



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



2022-1527

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 5760 US 62, Hillsboro, OH,
Highland County (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Richard Jean Poulin (S)
Date of Activity: 07/17/2022
Activity Location: Hillsboro Police Department – 128 W Walnut St., Hillsboro, OH
45133, Highland County
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On July 17, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by Highland County Sheriff Donald Barrera to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on US 62 near the Hillsboro Church of God (5760 US 62, Hillsboro, Ohio). The OICI entailed Highland County Sheriff's Office Sergeant [REDACTED] (Sgt. [REDACTED]) firing a single, fatal shot at Richard Jean Poulin (Poulin) at the end of a vehicle pursuit.

BCI Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Kenneth Smith (SA Smith) conducted an interview with Hillsboro Police Officer William Childers (Officer Childers) on July 17, 2022, at 0639 hours. Officer Childers was involved in the pursuit while it was within the jurisdiction of Hillsboro. He subsequently responded to the scene of the OICI after the fact to offer assistance. The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device.

The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are not a verbatim account. 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. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify the content of the interview.

Officer Childers advised that he has worked for the Hillsboro Police Department for nine months. Prior to working for the Hillsboro Police Department, he worked at the Sabina Police Department and the Highland County Sheriff's Office (HCSO). He worked at HCSO from 2017 until 2021. He said his badge number and radio call sign are 1211.

Regarding the OICI, Officer Childers advised BCI agents of the following:

Officer Childers advised that sometime during the early morning hours of July 17, 2022, he heard via the police radio that HCSO initiated a pursuit, which was coming through Hillsboro.

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Officer Childers and the officer-in-charge, Officer Daniel Hopkins (Officer Hopkins), responded to the area of the pursuit. Officer Childers drove to the area of Frisch's Big Boy Restaurant (1285 N High St, Hillsboro, Ohio). He deployed a spike strip as the suspect's truck passed him. He said the spike strip was deployed successfully. He collected the spike strip and fell in behind the pursuit. He said the speed of the pursuit was approximately 30 MPH. He remained in the pursuit until it reached the end of the Hillsboro city limits.

After some time had passed, Officer Childers heard "shots fired!" over the police radio (MARCS pursuit channel 6). He then heard "two-nine," which meant a medic was requested. Officer Hopkins instructed Officer Childers to respond to the termination point of the pursuit to offer any assistance needed.

Officer Childers arrived at the scene and spoke with Sgt. [REDACTED]. He said Sgt. [REDACTED] was near his cruiser washing his hands. He asked Sgt. [REDACTED] if everything was okay, to which he responded by saying, "No." Officer Childers then asked what help HCSO needed, which Sgt. [REDACTED] told him to block traffic. Officer Childers advised Officer Hopkins that HCSO needed assistance with traffic control. Officer Childers then relocated to US 62 at Ervin Road.

Officer Childers advised that he knew Sgt. [REDACTED] HCSO Deputy Dylan Quenneville, and Deputy Steven Alexander (Deputy Alexander) from working nearby. Officer Childers said he worked as a corrections officer for HCSO but did work directly with the involved deputies.

While Officer Childers was at his traffic post, he asked Deputy Alexander what happened. Deputy Alexander said Sgt. [REDACTED] was on the passenger side of Poulin's pick-up truck and shattered the window. Deputy Alexander was on the driver's side but was unable to breach the window. Sgt. [REDACTED] relocated to the driver's window and attempted to shatter it with his pistol, and the pistol "fired off," striking Poulin in the neck. Deputy Alexander then told him that deputies removed Poulin from the pick-up truck and attempted to render aid.

Officer Childers advised that he was wearing a body-worn camera. He captured his conversation with Sgt. [REDACTED] but not his conversation with Deputy Alexander. He provided the body-worn camera footage to SA Smith.

SA Seitzman and SA Smith reviewed the body-worn camera footage. Officer Childers approached Sgt. [REDACTED] as he washed his hands at the front passenger door of his cruiser. Officer Childers asked Sgt. [REDACTED] if he was "good." Sgt. [REDACTED] answered, "I'm not good. Not good at all." Officer Childers asked Sgt. [REDACTED] how he could assist. Sgt. [REDACTED] requested that he close the roadway. It should be noted that no timestamp was watermarked in the video.

The interview was concluded at 0645. The audio recording is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-17/ Hillsboro PD Officer William Childers Interview

References:

USB Thumbdrive

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Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.