



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: Jady Klepper (W)
Activity Date: 12/26/2022
Activity Location: Summit County Sheriff's Office, 393 East Turkeyfoot Lake Road,
Akron, Ohio 44319
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente

Narrative:

On Monday, December 26, 2022, at 1403 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente and SA Charlie Snyder interviewed Jady Klepper (Klepper). Klepper who was identified as a possible witness to the officer-involved shooting in Barberton, Ohio, on December 26, 2022. The interview with Klepper was audio recorded and attached to this report.

During the interview, Klepper reported the following:

Klepper works as a lifeguard at the Barberton YMCA. On December 26, 2022, after ending her shift, Klepper was exiting the YMCA through the main doors of the facility. As Klepper walked through the foyer, she noticed a young woman speaking to a Barberton police officer "and didn't think anything of it." As she exited, Klepper held the door "for an older gentleman that had the word 'Veteran' on his hat, and his wife."

Klepper then began to leave the YMCA in her car. Klepper, now stopped at the exit of the parking lot with a single other car in front of her, "saw people in the empty lot" directly across the street from where she was waiting to enter the roadway.

Klepper looked closer at the people in the parking lot and noticed two of the people were Barberton police officers. Klepper reported, "I saw two police officers pull their guns on this guy, and he was like doing some weird funky walk at them and then he pulled a knife, and then that's when I heard the gunshots." As she sat at the red light waiting to exit, she noted, "once the guy was on the ground they were both on him. One was yelling at him, and I think the other was cuffing him. I wasn't sure. I was just worried about getting out of there."

When asked to further clarify what she observed, Klepper stated, upon realizing the altercation in the vacant lot was not three random people fighting but involved police, she began to watch closer. Klepper added, prior to the shot being fired, "one of the police officers hid behind like a white car. I don't know if it was a truck or SUV, and then the other cop was like backing up towards his vehicle, and then that's when I heard another siren coming down the road." Klepper

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continued, "I saw him have something like he was going in his pocket to grab something, and one of them shot him in the leg I think." Klepper looked away, not wanting to watch what was happening. Klepper then called her father sharing with him what she had just witnessed.

When asked, Klepper stated that the subject approached and closed the distance gap between himself and the officers prior to being shot. Klepper believed the subject was shot within 10 feet of the officers when he was shot.

Attachments:

1. 2022-12-26: Jady Klepper Interview