



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Investigative Activity: Case Closing
Involves: Stephaun Syllas Jones (S)
Date of Activity: 11/02/2022
Activity Location: Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation – 1560 SR-56 SW, London, OH 43140, Madison County
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

To: Prosecutor Michael T. Gmoser, Butler County Prosecutor

CC: Special Agent Supervisor William Jones, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

From: Special Agent Steven Seitzman

Date: November 7, 2022

Case Title: Officer-Involved Critical Incident- Hamilton Police Department

Case Number: 2022-2121

Investigative Request:

On Saturday, October 8, 2022, Chief Craig Bucheit of the Hamilton Police Department (HPD) and Chief Robert Chabali of the Fairfield Township Police Department (FTPD) requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) conduct an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI). The incident reportedly occurred on October 8, 2022, in the roadway in front of 6463 Tara Brooke Court and resulted in the death of Stephaun Syllas Jones (Jones).

Preface:

This report only summarizes the investigative activity and information gathered by BCI. Not all facts and details are presented in this report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be reviewed in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Audio and/or video recordings exist for some of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of the statements made regarding the incident.

Investigative Team:

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BCI Special Agent Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) was assigned as the lead Special Investigations Unit (SIU) case agent. BCI Special Agents Kenneth Smith (SA Smith), Douglas Eveslage (SA Eveslage), and Lauren Frazier (SA Frazier) were assigned as assisting agents. BCI Special Agent Richard Ward (SA Ward) of SIU assisted in subsequent officer interviews. BCI Special Agent Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) and Crime Scene Technician Amy Gill (CST Gill) from the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident, documenting, preserving, and collecting possible evidence. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Will Jones. Additionally, personnel from the BCI Crime Laboratory performed scientific analysis on submitted evidentiary items.

Synopsis of Incident:

The following information is based on the statements of the involved law enforcement officers, statements of witnesses, body-worn and cruiser camera footage, and dispatch/CAD information.

On October 8, 2022, at approximately 1903 hours, HPD officers were dispatched to the area of 1940 Fairgrove Avenue for a crash involving an intoxicated male with a gun. The intoxicated male was later identified as Jones. Jones was the passenger in a silver sedan that was involved in the crash. Information continued to quickly develop as officers responded to the scene. Dispatch relayed that Jones was shooting into traffic. It was reported that Jones removed a male driver (Sidney Printup) from the silver sedan and left him lying in the roadway. Jones then got into the silver sedan and drove it northbound on Route 4 toward Liberty-Fairfield Road. The first HPD officers arrived at 1907 hours. They discovered Sidney Printup in the roadway with a gunshot wound.

At 1907 hours, witness Jeffery Black called Butler County 911 and advised he was following the involved silver sedan. He provided updates to the dispatcher. He told dispatch that the vehicle came to a stop in the driveway of 6322 Morris Road at 1910 hours.

At 1911 hours, then-FTPD Officers Austin Reed (Reed) and Mark Bartlett, Jr. (Bartlett) arrived at 6322 Morris Road. Reed immediately encountered Jones, who was standing in the driveway in front of his vehicle. Jones refused Reed's commands to show his hands. Jones then reached into his right pants pocket and brandished a handgun. Jones took a shooting stance and pointed the handgun in Reed's direction. Reed took cover behind his patrol cruiser, and at one point, Jones moved to a position from which he could see Reed. Jones eventually took cover behind a tree. While behind the tree, Jones extended his right arm and pointed his gun in the direction of Reed and Bartlett. Reed secured his firearm and deployed a Taser. He discharged the Taser; however, it was not successful. Jones then ran into the wood line.

