



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



2023-3023

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 6235 Hathaway Rd.,
Garfield Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio 44125

Investigative Activity: Interview of Officer Bryan Cwiklinski
Activity Date: 11-30-2023
Activity Location: OPBA Office - North Royalton
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Joseph Goudy #83

Narrative:

On Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 0909 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joseph Goudy (Goudy), along with SA Cory Momchilov (Momchilov), conducted an interview with Garfield Heights Police Department (GHPD) Officer (Ofc) Bryan Cwiklinski (Cwiklinski). This interview was in reference to an officer involved shooting that occurred on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 6235 Hathaway Road in the City of Garfield Heights, Ohio. Along with Ofc Cwiklinski was his attorney from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA), Dan Leffler (Leffler).

SA Goudy asked Ofc Cwiklinski what his radio call sign was and Cwiklinski stated it was, "09." Ofc. Cwiklinski stated he has 31 years and 6 months of total law enforcement, all of which was with the GHPD. On the day of the incident, Ofc Cwiklinski was wearing his standard issued patrol uniform with the GHPD patches and a police badge on the front. Ofc Cwiklinski was wearing his exterior vest which also had proper GHPD markings on it. Ofc Cwiklinski believed that he was well represented as a police officer during the incident. Prior to the incident, Ofc Cwiklinski was assigned to the traffic unit driving marked unit 3437, which was a silver Ford Taurus with standard police traffic unit markings along the sides. As the call was being dispatched, Ofc Cwiklinski was at the police station completing accident reports.

Ofc Cwiklinski stated he responded after hearing [REDACTED] asking for additional units. Ofc Cwiklinski stated [REDACTED] said over the radio, "he had a male, uh, in the house with a gun to his head, I believe that's what he said." After hearing this information, Ofc Cwiklinski responded and arrived on scene. Ofc Cwiklinski stated he saw [REDACTED] s and [REDACTED] s vehicle parked down the street, which caused a little confusion as to where the residence was located. Ofc Cwiklinski stated once Lieutenant Berdyz arrived on scene, they began heading toward the residence.

As they made their way up the driveway towards the rear of the residence, they made their way to the basement entrance where the other officers entered. As Officer Cwiklinski entered the basement, he saw [REDACTED] bladed behind a refrigerator attempting to speak with the male trying to help him. Ofc Cwiklinski noticed [REDACTED] inside another room to the left. Ofc Cwiklinski stated [REDACTED] told him he's got a

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"very narrow window, very small sight." At this point, Ofc Cwiklinski moved back out of the room and moved towards [REDACTED] trying to help. Ofc Cwiklinski stated from what he heard of [REDACTED] she did a great job of speaking with the male. Ofc Cwiklinski stated he heard the male say to [REDACTED] "he wanted her to enjoy the show." During this time, Ofc Cwiklinski stated as he moved back to where the [REDACTED] was, Lieutenant Berdyz made the decision to move everyone out. Ofc Cwiklinski stated [REDACTED] said he was not going to leave [REDACTED].

At this point, Ofc Cwiklinski heard [REDACTED] yell, "No" and then engaged the male by firing her duty weapon. Ofc Cwiklinski stated he could guess that [REDACTED] fired four or five rounds. Ofc Cwiklinski stated he maintained his position due to not having anywhere to go to avoid getting into the line of fire. When Ofc Cwiklinski moved to the position where [REDACTED] was initially, he did not see the male in the room due to the furniture placement. Ofc Cwiklinski stated he did not have a target to engage. Ofc Cwiklinski stated he heard the final shot coming from his left, in which he knew the sergeant ([REDACTED]) fired the last shot.

When they were told to move up, Ofc Cwiklinski stated he was the first one into the room and immediately saw the male lying on his back with a gun in his right hand. At this point, Ofc Cwiklinski stated he stepped on the male's right wrist where he was still holding onto the gun. After stepping on the male's wrist, Ofc Cwiklinski stated he was able to remove the handgun from the male's hand to secure it. Ofc Cwiklinski stated the gun was a black revolver and he passed it off to another officer standing behind him so he could assist Lieutenant Berdyz with administering emergency aid to the male.

For further details, please refer to the audio interview of Garfield Heights Police Officer Bryan Cwiklinski that is attached to this report. Also please refer to the video interview identified as Matrix Item E which is stored in the BCI SIU physical case file.

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