



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



2021-1431

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 5714 South Park Boulevard, Parma,
 OH 44134

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
 Involves: Officer James Mack – Parma Police Department
 Activity Date: 8/18/2021
 Activity Location: Parma Police Department, 5555 Powers Blvd., Parma, OH 44129
 Authoring Agent: SA Jon Lieber #50

Narrative:

On Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 1028 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jon Lieber (Lieber) and SA Jared Prill (Prill) interviewed Parma Police Department Officer (Ofc.) James Mack (Mack), who was accompanied by his attorneys, Adam Chaloupka and Danielle Chaffin, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the Parma Police Department. The interview was audio recorded.

Ofc. Mack read, understood and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

Mack was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 13-14, 2021, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 5714 South Park Boulevard, Parma, OH 44134. Reportedly, Mack did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Mack stated that on June 13-14, 2021, he used three different radio call signs. Mack stated that some of the SWAT officers on scene would not have known his badge number of “27” so he would also use “Mack” or “Oscar 1” to identify himself. He has been employed by the Parma Police Department for about 15 years. He has been a police officer for a total of 15 years. During the incident, Mack wore his standard navy blue-color police SWAT uniform, which included “Police” on the front and back. He also wore an external ballistic vest. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses.

Mack is a sniper on the SWAT team. Mack stated that he was first alerted of a situation through an app on his cell phone. The app is used by the SWAT team to put officers on standby and also to call them out for an incident. A few hours after receiving the initial notice that there was a possible situation that would require SWAT officers, Mack was officially called out. Mack first responded to the Parma Police Department to gather his gear. He then traveled to the scene.

Mack estimated that he arrived on scene around 5:00 PM or 6:00 PM. He was not sure on the time, but he said that it was still light out. Mack stated that in the call out notice, he was told that

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there was a male that may have been involved in a shooting who is now at his residence and is not coming out.

Once Mack arrived on scene, he noticed that there was a loose command post set up. He told the command post that he was on scene and that he was going to scout out a location where he could set up to see the residence and relay information. Mack stated that he took a position in a wooded area that was next to a brick house and a ravine. His location would have been across the street and to the southeast of the front of the subject's residence. Mack said that his position was approximately 85 yards away from the front door of the subject's residence. Mack could see the entire front of the residence, as well as the driveway area.

Mack had binoculars and a magnified rifle scope that he could use to get a closer view of the residence. Mack stated, that at one point, the subject came to the front door and opened it. Mack said the screen door was still shut but he could see that the subject was shaving his head. Mack said that there were officers in an armored vehicle that were located closer to the house. He could hear them telling the subject to come out. The subject did not come out and went back into the residence. About an hour later, Mack saw the subject in the kitchen area. The subject then walked to the front window. Mack said that it looked like the subject may have been on the phone. Mack said that this was the last time that he saw the subject.

Mack said that both times that he saw the subject, he believes that it was before any chemical munitions were put into the house. Mack recalled that it was still light outside when he saw the subject, and he believes that gas was not deployed until it was darker. Mack could not hear any of the conversation between the negotiators and the subject. However, SWAT officers also had a loudspeaker; and when the subject would come to the window area, officers would try to talk to the subject with the loudspeaker. Mack could not recall exactly what was said, but he believes that officers were telling the subject to come out.

Mack said that after he saw the subject in the kitchen window, he heard radio traffic advising that the subject was walking to the back of the house. Mack said that it was getting dark, and he believes a short time later chemical munitions were deployed into the residence.

Mack got relieved by another SWAT sniper from the western division of the team. Mack believes that the sniper was a Strongsville officer. Mack estimated that he was relieved around midnight. Mack then loaded up his gear and left the scene. Within 10-15 minutes, he heard over the radio that the subject was firing or possibly that officers had fired.

The interview concluded at approximately 1039 hours.

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The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.



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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).

JAMES MACK

Printed Name of Interviewee

9/10/2021 1018

Date / Time

Signature of Interviewee

Jon Lieber

BCI Agent (Printed)

s/A J-2 #50

BCI Agent (Signature)