



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:** Matthew Yates (V), Denise Jones Dep. (S)  
**Date of Activity:** 08/09/2022  
**Activity Location:** East District CCSO – Business – 3130 East Main Street, Springfield,  
OH 45502, Clark County  
**Author:** SA Richard Ward, #55

**Narrative:**

On Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at 1107 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agents Richard Ward and Kenneth Smith met with Clark County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Denise Jones at the Clark County Sheriff's Office, East District, 3130 East Main Street, Springfield, Ohio, for the purpose of an interview. Also present was Jones's representative/union Attorney, John Sauter. On July 24, 2022, Jones and other Clark County Sheriff's personnel responded to an "Officer Down" call at 1132 Ashwood Drive where Deputy Matthew Yates was shot and killed by Cole White. Jones participated in an unsuccessful attempt to recover Yates from inside the trailer.

Agent Ward read Sergeant Jones the *Notice of Criminal Investigation Notification* provided by the standard BCI form, which Jones acknowledged and signed. Jones had been employed with the Clark County Sheriff's Office since 2007 and has held the rank of Sergeant since July of 2015. Jones was a member of the Clark County-Special Operations Team (SOT). Jones was assigned as the Sergeant overseeing the "Intimate Partner" unit.

Sergeant Jones stated she received a text from the SOT 911 system of an officer-involved shooting. Jones received additional information from the communications center that Deputy Mathew Yates was down. Jones stated on her way to retrieve the SOT vehicle from the fairgrounds, her work vehicle broke down. Jones stated Deputy John Snyder, who had retrieved the SOT vehicle, picked her up, so she and Snyder arrived to the incident scene together. Once on scene, Jones donned her SOT gear and was briefed by Deputy Scott Cultice about extracting Deputy Yates from the trailer. Jones stated she was the first in the stack with Deputies Spencer Wheeler and Ryan Weaver was directly behind her when they made their approach to the entrance of the trailer. Jones was in possession of a shield and her Glock model 17, 9mm and observed the front screen door partially open and no front door. When Jones proceeded up the stairway, she observed the front door on the floor and Yates face down,

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inward and diagonally toward the kitchen-deep area of the room. Jones stated she observed the area to be a center fed room where she could see part of the kitchen, but the left hallway was obstructed by a short wall, where Yates laid perpendicular too, and described a deep hallway to her right. Initially, Jones looked right while she yelled to Yates, but Yates did not respond nor move. Jones informed other team members to check right while she rotated left, squatted down to tap Yates's leg/foot. Just then, Jones stated she received fire from her right, she stood up, rotated the shield to her right and observed a muzzle flash from her right. Jones stated there were three to four rounds fired at them. Jones stated she moved laterally toward the front door and discharged her handgun, along with Weaver, until she exited onto the stairway.

When she reached the stairway, Jones stated she got "hung up" and fell down the stairs. Jones was dragged by Weaver, who had thought she was shot, into the yard where she discarded the shield. Agent Ward asked Jones how many times she discharged her duty weapon and she stated six to ten times.

Once she recovered, Sergeant Jones stated Deputies Weaver, Crump, and Wheeler "stacked up" at a nearby trailer to the north until Springfield Police arrived to make an attempt to recover Deputy Yates. Jones stated Springfield Police utilized their "big truck" to strike the trailer and believed they struck the trailer from the other side because the entire trailer began to move. Springfield Police deployed several officers along with Deputy Nauman, who proceeded to the same doorway, "stacked up" with double shields. Once inside the threshold, Jones stated the entry team began to receive gunfire. Jones stated the team exited and Nauman fell and appeared hurt, which was determined to be a "mechanical injury". Jones stated she did not observe the Springfield Police with their firearms drawn and believed they did not discharge their firearms while inside the trailer.

Sergeant Jones stated they remained on scene and rotated personnel out and eventually all the Clark County Sheriff's personnel were relieved. Jones stated she was present in the SOT BearCat when a third and successful attempt was made and Deputy Yates was recovered. Yates was placed into the BearCat and brought to medics.

Sergeant Jones stated she and other personnel responded to Northeastern High School and meet with BCI.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with Sergeant Jones at 1215 hours. Attached below is the audio recorded interview with Jones.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2022-08-09 / Sgt. Denise Jones Audio Interview

Attachment # 02: Notice of Crim. Invest D. Jones

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# **Exhibit 1**

**Included as a separate file.**

## **Exhibit 2**



**MIKE DEWINE**

★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★



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### 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).

Denise L. Jones

Printed Name of Interviewee

08-09-2022 / 1155 hrs

Date / Time

*Denise L. Jones*

Signature of Interviewee

R. Ward

BCI Agent (Printed)

*R. Ward*

BCI Agent (Signature)