



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



2023-0408
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1680 Stringtown Rd., Grove
City 43123 (L)

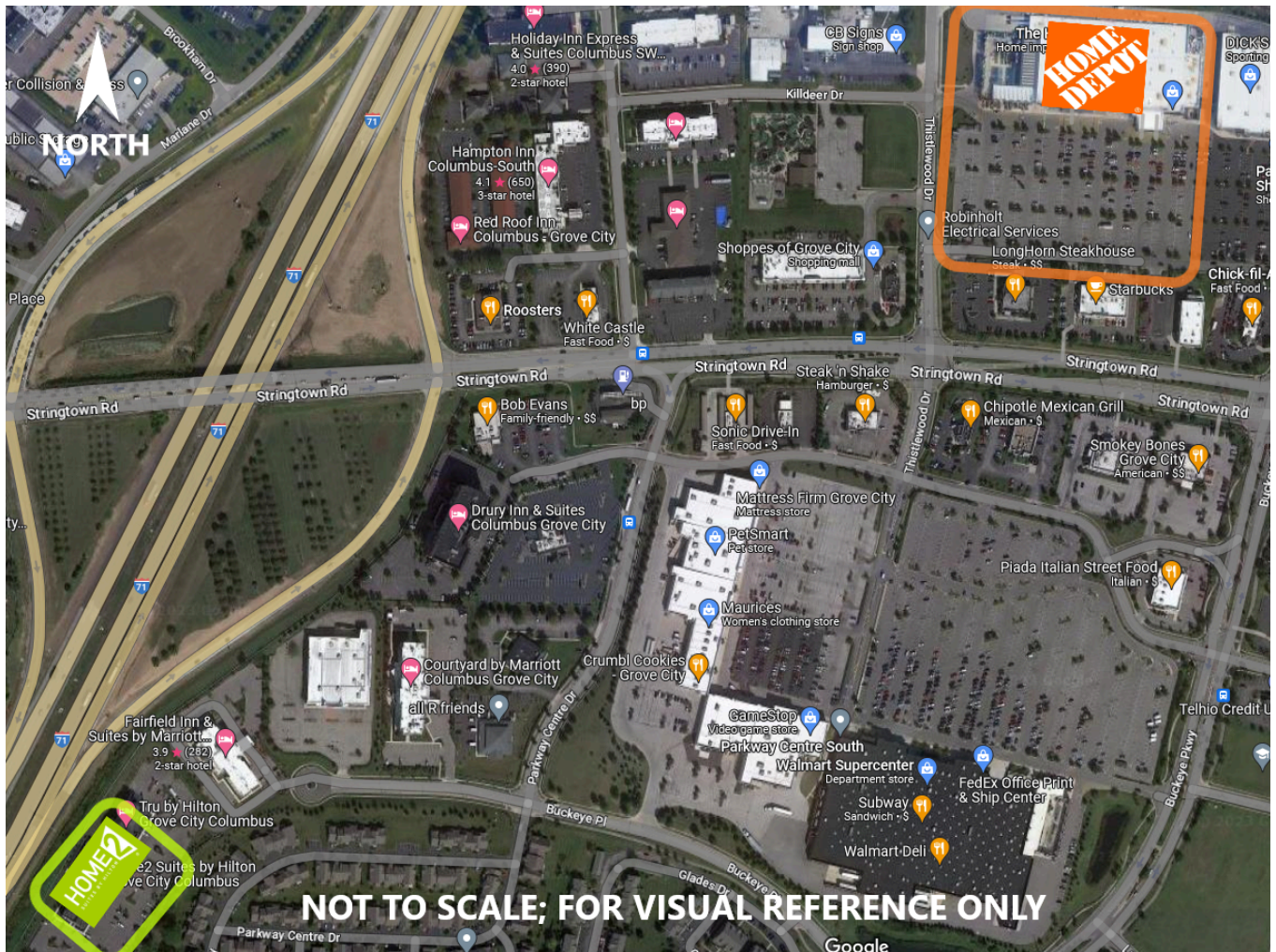
Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Officer Brandon Judd (W)
Date of Activity: 02/12/2023
Author: SA James H Gore, #168

Narrative:

On February 12, 2023 at approximately 0040 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) James Gore interviewed Grove City Police Officer Brandon Judd (badge #67). Ofc. Judd was identified as one of the first officers from Grove City to respond to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident involving members of the Columbus Police Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team. The incident occurred in the parking lot of the Home Depot, 1680 Stringtown Rd., Grove City, on the previous evening. The purpose of the interview was to obtain an account of what Ofc. Judd observed regarding the incident. The interview took place in front of the Home Depot.

