



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: Sean Richards (W)
Activity Date: 12/26/2022
Activity Location: 6880 Boneta Road, Medina, Ohio 44256
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente

Narrative:

On Monday, December 26, 2022, at 1908 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente and SA Todd Clark interviewed Sean Richards (Richards). Richards was identified as a possible witness to the officer-involved shooting in Barberton, Ohio, on December 26, 2022. The interview with Richards was audio recorded and attached to this report.

During the interview, Richards reported the following:

On December 26, 2022, Richards and his girlfriend, Tessa Jordan (Jordan), went to The Coffee Pot to get breakfast. As Richards, who was driving, pulled up to the restaurant, Jordan noticed the subject and said something to him about the subject making noises. Richards and his girlfriend exited the car, walked across the street and began to enter The Coffee Pot.

Richards stood in the doorway of The Coffee Pot and continued to watch the subject due to the subject's erratic behavior. Richards described the subject as "like really staring into my car." The subject then engaged Richards in conversation by complementing his car. The subject then asked Richards if he could buy him some food. Richards told the subject he didn't have any money and entered The Coffee Pot.

Richards then observed the subject looking strangely at another customer who was parking in front of the restaurant. Richards stated, "all the sudden the guy started runnin, and then I was just thinkin' in my head, like, this guy's probably just a little crazy."

Richards then fully entered The Coffee Pot and heard people talking about how police were now also present outside in the gravel lot across the street. Richards watched as police "pointed their guns at him" for what he believed was approximately 30 seconds. Richards watched the subject then walk towards the officer who was on the north side of the parking lot. Richards believed this officer shot the subject but stated he was not sure. Richards could not tell if the subject was armed or not at the time.

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Richards was not clear on the details after this point.

When asked, Richards stated he did not hear any gunshots, nor did he hear the police or subject say anything during the incident.

While going through his recollection of events a second time, Richards added that he observed a police officer kicked something away from the subject's hand after the subject was on the ground and had been shot.

When asked how far the subject was from the police when he was shot, Richards estimated the distance to be 10 to 15 feet. Richards added that, at the time the subject was shot, he was actively advancing towards the police.

Attachments:

1. 2022-12-26: Tessa Jordan and Sean Richards Interviews