



**Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation**  
**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT**



**12/18/2012**

**INTERVIEW OF JEFFREY FRINZL**

**Summary**

On Tuesday, December 18, 2012, Detective Jacobs of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office and Special Agent Stranahan conducted an interview with Cleveland Police Officer Jeffrey Frinzl regarding his involvement in the pursuit and officer involved shooting incident which occurred November 29, 2012 in East Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

**Details**

On Tuesday, December 18, 2012, at approximately 1840 hours, Detective Jacobs of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office and Special Agent Stranahan were assigned to conduct an interview with Cleveland Police Officer Jeffrey Frinzl regarding his involvement in the pursuit and officer involved shooting incident which occurred on November 29, 2012 in East Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The interview with Officer Frinzl was conducted at the Richfield BCI&I offices and was audio/video recorded and submitted to the case file as Exhibit #32.

At approximately 1845 hours, Detective Jacobs and Special Agent Stranahan met with Officer Frinzl, his attorney Patrick D'Angelo and Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association Vice President Steve Kinas in the conference room at the Richfield BCI&I offices. After initial greetings, Special Agent Stranahan advised Officer Frinzl of his Miranda rights which he indicated he understood and was willing to provide a statement regarding this investigation. The following information was provided by Officer Frinzl during the interview.

Officer Frinzl indicated he has been a police officer for approximately six (6) years. According to Officer Frinzl, his first job in law enforcement was with the Geauga County Sheriff's Office where he worked as a Deputy Sheriff for six (6) months assigned to the former Geauga Lake Amusement Park. Officer Frinzl stated he was then hired by the Cleveland Police Department where he has worked for the past five (5) years. Officer Frinzl indicated he is currently assigned to basic patrol at the Cleveland Police Department Third District Police Station. Officer Frinzl is currently working second shift and his work hours are 1530 hours – 0130 hours. Officer Frinzl

<b>File Number: SI-18-12-82-1493</b>	<b>File Title: Timothy R. Russell (S) Malissa A. Williams (S)</b>
<b>Case Agent: Mark Kollar</b>	<b>Authoring Agent: Stranahan, S. #98</b> <i>SS</i>
<b>Date of Report: December 18, 2012</b>	<b>Exhibit #: 32</b>
<b>Investigative Activity: Interview of Jeffrey Frinzl</b>	<b>Supervisor Approval: Dennis Sweet</b> JAN 14 2013 <i>[Signature]</i>

stated his supervisor on November 29, 2012 was Sergeant Sheppard and he does not recall working any part-time jobs prior to his shift on November 29, 2012.

Special Agent Stranahan then asked Officer Frinzl several questions regarding his health and substance abuse. Officer Frinzl advised he is in good health and is not currently taking any prescription medications. Officer Frinzl indicated he does wear glasses to correct near sightedness and confirmed he was wearing them on November 29, 2012. Officer Frinzl stated he does not have any additional medical issues and has no problems with drug or alcohol abuse.

Special Agent Stranahan next asked Officer Frinzl questions regarding the type of uniform he was wearing and type of equipment he was carrying on November 29, 2012. According to Officer Frinzl, he was wearing his issued Cleveland Police Department class B uniform during his shift on November 29, 2012. Officer Frinzl described this uniform as consisting of navy blue pants, a navy blue shirt with Cleveland Police Department markings and a bullet resistant vest in an external navy blue carrier. Officer Frinzl advised he was also wearing his issued duty belt which consisted of the following issued police equipment: (2) pairs of handcuffs, Glock 17 pistol, (2) extra magazines, pepper spray and a Taser with three (3) cartridges. Officer Frinzl stated all of his magazines were at full capacity and he was not carrying a back-up weapon. Officer Frinzl also indicated he does not employ the use of personal audio/video recording devices on his person or in his assigned patrol vehicle while on duty.

Special Agent Stranahan then asked Officer Frinzl questions concerning his assigned vehicle and zone assignment on November 29, 2012. Officer Frinzl was assigned to work in zone 3 within the Cleveland Police Department Third District. Officer Frinzl and his partner Officer Gorzelanczyk were assigned patrol unit number 334 and their call sign was 3-B-23. According to Officer Frinzl, he was riding in the front passenger seat of unit 334 and Officer Gorzelanczyk was driving the vehicle. Officer Frinzl stated that unit 334 is equipped with working emergency lights, siren, spotlight, mobile radio and mobile data terminal (onboard computer system). Officer Frinzl stated Officer Gorzelanczyk normally monitored radio channel 3 on both their car radio as well as their portable radios; however, they switched their portable radios to channel 2 during the pursuit. Officer Frinzl indicated he monitored both channels to ensure he had the most accurate information regarding the pursuit.

The next topic discussed with Officer Frinzl was the type of training he has received. Officer Frinzl indicated he holds a current Peace Officer Certification through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Officer Frinzl has never been in the military and does not have any additional training or certifications. According to Officer Frinzl, the only training he has received has been via various in-service type training session provided by the Cleveland Police Department. The last in-service training Officer Frinzl attended was in June or July of 2012 where he re-qualified with his firearm and received training in the use of force. Officer Frinzl stated he has never been involved in a shooting incident as a Cleveland Police Officer prior to November 29, 2012 and he has never received any disciplinary action.

