



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: Margaret Patterson (W)
Activity Date: 12/26/2022
Activity Location: 151 Norman Street, No. 2, Barberton, Ohio 44203
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente

Narrative:

On Monday, December 26, 2022, at 1118 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente and SA Charlie Snyder interviewed Margaret Patterson (Patterson). Patterson was identified as a possible witness to the officer-involved shooting in Barberton, Ohio, on December 26, 2022. The interview with Patterson was audio recorded and attached to this report.

During the interview, Patterson reported the following:

On the morning of December 26, 2022, at about 0855 hours, Patterson left her home on foot and began to walk to work. Patterson works at the Glass House. While walking to work, she noticed a man across the street from her “yelling and screaming at cars going by, talking to himself maybe, I’m not entirely sure.” Patterson walked into the parking lot across from the YMCA (located on the corner of Newell Street and West Hopocan Avenue) to avoid this man, later identified as Zachary Zoran (Zoran).

Zoran then began to yell at Patterson, “Hey Lady! Hey Lady!” Patterson did not turn around to face Zoran. Rather, she continued walking in the direction of the YMCA. Zoran continued to approach Patterson; and, as he got closer, said, “Give me your car keys.” Patterson told Zoran she didn’t have a car or car keys. Zoran insisted Patterson give him her keys. Zoran told Patterson she “needed to empty my pockets, and that I needed to empty my bookbag and give him everything I had on me.” Patterson told Zoran she would not give him her belongings and told Zoran to leave her alone. Zoran told Patterson, “I’m not going to leave you alone.” Patterson began to speed up, walking as fast as she safely could in the snow. Patterson did not stop or turn around at any point; stating she “was just afraid that if he grabbed me I wouldn’t have any way to defend myself so I just kept running.” Patterson then began “screaming for somebody to call 911.” Eventually Patterson “saw a woman crossing the street” and told this woman, “Please call the cops! Please call the cops!” Patterson herself began calling 911 at the same time. Zoran was still behind Patterson and giving her orders to “give me your stuff, give me your bag.”

Once Patterson and Zoran reached the main doors of the YMCA, Zoran stopped outside as the women entered the facility and Zoran “kinda stared me down through the door.” Patterson

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reported “an elderly couple pulled up and he just started screaming at their car and screaming at them.” Patterson then remained in the foyer of the YMCA.

A Barberton police officer arrived and entered the YMCA. The Barberton police officer asked Patterson what was going on and Patterson relayed the account she described above. The Barberton police officer told Patterson to stay in the YMCA and he drove out of the YMCA lot.

Patterson then observed Zoran and the Barberton police officer from her vantage point in the foyer of the YMCA. Moments later, she watched as a Barberton police officer drew a weapon, which she could not identify, as Zoran approached the Barberton police officer. The Barberton police officer then had to walk back, retreating behind a car. Patterson did not see the shooting but heard “what sounded like something” but was not positive about the origin of the sound she heard.

Patterson believed Zoran was attempting to rob her during their interaction.

Attachments:

1. 2022-12-26: Margaret Patterson Interview