



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



2022-1472
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 2793 Waterpark Drive, Mason,
OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Thomas Henry Cromwell (S)
Date of Activity: 07/13/2022
Activity Location: Warren County Sheriff's Office – Business – 822 Memorial Drive ,
Lebanon, OH 45036, Warren County
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On July 12, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place at the Baymont hotel, located at 2793 Waterpark Drive in the city of Mason. During the OICI, an operator with the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team mortally wounded a suspect and recent River City Correctional Center escapee, Thomas Cromwell (Cromwell), during a hostage rescue situation.

On July 13, 2022, at 1522 hours, BCI Special Agents Richard Ward (SA Ward) and Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) interviewed Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team operator Gerrett Rosell (Officer Rosell) regarding his involvement in the OICI. The interview was conducted at the Warren County Sheriff's Office. Fraternal Order of Police attorney Stephen Lazarus was present for Officer Rosell. The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device.

The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are not a verbatim account. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify the content of the interview.

Officer Rosell advised that he works for the city of Franklin Police Department. He has been employed for approximately two and a half years. Prior to working for the Franklin Police Department, he worked as a corrections officer for the Warren County Sheriff's Office. He was currently assigned to the road patrol between 1500 and 2300 hours. He was also a member of the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team. He has been assigned to the S.W.A.T. team for less than a year.

Regarding the OICI, Officer Rosell advised BCI agents of the following information:

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.

On Monday, July 11, 2022, he responded to the city of Mason for a S.W.A.T. call-out. He picked up fellow Franklin Police Officer Riley Hensley on the way to Mason. He arrived on the scene at approximately 1630 hours.

Officer Rosell was directed to remain on the rear perimeter with Springboro Police Officer Carl Hoskins. He was later directed to move to the front of the hotel. He relocated inside the hotel on the third floor when Springboro Police Officer Antwaun Scott (Officer Scott) requested cover to help set up explosive breaching charges in room 312. He learned that Cromwell and the female hostage occupied room 310. Officer Scott placed the explosive charge to create a hole in the bathroom of 310 upon detonation. Officer Rosell recalled hearing Cromwell yelling from inside the room. He also remembered knocking sounds coming from the room. He did not hear the female hostage inside the room.

Officer Rosell advised the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team was relieved by the Hamilton County S.W.A.T. team at approximately 2300 hours. At approximately 0200 hours on July 12, 2022, the Warren County Regional S.W.A.T. team was called back to the scene. He said the decision was made to switch out with the Hamilton County S.W.A.T. team because Cromwell had posted a Facebook Live video, which contained threats and indicated that the female hostage was in danger.

Officer Rosell was once again assigned to the third floor with Officer Scott. Officer Rosell's task was to observe the bathroom in room 310 once the explosive charge was detonated. Officer Scott detonated the charge, and they eventually re-entered the room. Officer Rosell recalled that the hole was not large enough to see inside the bathroom. He knew the S.W.A.T. team had entered room 310, as he could see their feet rushing past the bathroom. He learned that the female hostage and a dog exited the room. He also heard over the radio that Cromwell was down.

Officer Rosell said he did not hear any commands or gunshots. He clarified that he was outside room 312 before the explosive breach and did not rush back in to avoid potential injury.

The interview was concluded at 1533 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-13/ Franklin Police Officer Gerrett Rosell Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.