Special Agent Stranahan next spoke with Officer Frinzl regarding how he first became involved in the pursuit on November 29, 2012. According to Officer Frinzl, he and Officer Gorzelanczyk

were parked and eating their lunch in their patrol unit. Officer Frinzl stated that at approximately 2230 hours, he overheard a radio broadcast on channel 3 from Officer Almeida regarding “shots fired” at officers. Officer Almeida also requested that officers switch to radio channel 2 for additional information. Based on the information provided in the radio broadcast, Officer Frinzl was unclear if Officer Almeida was reporting that he [Almeida] was shot at or if Officer Almeida was reporting that other Cleveland Police officers had been shot at. Officer Frinzl recalled the location provided by Officer Almeida was in the area of the Cleveland Police Mobile Support Building on West St. Clair Street. Officer Frinzl stated he then switched his portable radio to channel 2 and began to monitor radio traffic regarding the pursuit.

According to Officer Frinzl, he and Officer Gorzelanczyk remained in the Cleveland Police Department Third District patrol area and continued to monitor the pursuit via the radio. While monitoring the pursuit radio traffic, Officer Frinzl heard an officer involved in the pursuit broadcast that one of the suspects was pointing a gun out of the passenger’s side window. Based on the radio traffic he heard, Officer Frinzl recalled that the aforementioned radio broadcast occurred while the pursuit was in the area of Steelyard Commons. Officer Frinzl recalled hearing an additional radio broadcast from an officer involved in the pursuit which reported that the suspects possibly threw a gun out of the window of the suspect vehicle. Although Officer Frinzl heard both of the aforementioned radio broadcasts, he does not know the identity of the individual officers who made the broadcasts.

While monitoring radio traffic concerning the pursuit, Officer Frinzl heard that the suspect vehicle had entered Interstate 90 and was traveling eastbound. Officer Gorzelanczyk and Officer Frinzl then entered Interstate 90 eastbound from West 3rd Street. At this time, Officer Frinzl overheard that the suspect vehicle had already passed East 55 Street and was continuing eastbound. Officer Gorzelanczyk and Officer Frinzl then exited Interstate 90 at East 55 Street and continued to monitor radio traffic relative to the pursuit.

Officer Gorzelanczyk and Officer Frinzl caught up to the end of the pursuit in the area of Addison Road and Wade Park Road. Officer Frinzl indicated that to this point he had not observed the suspect vehicle. Officer Frinzl observed a line of police cars in front of his patrol unit with their emergency lights activated. While monitoring channel 2, Officer Frinzl heard that the suspect vehicle had traveled south on Wymore Road. Officer Gorzelanczyk and Officer Frinzl parked their patrol unit on Wymore Road behind other Cleveland Police vehicles. Officer Frinzl exited the patrol vehicle and walked up a hill toward the Heritage Middle School which is located at 14410 Terrace Road, East Cleveland, Ohio. Officer Frinzl stated he heard gun shots once he exited his patrol vehicle and indicated he took cover behind a tree in a wooded area at the east end of the school parking lot. Officer Frinzl indicated he remained in his position of cover in the wooded area until he no longer heard gun fire. Once the gun fire ceased, Officer Frinzl departed his position of cover and arrived at the scene. Officer Frinzl was then provided a color aerial map depicting the Heritage Middle School and surrounding area. Officer Frinzl then marked on the map the wooded area he used a cover during the gun fire. Officer Frinzl then signed the aerial map and it has been submitted as an attachment to this report.

Upon arrival on scene, Officer Frinzl observed that the parking lot was dimly lit and there were

numerous Cleveland Police officers surrounding the suspect vehicle. Officer Frinzl observed no movement from within the suspect vehicle and observed officers checking one another for injuries as a result of the gun fire. Officer Frinzl stated that to this point in his career he has never been involved in this type of incident and described this as the “scariest situation” he has ever been in as a police officer.

Officer Frinzl recalled he was on scene for approximately ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes. While on scene, Officer Frinzl admitted he took two photographs of the suspect vehicle with his cellular telephone. According to Officer Frinzl, he then forwarded both photographs to his [REDACTED] and his friend, Daniel Downing, via text messaging. According to Officer Frinzl, [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] and uses cellular telephone number [REDACTED]. Officer Frinzl stated that Daniel Downing is a Police Officer in the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio and he uses cellular telephone number [REDACTED]. Officer Frinzl indicated that he did not send the photographs taken with his cellular telephone to anyone else. Officer Frinzl indicated that he saved the photographs on his cellular telephone and offered to send them to Special Agent Stranahan’s email account. Officer Frinzl was then provided Special Agent Stranahan’s email address. A short time later Special Agent Stranahan received two separate emails from Officer Frinzl’s e-mail account (Jeffrey Frinzl [REDACTED]).

