



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Brett Thomas (W)
Date of Activity: 01/30/2023
Activity Location: Thomas, Officer Brett – Business – 233 West Center Street, Marion, OH 43302, Marion County
Author: SA Jason A. Snyder, #176

Narrative:

On 1/30/23, Special Agent (SA) Jason Snyder (Snyder) with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), conducted a recorded interview of Patrolman (Ptl.) Brett Thomas (Thomas) with the Marion Police Department (Marion PD). The interview was conducted at the Marion PD, located at 233 W. Center St., Marion, Oh. 43302.

Both SA Snyder and Ptl. Thomas agreed to meet this date and location. Ptl. Thomas voluntarily agreed to speak to SA Snyder.

SA Snyder asked Ptl. Thomas about his work history and education. Ptl. Thomas has some college. He has been with the Marion PD since 2013. He has been a member of the Special Response Team (SRT) for Marion PD since 2014. He was also in the military for several years.

SA Snyder asked Ptl. Thomas about an incident that occurred on 12/20/22 in La Rue, Ohio.

Ptl. Thomas arrived at the briefing that morning. He was briefed on a drug investigation involving Travis Hellinger (Hellinger). It was briefed that Hellinger was a known drug seller and possible user. He was known to carry firearms and was a convicted felon and part of a motorcycle gang. Hellinger was also known to wear body armor.

Hellinger had made statements in the past that he was not going to be apprehended again by law enforcement. He would use violence, if necessary, to prevent his capture.

During the search warrant execution, it was radioed that Hellinger was outside the buildings and possibly aware that law enforcement was in route.

Ptl. Thomas arrived at the search warrant location located at 256 Swain St., La Rue, Oh. 43332. Ptl. Thomas stationed himself southeast of the pole barn. He could see that Hellinger was on the railroad tracks walking west. Other officers were near him telling him to

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put his hands up and to "get down and surrender." Hellinger refused. After Hellinger moved further west, Ptl. Thomas lost sight of him.

Ptl. Thomas continued to provide security in the area until being relieved by the Delaware County SWAT Team. Ptl. Thomas did wear a body worn camera which was active during the incident.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions.

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