



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



2022-2608
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 28 North Paint St., Chillicothe
(L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Stephen Irwin (W)
Date of Activity: 11/28/2022
Author: SAS Kevin Barbeau, #142

Narrative:

On Thursday, November 17, 2022, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation responded to the Ross County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) located at 28 North Paint St., Chillicothe, Ohio. BCI was requested to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (shooting) that occurred on this date between RCSO Sergeant Eric Kocheran (involved officer) and Nicholas Mitchell (involved party). During an interaction between Sgt. Kocheran and Mitchell there was an exchange of gunfire and Sgt. Kocheran was injured and transported to Grant Medical Center (Columbus). Mitchell was transported Adena Medical Center where he died.

On November 28, 2022, Special Agent Supervisor Kevin Barbeau contacted Steve Irwin by cell phone. Irwin was identified as an individual who had interaction with Mitchell day(s) prior to the above event. SAS Barbeau called the provided telephone number and a male answered, identifying himself as Irwin. SAS Barbeau identified himself and the reason for the call. Irwin explained he works at a local music store, BBB Music Center (643 Central Ave., Chillicothe, Ohio 45601) and had some type of interactions with Mitchell at his place of employment.

During these interactions Irwin described Mitchell as "checked out." He confirmed that Mitchell has always talked about conspiracy theories; but it was within the past two to three weeks that the theories became more "radical" and intense or far fetched. These theory topics were surrounded by government, aliens, Epstein, Nazis, etc.

Irwin questioned if Mitchell was having some sort of schizophrenic event and was aware Mitchell was a veteran and had unpleasant experiences during deployment. Irwin suggested Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Irwin told SAS Barbeau that Mitchell did not tell him about hurting children nor did he discuss anything about voices in his head. Irwin does not have knowledge if Mitchell was abusing drugs either.

Irwin described Mitchell as a nice, well mannered guy. There was no evidence that Mitchell did not like cops. Irwin said this appears to be some sort of mental distress.

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The interview was concluded at 1343 hours. The audio recording is attached and should be reviewed for additional details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Steve Irwin Audio Interview