



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



2022-0727

Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 914 Salt Spring Road, Youngstown,
Ohio 44509

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: Captain Matt Haus

Activity Date: May 4, 2022

Activity Location: 1360 Som-Center Road, Mayfield, Ohio 44124

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Al Bansky #115

Narrative:

On May 2, 2022, at 1020 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Al Bansky (Bansky) interviewed Struthers Police Department Captain (Capt.) Matt Haus (Haus), who was accompanied by his attorney, Thomas Hanculak. The interview took place at the Law Offices of Thomas Hanculak. The interview was audio recorded.

Capt. Haus was identified as being the officer who was involved in the April 1, 2022, officer-involved critical incident, which occurred in the area of Salt Spring Road and Steel Street, Youngstown, Ohio. Reportedly, Capt. Haus did not discharge his firearm.

Capt. Haus read, understood and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

Interview was audio recorded.

Note: This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Narrative:

Capt. Haus was asked to explain what occurred in the incident, beginning with information he received. Capt. Haus provided the following information to SA Bansky.

He stated that while on patrol in the area of State Street, he was on his way to the police station to retrieve his bulletproof vest, when he observed a gold/tan-colored vehicle which was left of center, either "stopped or moving slowly." Capt. Haus ran the registration of this vehicle and the information he received back was the "registered owner had a suspended license."

Capt. Haus located the gold/tan vehicle again and attempted to make a traffic stop with his emergency lights activated. The suspect turned into the Wildcat Drive Thru. Capt. Haus stated, "I



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believed I tripped the siren, to let him know I was behind him." Soon as the suspect stopped, "he looked up in the rear-view mirror and started looking thru the driver's side mirror."

According to Capt. Haus, the suspect "ended up putting the vehicle in reverse, accelerated back and started turning around, coming back towards me. He punched it at a high rate of speed, he was close to my cruiser, that I could reach out and touch his face. I put it out thru the radio, he tried to hit or he hit me. Suspect ended out flying and I put out that I was in pursuit."

Capt. Haus was in pursuit and observed Officer (Ofc.) Schneeman pulled over on the side of State Street and then became involved in the pursuit. Pursuit ended up at the intersection of Salt Springs Road and Steel Street.

According to Capt. Haus, "I initiated a pit on him." Capt. Haus exited his vehicle and he could hear Ofc. Schneeman giving "commands." Capt. Haus came around the back of his vehicle, walked up toward the suspect's passenger window and could hear Ofc. Schneeman giving more commands to "Show me your hands."

According to Capt. Haus, "I could see the driver turn towards Ofc. Schneeman and I could see that I had a clear shot and I already had my taser out and I deployed my taser. As I deployed my taser, I could see him moving and Ofc. Schneeman was yelling gun, gun, gun, gun, gun. I was looking straight across at Ofc. Schneeman and he was in direct line and then heard the "gun fire."

According to Capt. Haus, "I could see that he was still moving inside the car. I couldn't see the gun. Ofc. Schneeman yelled that he was reloading. I was still holding the car and creeping up to see if he was still moving and he was slumped over. I knew that point, the threat was gone."

According to Capt. Haus, both he and Ofc. Schneeman stayed back waiting for additional officers. At this time, Ofc. Schneeman stated to Capt. Haus, "I may have shot him, I shot him" and both officers started checking each other to see if they were shot.

Officers from the Youngstown Police Department arrived and the suspect's vehicle was "cleared." According to Capt. Haus, "I was told the gun was on the floor board of the car" and the scene was released to the Youngstown City Police Captain Simon.

The interview concluded at approximately 1120 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form can be located in the file section of this report. Please see the attachments for further details.