



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



2022-0826

Officer Involved Critical Incident - W. 46th Street, between Collins Blvd.
and Valley View Blvd.

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: OSHP Trooper Zackery Metz
Activity Date: 6/5/2022
Activity Location: Telephone
Authoring Agent: SA Jon Lieber #50

Narrative:

On Sunday, June 05, 2022, at 2304 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jon Lieber (Lieber) interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper (Tpr.) Zackery Metz (Metz), via telephone [REDACTED]. The interview was audio recorded.

Tpr. Metz was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the April 13, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of W. 46th Street between Collins Blvd. and Valley View Blvd., Ashtabula, Ohio. Reportedly, Metz did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Tpr. Metz stated that he was dispatched to assist Ashtabula City Police Department (APD). Metz stated that APD was handling a call involving a suicidal male with a firearm on the W. 46th Street bridge (also known as the Spring Street bridge). Metz's role was to assist with traffic control. Metz estimated that the time of day that he was dispatched was just after midnight. When Metz arrived, he was on the west side of the bridge and was positioned about 50 to 75 yards away from two APD officers (Lt. [REDACTED] and Ofc. Brandon Zukoski). Metz stated that he could see the bridge at an angle. Metz stated that at the time he arrived, he could not see the subject but he was told that the male subject was on the other side of the bridge. Metz was advised by APD to make sure that no vehicles entered the area.

Metz stated that after about 30 to 45 minutes of being on scene, the male started to walk toward the side of the bridge that Metz, [REDACTED] and Zukoski were on. Metz heard [REDACTED] begin to yell at the subject. Metz then retrieved a patrol rifle from his vehicle. Metz stated that he was able to see the subject from a side angle. Metz estimated that at this time, he was at least 100 yards away from the subject, due to the angle. [REDACTED] again, yelled at the subject to drop the gun. Metz then heard one shot fired. Metz stated that he had the subject in his sights at the time but he did not fire. Metz was not able to tell if the subject had a weapon. In the moments before the shooting, the subject was walking toward [REDACTED] and Zukoski. Metz stated that at the time the shot was fired, he estimated that the subject was 30 to 50 yards away from [REDACTED] and

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Zukoski. Metz stated that there were lights on the bridge and he was able to see the subject from over 100 yards away.

SA Lieber asked Metz if in the 30 to 45 minutes that he was on scene before the situation escalated, if he recalled any other yelling or communication. Metz stated that where he was, it was quiet until the subject started walking toward them.

Metz stated that his rifle is equipped with iron sights only and does not have an optic. When the subject was walking toward the officers, Metz could not see if the subject raised a weapon or made any other movements. After the subject was shot, an ambulance arrived on scene quickly and provided care to the subject.

The interview concluded at approximately 2313 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report.