their property and Cora used to have cameras; however, Aaron "unhooked" them to connect his Xbox video gaming system.

Aaron requested that John Lee (Cora's nephew) be the point of contact for Cora's family for communication with law enforcement. John Lee's phone number is 216-538-9605.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Aaron Baughman 5-14-22 (Interview Audio)