



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



2022-2121
Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 6463 Tara Brooke Court,
Hamilton, OH 45011 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Stephaun Syllas Jones (S)
Date of Activity: 10/14/2022
Activity Location: – 6322 Morris Road, Hamilton, OH 45011, Butler County
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On October 14, 2022, at 1417 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) and Richard Ward (SA Ward) interviewed Baxter Barrett (Mr. Baxter) regarding his observations prior to the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) in Fairfield Township on October 8, 2022. Mr. Baxter is the homeowner of 6322 Morris Road. He was identified by Fairfield Township police officers as a witness to the events that occurred prior to the OICI. The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device.

Mr. Baxter advised that on October 8, 2022, his wife told him that there was police activity at the end of their driveway. He went to the front of his residence and watched as the incident was unfolding. He heard police officers giving verbal commands, such as, "Drop the gun!" He then observed a Black male with long hair walking up his driveway. He said the subject, later identified as Stephaun Syllas Jones (Jones), went into the woods on the north side of his driveway. He said it appeared that Jones was injured, as he was "dragging."

As Jones exited the woods near the residence, Mr. Baxter said to him, "Stop, or you'll get shot." Mr. Baxter clarified to the BCI agents that he had a gun on his person, but he did not brandish it during his encounter with Jones. Jones changed course and jumped a fence on the north side of his property. He recalled that Jones had a "hard landing." He said that none of the police officers were in apparent pursuit of Jones. Jones, now in another yard, continued behind the residences. He had contact with Jones a second time and pleaded with him to surrender. He said to Jones, "Stop! You can't get away. If you don't give up, they are going to kill you." He then saw Jones either load his firearm or attempt to "unjam" it. Jones then turned and walked toward the fence on the northeast side of his property. A neighbor behind him later told him that Jones had returned to his [Mr. Baxter's] property. Jones eventually exited the southeast corner of his yard.

Mr. Baxter said that eventually several officers moved up and cleared his pole barn. A police

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canine arrived and followed Jones' path. He estimated that ten minutes had passed after he saw the police canine, and he heard four gunshots south of his property.

Mr. Baxter advised that he did not have any cameras that captured the incident.

The interview was concluded at 1437 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-10-14/ Interview with Baxter Barrett

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.