



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



2023-2210
Officer Involved Critical Incident - ██████████ Howland
Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Interview of ██████████
Activity Date: 8/23/2023
Activity Location: 169 Niles Cortland Road NE, Howland Township, Ohio 44484
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Joseph Goudy #83

Narrative:

On August 23, 2023, at 1100 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joseph Goudy (Goudy) conducted an interview with ██████████ (█████████. ██████████ is the brother to Randall Fife (Randall) who was involved in the officer-involved critical incident. This incident occurred at ██████████ Howland Township, Ohio. The interview was conducted at the Howland Township Police Department located at 169 Niles Cortland Road NE, Howland Township, Ohio.

█████████ stated just before the incident occurred, he was upstairs in his bedroom, "hanging out." During that time ██████████ stated he heard a "weird" banging noise coming from downstairs. Initially, ██████████ stated he didn't think anything of it because, "*I always hear banging noises because my brother, he would uh, he would like be loud all the time and stomp all over the house and stuff.*" ██████████ stated at this time, he just wanted to go downstairs and check on his mother and to get a glass of water. ██████████ stated when he went downstairs, Randall had a gun aimed directly at him. After encountering Randall with the gun pointed at him, ██████████ stated he ran into the back room and shut the door. After ██████████ went into the room, he heard Randall walk down the hallway towards the room. At this point, ██████████ stated he put the bed up against the door so Randall could not, "*shoot through the door.*"

At this point, ██████████ stated Randall stopped going after him because his mom got in the way, which caused Randall to point the gun in her face. ██████████ stated he tried to talk to Randall to calm him down and to also hear his mom's voice to make sure she was okay. After about 20 minutes, ██████████ stated he tried calling the police but immediately hung up at that time because he was afraid of how Randall might react towards his mom when they arrived. ██████████ stated after he hung up the phone, the 911 call center kept calling him back.

Soon thereafter, ██████████ s mom was able to make her way back towards the back room where ██████████ was and entered the room. ██████████ stated they barricaded themselves in the back room. ██████████ stated they were in the back room from approximately, "8:15 8:30 PM until whatever time the door got kicked down and, uh, shots rang out." While the shots were being fired, ██████████ stated they were lying on the floor until it stopped. ██████████ stated while he was in the back room, he had his single barrel midland shotgun with four shotgun shells for protection.

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SA Goudy asked ██████████ if Randall made any threats towards law enforcement. ██████████ stated he did not know. When asked if Randall had ever made threats towards law enforcement in the past, ██████████ stated, he heard Randall say, "if these fucking cops come near, I'm gonna blow their heads off one by one." ██████████ also heard Randall say, "I'm not going back to jail." ██████████ further stated that Randall didn't believe that the "cops were really cops" and that there were "people out to kill him and take him to torcher chambers." ██████████ associated Randall's behavior to his ██████████ ██████████ stated there have been times when Randall was okay when the police arrived.

██████████ stated over the last couple years, Randall acted as if his mom wasn't his mom and that he, ██████████ wasn't his brother. ██████████ stated his mom told him Randall said, "*I wish I knew who that little punk upstairs was, blah, blah, blah, I want to know what you did with my brother.*" When SA Goudy asked ██████████ if he knew when Randall purchased the gun; ██████████ stated he wasn't sure when, but he believes it was shortly after his father passed away. ██████████ stated he believed that Randall bought it from a local gun show.

Towards the end of the interview, SA Goudy asked ██████████ to describe what he heard when law enforcement made entry into the residence. ██████████ stated he heard, "*drop the gun, drop the gun!*" ██████████ stated he believes he heard a single shotgun blast first, in which he assumed it was Randall, followed by multiple gunshots thereafter. ██████████ then stated he heard, "*freeze, freeze, drop the gun, drop the gun!*" Soon thereafter, ██████████ stated he and his mom, along with his girlfriend, were escorted out of the residence.

For further information, please refer to the attached audio interview conducted with ██████████