



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



2023-0052

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1785 Rt. 28, Lot 419, Goshen Township, OH 45122 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Matthew Richwine (W)
Date of Activity: 01/17/2023
Activity Location: Goshen Twp. (Goshen) Police Department – Business – 6757 Goshen Road, Goshen, OH 45122
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On January 6, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) was called by the Goshen Township Police Department in Clermont County, Ohio, to assist with an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred at 1785 State Route 28, Lot 419 AA, Goshen Township, Ohio, between the Goshen Township Police Department and subject, Thomas Dewald Jr. (Dewald).

On January 17, 2023, Special Agents Lauren Frazier and Douglas Eveslage interviewed Officer Matt Richwine at the Goshen Township Police Department, located at 6757 Goshen Road, Goshen, Ohio. Also present for the interview was Attorney Steve Lazarus. The interview began at 0952 hours. This report only includes the pertinent portions of the interview. Please refer to the audio recording for additional information.

Officer Richwine stated that he has been a police officer for approximately seven years, serving four years at Woodlawn Police Department and the past three years at Goshen Township Police Department. He stated that he was in a clearly marked police uniform working dayshift on the date of the incident and was wearing a body worn camera (BWC).

On January 6, 2023, Officer Richwine stated that night shift officers advised him that Dewald had been involved in an incident and they were completing domestic violence and aggravated menacing charges on Dewald. Officer Richwine explained that the clerk's office is not open 24/7, so he responded at approximately 0700-0730 hours that morning to file the charges on Dewald.

Officer Richwine had returned to the police department, when officers were dispatched for a domestic incident. He stated that he responded from the police department to Lakeshore and was the third officer to arrive on scene, behind Det. [REDACTED] and Det. Christopher

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

McMillan. He said that the subject was in the bedroom. He saw Det. McMillan in the hallway and Det. ██████████ in the bedroom doorway giving verbal commands to "drop it" several times. Officer Richwine stated that Det. McMillan told him that the subject had a knife. Officer Richwine got his duty firearm out to provide lethal cover. At this time, he stated that he heard a taser pop and spark as they made entry into the room. Officer Richwine did not observe the initial encounter, but believes that both taser probes struck the subject's chest.

Officer Richwine recalls seeing the subject fall to the ground and was told that he had cut his own throat. He described that the subject was struggling to breathe, possibly agonal breathing. Det. ██████████ provided direct pressure to Dewald's neck with a t-shirt, while other officers attempted additional medical intervention. Officer Richwine stated that he continued to provide officer safety and searched the subject for additional weapons.

Officer Richwine described the knives used by the subject were a white ceramic blade kitchen knife and a box cutter, which landed near the subject's feet. He stated that Sgt. West kicked the knives away from the subject and Officer Richwine tossed the knives further away, before they were eventually moved on to a nearby dresser.

The interview concluded at 1000 hours. A copy of the audio recording is attached (attachment #01).

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-01-17 Officer Matt Richwine Audio Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.