FTPD police officers checked the wood line and were unable to locate Jones. FTPD Officer-in-Charge Scott Singleton requested mutual aid. At approximately 1921 hours, law enforcement officers from HPD, West Chester Township PD, and the Butler County Sheriff's Office answered the request. HPD Officer Bowlin and Officer Leisinger took a perimeter position at the north end of Tara Brooke Court. While maintaining their position, a resident, Greg Reagan, approached them and advised Jones was near Tara Brooke Court and Holly Berry Lane. Officer Bowlin got into the passenger seat of Officer Leisinger's cruiser, and they responded to the area where Jones was seen. At approximately 2007 hours, they located Jones on the Tara Brooke Court

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sidewalk south of Holly Berry Lane. Jones was walking in their direction. Officer Leisinger stopped in the middle of the street and exited his cruiser. Officer Bowlin also exited the cruiser and took cover behind a vehicle in a nearby driveway. Officer Leisinger stated that they identified themselves as police officers and asked Jones to show his hands several times. Jones was facing officers and began walking backward. Jones began reaching into his right pants pocket. Jones brandished a black handgun. Officer Bowlin yelled, "Gun, gun, gun!" Jones began walking toward the street to line up with Officer Leisinger, at which point Jones pointed the gun directly at him. Officer Leisinger fired a single shot at Jones, which he believed struck him in the abdominal area. Officer Bowlin fired three shots, which he believed struck Jones.

At approximately 2011 hours, Officer Leisinger handcuffed Jones. Multiple law enforcement officers surrounded Jones and began administering medical aid. At approximately 2013 hours, Jones stopped breathing, and a Butler County Sheriff's Office deputy began cardiopulmonary resuscitation. At approximately 2015 hours, Fairfield Township Fire Department paramedics arrived and subsequently transported Jones to UC Health West Chester Hospital. Jones ultimately succumbed to his wounds. At 2100 hours, Jones was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

Summary of Investigative Process:

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods that were used during the course of this investigation:

- Processing of the scene and involved officers by the BCI Crime Scene Unit.
- Autopsy completed by the Butler County Coroner's Office. The autopsy was attended by BCI SA Eveslage and SA Frazier.
- Obtained written requests for assistance from HPD Chief of Police Craig Bucheit and FTPD Chief of Police Robert Chabali.
- Recorded interviews with HPD Officers Bowlin and Leisinger, both of whom discharged their weapons.
- Recorded interviews with FTPD, West Chester Township, and Butler County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) law enforcement officers.
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene.
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on Jones, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, and more.
- Review of all available body-worn and cruiser cameras. Confirmed that there was no footage of the shooting.
- Review of surveillance footage from a neighbor. The footage did not capture the shooting.
- Reviewed HPD, FTPD, and BCSO records and investigative materials pertaining to the OICI, excluding any potential Garrity-derived statements or information.
- BCI Firearm Laboratory examination, which included:
 - Firearm operability testing.
 - Firearm identification testing on the involved firearm, casings, and bullets.

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- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of Officer Bowlin and Officer Leisinger, which included training, disciplinary records, and firearms qualification records.
- Collected and reviewed HPD's use of force policy.
- Served a search warrant at UC Health West Chester Hospital for medical and EMS records.
- Collected and reviewed audio communications from the police radio channels utilized during the initial HPD homicide/crash and events leading up to the OICI.
- Collected and reviewed dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the OICI.
- Obtained all other known and pertinent records or recordings.

Investigative Interviews:

Multiple law enforcement officers and neighbors were interviewed during the investigation. SA Seitzman spoke with Baxter Barrett, the homeowner of 6322 Morris Road, who observed Jones in his backyard either loading his firearm or attempting to fix a malfunction. While many of the witnesses and officers heard the gunshots, none of them observed the shooting event.

Involved Officers Interviews:

BCI Special Agents Seitzman, Ward, and Frazier interviewed Officer Leisinger and Officer Bowlin at HPD on October 20, 2022. They were represented by their Fraternal Order of Police attorney, Jeffery Grey, and Union Representative James Carpenter.

Officer Leisinger Interview:

Officer Leisinger advised the BCI agents of the following:

A resident on Tara Brooke approached Officer Bowlin and him and stated an intoxicated male [Jones] approached him in his yard and asked him how to get back to Lindenwald. The resident told them where he last saw Jones. Officer Bowlin got into his passenger seat, and they responded to the area where Jones was last seen. He observed Jones near 6463 Tara Brooke Court, walking toward them on the sidewalk. He stated he was confident the subject was Jones as he matched the description that was given over the police radio.

