



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio (L)

Date of Activity: 12/20/2022
Author: SA Joshua S. Rammel, #175

Narrative:

On December 20, 2022, Special Agent (SA) Josh Rammel (Rammel) and SA Chris Hamberg (Hamberg) conducted an interview with Officer Matthew Baldrige (Baldrige) of the Marion Police Department. The interview was in regard to the officer-involved shooting (OIS) that occurred on the morning of December 20, 2022, along the railroad tracks near North Section Street in LaRue, Ohio. The interview was conducted at the Marion Police Department, located at 233 West Center Street, Marion, Ohio. The interview was recorded using a digital audio recorder. A copy of the interview was attached to this investigation.

The interview began at 1449 hrs. on December 20, 2022. SA Rammel, SA Hamberg and Baldrige all identified themselves as the interview started. Baldrige further provided his date of birth as March 12, 1982, and stated that he currently works for the Marion Police Department. Baldrige also informed SA Rammel and SA Hamberg that he is assigned to a joint drug task force, which includes officers from Marion Police Department and the Marion County Sheriff's Office. Baldrige stated that he has been employed with the Marion Police Department since 2007, and prior to that, several years with the cities of Carey and Kenton Police Departments.

SA Rammel explained the reason for the interview and provided Baldrige with free reign to describe what happened leading up to and during the OIS. Baldrige agreed to continue speaking with SA Rammel and SA Hamberg.

Baldrige advised that after a briefing, he set up in the area around the alleged suspect's residence in LaRue. Once the Special Response Team (SRT) arrived on Swain Avenue, Baldrige pulled up behind them in his unmarked vehicle.

Baldrige indicated that during the course of the search warrant conducted by the SRT, Baldrige remained in his vehicle on Swain Avenue. During this time, Baldrige heard over the radio that the alleged suspect had exited his residence and was walking down the railroad tracks.

Baldrige observed Deputy [REDACTED] come back to pick up his K9 from the location where Baldrige was at. Shortly after this is when Baldrige heard multiple gunshots in the distance. Baldrige stated that he heard over the radio that the alleged suspect had been shot, so he went down to North Section Street and assisted the medics with getting the gurney up along

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the railroad tracks.

Baldrige said that he heard the gunshots but did not see any of them. Baldrige also said that he was able to hear some of the commands from officers and the alleged suspect yelling back at police.

Baldrige indicated that he was wearing a body camera during this time, but it was not activated due to Baldrige remaining in his vehicle until Baldrige went to assist the medics.

Baldrige advised that he carries his personal Walther 9mm handgun that was not department issued but approved.

Baldrige stated that he did not have any additional information to pass on to SA Rammel and SA Hamberg regarding the OIS but mentioned that the search warrant was based off of Baldrige's investigation and it contained information stemming from 2020.

At that time, the interview was concluded at 1455 hrs.

This report only summarizes 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. 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 recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Interview with Matt Baldrige 2022-12-20