



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



2023-2080

Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 45 Great Southern Blvd., Columbus,
OH, 43207

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness

Involves: Richard Simms, Sue Carroll, and Angela Reed

Activity Date: 8/9/2023

Activity Location: Franklin County Clerk of Courts, Auto Title Office

Authoring Agent: SA John Butterworth

Narrative:

On Wednesday, August 09, 2023 at 1006 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Butterworth conducted follow up interviews Richard Simms, Sue Carroll and Angela Reed (Simms, Carroll and Reed), relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on Wednesday, August 9, 2023. The interview took place at the Franklin County Clerk of Courts, Auto Title Office. The purpose of the interviews was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by these individuals.

Upon arrival on scene in the area of the Franklin County Clerk of Courts, Auto Title Office at 45 Great Southern Blvd., Columbus, OH, 43207, SA Butterworth was requested to conduct a follow up interview with Richard Simms, who had been approached by the involved individual, Austin Huntzinger, who demanded the vehicle Simms was sitting in after brandishing a firearm. Simms is an employee of the Franklin County Clerk of Courts.

SA Butterworth arrived at the Auto Title Office and met with Simms as well as Assistant Director Sue Carroll and Office Manager Angela Reed. SA Butterworth was then made aware that both Carroll and Reed were also present during the incident. SA Butterworth spoke with Simms, Carroll and Reed individually to obtain any pertinent information these individuals could provide on the incident. SA Butterworth was not aware that Columbus Police (CPD) detectives had already spoken with them regarding the incident at the time of the interviews. After the interviews were completed, SA Butterworth was advised CPD detectives spoke with Simms, Carroll and Reed after they arrived on scene. Any information obtained during these interviews by SA Butterworth is supplemental to the information obtained by CPD detectives.

While speaking with Simms, SA Butterworth learned that the incident occurred around 0650 hrs. in the parking lot outside (North) of the Franklin County Clerk of Courts, Auto Title Office. Simms told SA Butterworth he normally arrives a little early to the office and enjoys sitting in his vehicle listening to the radio before starting the day. Simms stated while he was sitting in his vehicle he noticed a white male sitting in front of the Auto Title Office, but did not think much of him as this



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is normal for the area around the office. Simms said Assistant Director Carroll was already inside the office upon his arrival. Simms reported that while he was in his car, he was approached by an unknown male subject who demanded his vehicle while brandishing a gun. The man had walked up to the passenger side front window and was talking to him through the closed window. Simms said the man told him there was an emergency and he needed his car and to get out. Simms told the man he would call 911 for him if there was an emergency, but the man told him not to call and again told him to get out of the car while brandishing a firearm. Simms said he complied with the man and started to get out. The man walked around the rear of the car while Simms was getting out. Simms said the man apologized to him and he seemed "jumpy." Simms asked the man if he could retrieve his backpack from the car and then left the key fob on the hood as he walked toward the office. Simms said as he walked toward the office he heard a vehicle come to a quick stop and squeal the tires. A moment later he heard gunfire and hid behind a column outside the office doors. Simms did not observe the interaction or gunfire between officers and the involved individual. Simms did say near the end of the interview that he thought he heard a "pop" before the squealing tires, but did not know for sure, and mentioned it because he thought that is why he would have run instead of walking to the column. After the popping noise was done, Simms said he saw the police officer and the man on the ground and went into the office. Simms did not recognize the man or the name Austin Huntzinger as a customer or having dealt with him at the office.

SA Butterworth followed up with Sue Carroll and Angela Reed who had previously spoke with Columbus Police detectives as they were witnesses to the incident. Carroll and Reed reported information about what they observed, heard and actions during the time of the incident. The conversations with Carroll and Reed were recorded and are attached to this report.

Carroll was the original caller to 911 to report the man with a gun approaching Simms. Carroll provided information to the 911 operator about her observations of the man and the interaction with Simms. Carroll observed a man (later identified as Huntzinger) walk toward Reed's car holding a gun. Carroll told Reed to get back in her car and drive away. As Reed got back in her car and drove away, Carroll called 911 to report the incident. Carroll observed Huntzinger approach Simms's vehicle and point the gun at him. Once the police officers arrived Carroll said there seemed to be immediate gunfire. Carroll could not provide details on how many shots were fired or who fired. Carroll observed Huntzinger fall to the ground. Carroll also reported she observed CPR being provided to Huntzinger by CPD personnel.



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Reed said she initially pulled into the office and called Carroll as she observed the man sitting by the door to the office. While on the phone with Carroll, Reed was informed that the man had a gun and to get back in her car. Reed immediately returned to her car and drove away and parked in a different section of the parking lot to observe what was happening. Reed reported that she observed the man (later identified as Huntzinger) outside the office and called Carroll to stay on the phone with her as she went into the office. Reed said as she got out of her car and started to walk toward the office, Huntzinger started walking toward her. Carroll told her via telephone that the man had a gun and to get back in her car. Reed said she got back in her car and drove away to a different part of the parking lot. Reed said she watched Huntzinger walk up to Simms' vehicle and watched as he pointed a gun at Simms. Reed observed a police van pull into the parking lot and there were shots fired right after. Reed reported "a lot" of shots fired but couldn't hear anything being said, she stated she could only observe what was going on.

The interviews concluded at approximately 1130 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The recordings are attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.