



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



2022-1564
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Sgt. Steven Harrison (S)
Date of Activity: 08/22/2022
Activity Location: Harrison, Sgt. Steven – Business – P.O. Box 457, North Hampton,
OH 45349, Clark County
Author: SA Perry K. Roeser, #114

Narrative:

On August 22, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents (SA) Richard Ward and Perry Roeser met and interviewed Sergeant Steven Harrison (Harrison) of the North Hampton Police Department (NHPD) about his involvement with the shooting death of Deputy Matthew Yates on July 24, 2022. BCI learned that Harrison discharged his firearm the day of the incident after he surrendered the firearm to investigators at a debriefing at Northeastern High School.

The details below summarized the pertinent portions of the recorded interview with Harrison and were not taken verbatim unless noted by quotations.

The interview with Harrison began at 1511 hours. Before the interview started, Harrison was read the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form (see attachment #1), which he acknowledged and signed. Harrison did not have legal representation. Harrison's Police Chief, J Campbell, sat in on the interview.

Harrison was first asked about his law enforcement history. Harrison stated he began his law enforcement career with Moraine Police Department, Montgomery County, Ohio, and then took employment with NHPD for almost two years. Harrison was then asked how he became involved with the July 24, 2022, incident. Harrison stated he was on duty when he heard over the radio "shots fired." Harrison said he looked up the address to see where the incident occurred. Harrison said a few minutes later, a call over the radio for "all available units to respond" happened.

Harrison said he started toward the incident address, which took him about 12–13 minutes to arrive. Harrison said he parked one street east of the target house when he exited his patrol vehicle with his rifle. Harrison noted he took cover behind a car on the west side of the target

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house with other law enforcement officers. Harrison said Ohio State Highway Patrol officers and Clark County deputies were already on the scene when he arrived.

Harrison said an armored vehicle arrived at one point, which he took cover behind. Harrison said he then moved up and positioned himself on the "A" pillar of an unmarked Ford Explorer as an entry team moved on the house. Harrison explained he covered the front of the trailer's picture window. Harrison noted the front picture window had a sheer window covering on the inside he could partially see through. Harrison said he saw bullet holes in the window as he held his position.

Harrison said as a SWAT team attempted entry at the front door, they received "fire" and retreated. Harrison said when the team was out of the trailer, he saw what he believed to be a person at the window when he discharged his rifle no more than five times. Harrison said he stopped firing when he no longer saw the threat. Harrison was asked to describe the threat he saw in the window. Harrison said he believed he saw a person, but looking back, he thought what he saw was a person's reflection. Harrison noted while positioned at the "A" pillar of the Ford Explorer, that a round hit the vehicle's front windshield. Harrison said he moved toward the vehicle's rear when he discharged his firearm. Harrison then described the second and third attempts to remove the downed deputy from the trailer.

Harrison was asked if he was up to date with his rifle qualifications. Harrison said no; his personal owned rifle was available to him at the time of the incident. Harrison was asked what kind of rifle he used, and he said it was an MP5 Clone 9mm.

Harrison said that eventually, the Greene County SWAT team moved in and pushed all non-essential personnel out of the scene. Harrison said he was wearing a Body Worn Camera (BWC) at the time of the incident. Due to the file size, the BWC had not yet been transferred onto a thumb drive. BCI Agents will contact BCI Cyber Crime Unit for the documentation and recovery of evidence.

The interview between Harrison and BCI concluded at 1527 hours and was audio recorded. See attachment #2 for a copy of the audio recording.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Notice of Criminal Invest. Harrison

Attachment # 02: 2022-08-22 / Sgt. Steven Harrison audio interview

Exhibit 1



MIKE DEWINE

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★



Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Office 740-845-2181
Fax 740-845-2020

1560 SR 56, PO Box 365
London, OH 43140
www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

STEVEN HARRISON

Printed Name of Interviewee

8/24/22 @ 1514

Date / Time

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature of Interviewee

[Handwritten Signature]

BCI Agent (Printed)

[Handwritten Signature]

BCI Agent (Signature)

Exhibit 2

Included as a separate file.