



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



2022-2918

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 500 West Hopocan, Barberton, OH
44203

Investigative Activity: Interview of Witness
Involves: Menda Ramsey (W)
Activity Date: 12/26/2022
Activity Location: 3224 Trotter Road, Norton, Ohio 44203
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente

Narrative:

On Monday, December 26, 2022, at 1649 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente and SA Charlie Snyder interviewed Menda Ramsey (Ramsey). Ramsey was identified as a possible witness to the officer-involved shooting in Barberton, Ohio, on December 26, 2022. The interview with Ramsey was audio recorded and attached to this report.

During the interview, Ramsey reported the following:

Ramsey owns The Coffee Pot, a local restaurant located in Barberton, Ohio. The front window of her coffee shop faces out to the vacant lot where the officer-involved shooting occurred.

On December 26, 2022, Ramsey was working in her restaurant when she, her niece, her sister and customers all went to the front window of the coffee shop and began to look and watch outside upon seeing a police car parked outside with flashing lights on. Ramsey observed the subject walking in the direction of her restaurant from the YMCA. Ramsey also recalled two customers entering her establishment around that time; and in the process, the male customer stood in the doorway with the door open. Ramsey asked that customer to close the door to keep the warm air inside. The customer said to Ramsey, "Well, this dude is looking in my car windows." Ramsey stated the male's girlfriend was afraid to get out of the car because of the subject's actions outside. Ramsey believed the male customer "chased him off" and "that's when he started walking through the church parking lot." Ramsey recalled police were already present at that time.

Ramsey continued to describe what she saw and heard, stating the police told the subject "stop, stop, stop, and the dude just kept on going, and I don't think they had a choice but to, you know what I mean." Ramsey stated, "He put his hand in his pocket like it was, who knows, who knows what's in his pocket, yeah, watched him fall down on the ground. But, after he fell down he tried to get up again but, he didn't. And um, I thought I saw them resuscitating him, but I could be wrong cause my view is a little obscured."

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When clarifying her statement, Ramsey said she “couldn’t hear them say stop but could see them from across the street like yelling stop and he wouldn’t and he reached his hand in his pocket and then I heard a shot.”

Ramsey described the subject’s gate as he approached officers as “walking quickly.” Ramsey stated she perceived the subject’s actions as intimidating to the police. As the subject approached the officers, Ramsey stated the officers were “backing up” from the subject but were unable to do so at the speed the subject was approaching them.

Attachments:

1. 2022-12-26: Menda Ramsey Interview