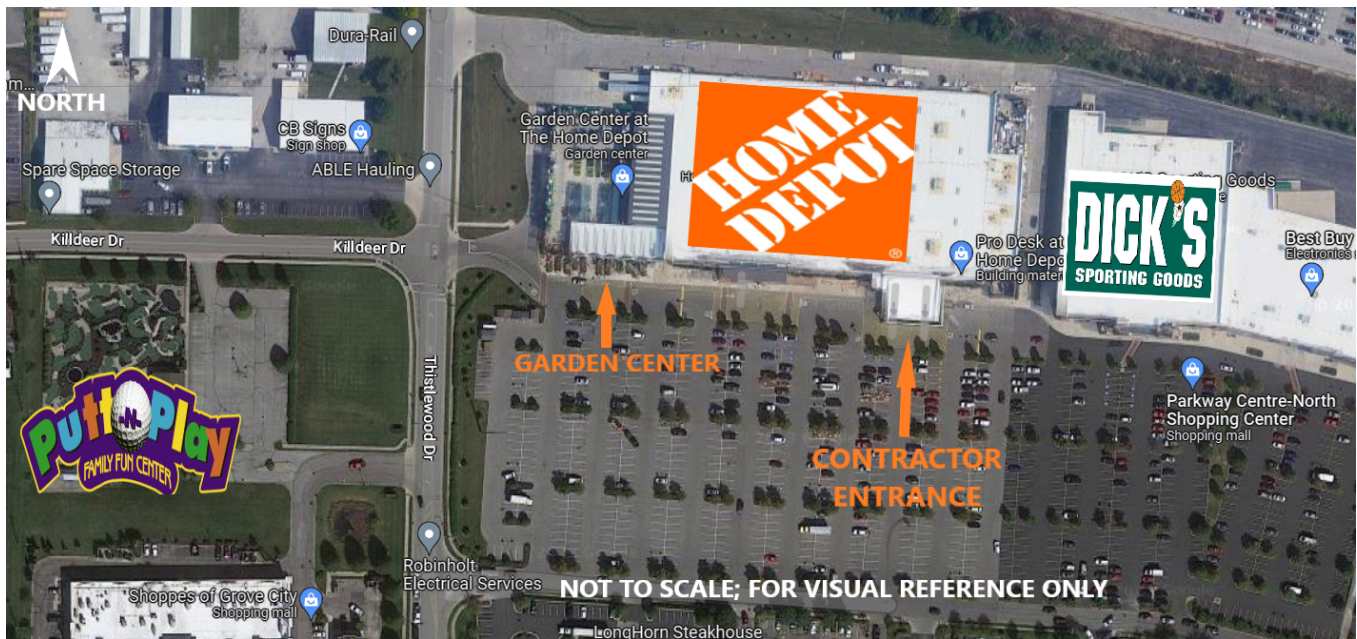
Ofc. Judd advised that he has been an officer with Grove City for nearly 12 years and he is assigned to the Patrol section. Ofc. Judd stated his normal work shift is from 7 PM to 3 AM with Sundays and Mondays off. On the night in question, Ofc. Judd served as the Officer in Charge (OIC) for the shift.

Ofc. Judd explained that a woman, whose name he did not know, had called Grove City's radio room and advised that her cousin had an arrest warrant for rape from Athens County. The woman had been reportedly communicating with the subject via text message, and she had pretended to be the subject's ex-girlfriend. The caller was reportedly trying to lure the subject to the Home2 Suites hotel in Grove City to be apprehended by police for the warrant.



Ofc. Judd said he advised Ofc. Nelson to go to the Home2 Suites to contact the caller, and he directed other officers to respond to the vicinity. Ofc. Nelson reportedly relayed that the subject soon told the caller that he was being dropped off at the Home Depot near the contractor's entrance.

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Ofc. Judd said he directed other units to set up a perimeter in the area of Home Depot. Ofc. Watt was reportedly already next door to Home Depot at Dick's Sporting Goods taking a shoplifting report. Ofc. Judd said he traveled to the Putt N Play golf center next to Home Depot, where he parked behind some bushes and then got out on foot. According to Ofc. Judd, Ofc. Nelson relayed that there were six Columbus SWAT officers in the area looking for the subject too. Ofc. Judd added, Ofc. Watt and Ofc. Jones, who were both near Dick's Sporting Goods, were approached by SWAT members and asked to back out of the area.

Ofc. Judd said he was still on foot near the southwest corner of Home Depot (garden center area) when he saw flashing red and blue lights in the parking lot. He said he heard an officer giving commands – 'Show me your hands! Show me your fucking hands!' – and then immediately afterward he heard several gunshots. Ofc. Judd said he sprinted across the front of the building to where the activity was, and he notified dispatch that shots had been fired. He said he also called for a medic as he was running.

Ofc. Judd said as he arrived on scene, he observed a car surrounded by four other vehicles, which he believed were SWAT vehicles. Ofc. Judd said a male in the driver's seat appeared to be cooperative, and he had his hands out the car window. He said there was another male in the passenger seat, and there was a black, semi-automatic handgun laying on the subject's abdomen area, near his hand. There were bullet holes in the vehicle's windshield, Ofc. Judd said.

Ofc. Judd said officers were trying to break the front passenger window to secure the handgun and extract the subject. He said when the officers pulled the subject from the vehicle, the handgun fell on the ground, and then one of the officers placed it on top of the car. Ofc. Judd said the subject was then secured onto a cot.

After that, Ofc. Judd continued, his attention was focused on the driver. Ofc. Judd stated that one of the SWAT vehicles had to be moved so that the target vehicle's driver door could be

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opened. Ofc. Judd said that Ofc. Spencer assisted with extracting the driver. Ofc. Judd recalled that the driver kept thanking the officers, which he thought was odd.

Ofc. Judd further explained, the passenger appeared to be unresponsive, but he was twitching, perhaps involuntarily. Ofc. Judd said that Columbus medics were on scene instantly. Ofc. Judd said the subject was initially treated by the Columbus medics, but was later transferred to a Jackson Township ambulance to be transported to Grant Hospital.

Ofc. Judd said later, as he was making notifications to his command, he was approached by a woman who identified herself as the initial caller and cousin of the subject. Ofc. Judd said the woman was placed in a police vehicle to be interviewed later. Ofc. Judd said he did not interview the woman or any other parties on scene.

SA Gore later reviewed Ofc. Judd's body-worn camera footage, and he found that the footage was consistent with Ofc. Judd's recollection.

Copies of Ofc. Judd's interview (audio) and body-worn camera footage were attached to this report for reference.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-0212-00-41-00 Grove City PD Ofc. Brandon Judd Interview – SA Gore

Attachment # 02: Grove_City_OH_Police_Brandon_Judd_02_11_2023_20_13