Special Agent Stranahan opened the first e-mail message and observed an attachment listed as “IMG\_1285.jpg.” Special Agent Stranahan opened the attachment and observed a photograph depicting the driver’s side of the suspect vehicle at final rest in the parking lot of the Heritage Middle School. Officer Frinzl confirmed he took this photograph with the camera on his cellular telephone on November 29, 2012 and stated he was approximately six (6) – seven (7) feet away from the suspect vehicle when the photograph was taken. Special Agent Stranahan later printed this photograph which has been submitted as an attachment to this investigative report.

Special Agent Stranahan then opened the second e-mail message and observed an attachment listed as “IMG\_1286.jpg.” Special Agent Stranahan then opened the attachment and observed a photograph depicting a close view of the driver’s side of the suspect vehicle. The photograph was taken looking into the front driver’s side window showing a view of the driver and passenger. Officer Frinzl confirmed he took this photograph with the camera on his cellular telephone on November 29, 2012 and stated he was approximately six (6) – seven (7) feet away from the suspect vehicle when the photograph was taken. Special Agent Stranahan later printed this photograph which has been submitted as an attachment to this investigative report.

Officer Frinzl advised that the information he provided was truthful and he is unable to provide any additional details regarding this investigation. At this time the interview with Officer Frinzl was concluded and Officer Frinzl, his attorney and Union representative departed area. The interview with Officer Frinzl was audio/video recorded and a copy of the interview was downloaded to a DVD and submitted to this case file as Exhibit #32.

**Subject Information**

Name: Jeffrey D. Frinzl

Address: [REDACTED] Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio 44135

Telephone: [REDACTED] (personal cellular telephone)

Employment: Officer - Cleveland Police Department

DOB: 2-10-1982

SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: Male

Race: White

Height: 5'6"

Weight: 195 lbs.

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

S/V/W: W

CCH: No

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Employment:

DOB:

SSN:

Sex:

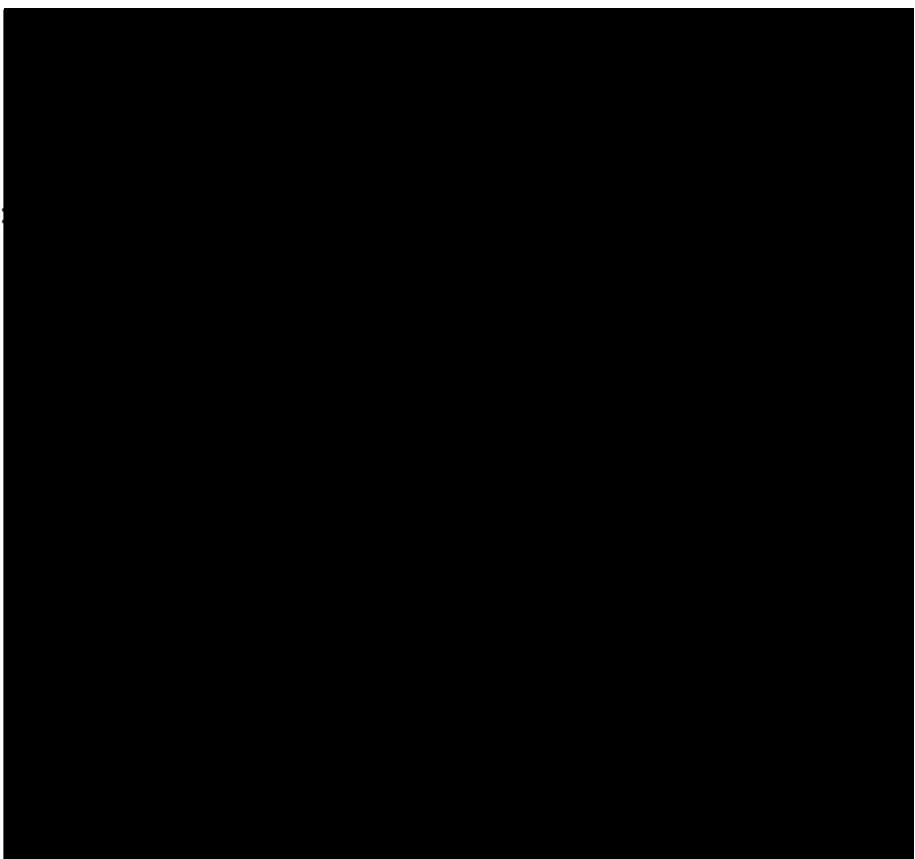
Race:

Height:

Weight:

Hair:

Eyes:



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S/V/W:

CCH:



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Name: Daniel G. Downing

Address:

Telephone:

Employment: Officer - Reynoldsburg Police Department

DOB: 8-30-1991

SSN:

Sex: Male

Race: White

Height: 5'9"

Weight: 145 lbs.

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Brown

S/V/W: W

CCH: No

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\* MAP SHOWING OFFICER FRINZL'S POSITION UPON EXITING HIS CHASE. 5598

Jeffrey D. FRINZL 267

Tracy 267



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