



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



2023-0228

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 18697 Bagley Rd., Cleveland, OH
44130, Cuyahoga County

Investigative Activity: Witness Interview
Activity Date: April 17, 2023
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Matthew Armstrong #146

Narrative:

On April 17, 2023, at approximately 1115 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) and SA Nick Valente (Valente) met with and interviewed Paramedic Brandon Mason (Mason). Mason was employed in the Emergency Department at Southwest General Medical Center. He was identified as an individual who had some level of involvement in the October 18, 2022, incident surrounding the death of patient Bryan Bailey (Bailey). The interview took place at the BCI Richfield office and was audio and video recorded.

Paramedic Brandon Mason agreed to participate in an interview with BCI Agents. He was not represented by an attorney. When initially contacted by phone, he agreed to participate and scheduled the interview. SA Armstrong explained he could not be punished by his employer or any regulatory board for declining to provide a statement.

The following is a summary of 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. The information 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 recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Throughout the interview, Mason provided the following information:

At the time of the interview, Mason had been employed at Southwest General Medical Center for 7 months as a paramedic. He had been a paramedic for approximately 3 years. He completed a 3-month Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) school and a 1 year and 4-month paramedic school through University Hospital Paramedic Program. When working as a paramedic he wore black scrub pants and either a black scrub shirt or a T-shirt with a Southwest General logo. He also wore a name tag which identified him as a medic.

While working on October 18, 2022, he was in the "Vortex" area of the emergency department approximately 25 feet from Exam Room 3 when her heard RN Jeff (unknown last name) yell "I

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need help in here.” He could hear a struggle in RN Jeff’s voice and believed there was some type of emergency taking place. As he made his way to Exam Room 3, he could see the door was closed but the curtain was open. He saw Jeff standing with the patient. Jeff’s back was to the door and he was holding the patient from behind, in a hug around the chest. The patient was also standing. He was unsure if the patient was trying to hurt Jeff or if he was trying to get away and walk out of the hospital. Jeff and the patient then went to the ground. Jeff did not slam the patient to the ground but he believed Jeff forced the patient to the ground during the struggle. As Mason entered the room, Jeff straddled the patient’s upper chest and collar area. Mason and Jeff then began trying to lift the patient into the bed. Medic Juan Crespo (Crespo) then entered the room and helped them. Jeff lifted the upper body while Mason lifted the hips and Crespo lifted the legs. The patient continued yelling and kicking while they were lifting him.

Mason did not hear anything the patient was saying. He did not hear any staff giving specific directions but they were telling the patient to “stop.” After they lifted the patient to the bed, the police arrived. The police helped them hold the patient down while they put the patient in hard restraints. He estimated it took less than five minutes to secure the patient in restraints. While they were securing the patient, one officer (unknown name) straddled the patient. That officer also struck the patient’s thigh between 1 and 3 times and told the patient to stop kicking and stop moving.

Mason described the patient as a male approximately 6’ 3”, 340 pounds, and pretty strong. During the struggle the patient was using all effort to stop them from restraining him. The patient was kicking his legs, flailing his arms, spitting, and urinated on the officer that was straddling him. Mason said he feared for his safety and the safety of other staff in the room. He was specifically afraid of being kicked, struck, or spit on.

At one-point he saw RN Christine Novick with a syringe. He believed she administered medication to the patient but he did not physically see it happen. He did not know who provided the medication or what drug was given.

After the patient was secured, Jeff commented that the patient was not breathing. Mason looked at the patient, saw he was blue, checked for a pulse and then began chest compressions. Mason then remained present and assisted in administering Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS). Jeff was present for approximately 3 minutes of the ACLS protocol but then he left the room. Mason did not know where Jeff went or why he left the room. Mason found Jeff’s behavior unusual.

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Mason had no prior encounters with the patient. After the incident, he completed a written statement for the Southwest General Police Department. Crespo consented to BCI agents obtaining and reviewing a copy of the statement.

Attachments:

2023-04-17 Interview – Brandon Mason

Reference Items:

Item G – Thumb drive containing video recorded witness interviews