



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



2023-0052

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1785 Rt. 28, Lot 419, Goshen Township, OH 45122 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Donna Dewald (W)
Date of Activity: 01/06/2023
Activity Location: Hendrigsman, Brian – Home – 219 W Glen Avenue, Batavia, OH 45103, Clermont County
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On January 6, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) was called by the Goshen Township Police Department in Clermont County, Ohio, to assist with an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred at 1785 State Route 28, Lot 419 AA, Goshen Township, Ohio, between the Goshen Township Police Department and subject, Thomas Dewald Jr.

On January 6, 2023, the Goshen Township Police Department responded to 1785 State Route 28, Lot 419 AA for a male subject, Thomas Dewald Jr. (Tom), with active domestic violence warrants, currently inside the residence. Goshen Township police officers were met at the residence by the subject's wife, Donna Dewald (Donna); Donna's son, Brian Hendrigsman (Brian), and Donna's daughter-in-law, Brittany Krauk (Brittany).

On January 6, 2023, Special Agents Douglas Eveslage and Lauren Frazier interviewed Donna at Brian's residence, located at 219 W. Glen Avenue, Batavia, OH. The interview began at 1838 hours. This report only includes the pertinent portions of the interview. Please refer to the audio recording for additional information.

Donna stated that she was staying at her son's house due to a domestic incident that occurred the night prior, on January 5, 2023. Donna described that Tom had threatened her stating that "if [she] tried to get up and get out of the house, he would pour oil on [her] and set [her] ass on fire." Donna said that Tom also "threw a phone at [her] face like he was a reds pitcher." Tom fled the residence in his truck and abandoned it in a nearby neighborhood. Police attempted to locate Tom but did not find him. At approximately 2200 hours, Donna said that someone knocked on her door several times and would not answer, who she believed was Tom. Brian called Donna and told her that he was coming to get her. Donna said that she had planned to leave but was too scared to go to her car.

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On January 6, 2023, Brian, Brittany, and Donna went to Donna's residence to get additional clothing. When they entered the residence, Brittany saw that the tv and guide was on, as if someone was home. Brian went to the bedroom to check the residence and observed the blackout curtains pulled, making in dark, and saw Tom hiding behind the bedroom door. Brian told Tom that there was a protection order and warrant for his arrest and that he would not let Tom leave. Donna described that Tom "looked wild and distraught." Donna was told that Brian noticed that Tom had his hand behind his back, and he believed he could possibly have a weapon.

Goshen Township police officers arrived on scene and Brian and Brittany had Donna go outside to a neighbor's house. Donna was told by Brian that "six officers begged him at least 30 times to put the knife down." Donna said that she knew the officers had tased Tom because she heard him scream. Donna said that she was told that right as Tom was tased, he "began the process of slitting his throat." Donna said that it seemed like medics worked on Tom for a long time, before he was brought out to an ambulance and transported to the hospital. Donna received a call from a nurse and her pastor at the hospital, whom made notification to Donna that Tom was deceased.

Donna said that Tom was a "tortured soul and chronic alcoholic." She stated that Tom's condition had been progressing over the last few months, especially over the last 6 or 7 days. Donna said that she has On-star so that their vehicles can be tracked and advised that Tom has recently been at a bar in the morning and that he frequented Jamie's Tavern on Old 74 in Batavia, Ohio.

Over the last month, Donna stated that Tom's pattern has been "different and more violent in speech." Donna had suspicions that Tom was on more than just alcohol because of his "dark demeanor." Donna said that Tom had been diagnosed with bipolar, manic depression, and a chronic sleep disorder. She said that Tom stopped getting help because a prior doctor had "doped him."

Donna stated that her plan was to file for divorce but she was trying to figure out how to do it while he was living there and to keep her safe. Donna said that Tom probably thought that she was coming home alone and that he had planned a murder suicide. Donna does not know what knife Tom used to cut himself but suspected that it would have been a "kitchen knife" with a blue handle that they used to open boxes or a knife from the kitchen.

The interview concluded at 1902 hours. A copy of the audio recording is attached.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-01-06 Donna Dewald Audio Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.