Officer Leisinger stopped in the middle of the street and exited his cruiser. Officer Bowlin also exited the cruiser and took cover behind a vehicle parked in a nearby driveway. Officer Leisinger stated that they identified themselves as police officers and commanded Jones to show his hands several times. Jones was facing officers and began walking backward. Officer Leisinger said that he had his AR-15 rifle in a "low-ready" position and went to a "high-ready" position when Jones began reaching into his right pocket. Jones pulled out a black gun, and Officer Bowlin yelled, "Gun, gun, gun!" Officer Leisinger said that Jones began walking toward the street to line up with him. Jones then pointed the gun directly at him. He stated that he had his cruiser "take-down" lights on and utilized his flashlight on his rifle, so Jones' gun was well illuminated. He stated he was in fear for his and others' safety when he fired one round at Jones. He believed his round struck Jones in the abdominal area. He said that Officer Bowlin fired approximately two shots right after he fired. He saw Jones fall to the ground. Other

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officers covered him, and they moved up to Jones. He placed handcuffs on Jones. Shortly after that time, he and Officer Bowlin removed themselves from the scene.

Officer Bowling Interview:

Officer Bowling advised the BCI agents of the following:

He responded to the area of Morris Road to assist FTPD with a subject, Jones, who was wanted out of Hamilton. He knew that Jones had a gun and had shot someone. He took a perimeter position with Officer Leisinger at the north cul-de-sac of Tara Brooke Court. While at that position, he and Officer Leisinger were approached by several residents, who stated that they had seen a subject matching Jones' description walking down Tara Brooke Court near Holly Berry Lane.

Officer Bowlin and Officer Leisinger were near 6463 Tara Brooke Court when Officer Leisinger observed Jones walking toward them on the sidewalk. Officer Bowlin got out and observed Jones reaching into his pockets. He told Jones several times to show his hands. Jones was facing officers as he moved toward the street. Jones then pulled a handgun out of his right pants pocket. Officer Bowlin verbalized, "Gun, gun, gun!" He ran to a car parked in the driveway immediately to his right for cover so he could "engage the threat." He said that he heard a "pop," and then he fired two rounds at Jones from his department-issued AR-15 rifle from approximately 30 yards away.

Officer Bowlin stated that Butler County Sheriff's Office Deputy Duane Monroe arrived on the scene shortly after shots had been fired. Deputy Monroe secured Jones' gun and helped render medical aid. Officer Leisinger handcuffed Jones, and multiple officers arrived on scene. Officer Bowlin and Officer Leisinger then separated themselves from the scene.

BCI Firearms Laboratory Reports:

On November 3, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) received the BCI Firearms Laboratory Report submitted for this case. SA Seitzman reviewed the report and noted the following:

- Hamilton Police Officer Bryan Bowlin's (Officer Bowlin) department-issued Smith & Wesson rifle (Serial Number [REDACTED]) was found to be operable.
- Officer Bowlin's rifle was identified as the source of the two casings located in the front walkway of 6453 Tara Brooke Court and the spent casing to the left of the garage. [Note: that casing near the garage was collected by BCI Special Agent Kenneth Smith on October 9, 2022.]
- Officer Bowlin's rifle was identified as the source of the jacketed bullet located during the autopsy of Stephaun Syllas Jones (Jones).
- Hamilton Police Officer James Leisinger's (Officer Leisinger) department-issued Smith & Wesson rifle (Serial Number [REDACTED]) was found to be operable.
- Officer Leisinger's rifle was identified as the source of the spent cartridge casing located on the hood of Hamilton police cruiser 461.
- Jones' Taurus pistol was found to be operable.

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Post-Mortem Examination/ Autopsy:

On November 8, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) received the coroner's, autopsy, and toxicology reports relative to the death of Stephaun Syllas Jones (Jones). SA Seitzman reviewed the reports and noted the following:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

Summary:

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed, and all known records have been obtained and reviewed. BCI has striven to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into this OICI. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance to any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. It appears that BCI's investigation into this OICI has concluded unless such new information or witnesses are identified through the grand jury or other processes.

As always, we remain available for consultation and look forward to your assessment of this investigation and your decision as to any additional efforts, processes, or further assistance you might determine to be necessary.

End of Summary.

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