



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



2023-0556
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 23897 US Rt 23, Circleville
43113 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Jerry Croston (O)
Date of Activity: 03/08/2023
Activity Location: Croston, Jerry – Home – 525 North Court Street, Circleville, OH,
Pickaway County
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On March 8, 2023 at approximately 1512 hours, BCI Special Agents James Poole (SA Poole) and Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Jerry Croston (Jerry) at his residence in Circleville, OH. The purpose of the interview was to obtain information which may be relevant to the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred during an encounter between Pamela Croston (Pamela) and officers from the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), Circleville Police Department (Circleville PD), and the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP). On February 25, 2023 Circleville PD requested the assistance of BCI to investigate an OICI which occurred near 23897 US Route 23 in Circleville, OH. Circleville PD and PCSO were dispatched to locate a suicidal female with a gun. When deputies and officers arrived they located the female, who brandished a firearm. Two (2) deputies discharged their firearms, striking the female, who was transported to Grant and later died from her injuries. The female's confirmed identity was Pamela Croston.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Jerry reported he and Pamela had been married for approximately ten (10) years. Jerry explained he last saw Pamela on the morning of Friday February 24, 2023. Pamela talked about having trouble at work and did not like her job. Pamela had been working as a nurse in Canal Winchester for two to three months. Jerry left and went to get lunch and go to the grocery store and Pamela stayed home. When Jerry got home in the afternoon, Pamela was not at the residence. Pamela came home later and said she had been shopping. Jerry estimated around 1700 or 1800 hours that day, Pamela told him she was going out for drinks with her friends.

Later that night, Pamela sent photos of herself to Jerry via text. Jerry asked Pamela to come home, and Pamela indicated she was going to stay out. Later that night around approximately

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2100 hours, Pamela sent Jerry a text asking if he was "missing something". Jerry discovered his "revolver" was missing from his safe. Pamela told Jerry she had the gun in her possession. Shortly after, Pamela texted Jerry indicating she was with an unidentified Hispanic male at a hotel. Jerry said he attempted to call Pamela on February 25, 2023 at 0300 hours and 0500 hours and she didn't answer. Jerry said he then went to go look for Pamela around 0700 hours that morning. "And then I stumbled upon to what was a bad situation," Jerry stated.

SA Poole asked Jerry if Pamela had made any comments of suicidal threats or harm to herself or someone else that night, to which Jerry claimed he did not remember and had to look on his phone. Jerry found a text from Pamela on February 24, 2023 at 2146 hours which stated, "Maybe I will shoot myself or have the police do it." Jerry reported Pamela last made suicidal threats approximately two to three years ago. Jerry also reported Pamela had tried to "hurt herself" several years ago as well. Pamela went to a mental health facility for about a week, and received medication and counseling. Jerry later reported Pamela was also diagnosed with bipolar depression. Jerry recalled the mental health facility was on Greenlawn Avenue in Columbus, OH, and Pamela was there about eight years ago.

Jerry denied he and Pamela had been fighting on the day leading up to the OICI between Pamela and police. Jerry did not believe Pamela was suicidal and stated, "That's not her." Jerry claimed he did not know what would cause Pamela to threaten to harm herself. Jerry explained Pamela had acted "stupid" in the past when she was intoxicated, "But nothing like this." Jerry denied being unfaithful to Pamela, and did not know if Pamela had been seeing anyone else romantically besides Jerry. "If she was I didn't know it," Jerry stated. Jerry admitted he had "cheated" on Pamela once before they were married, and Pamela burned some of Jerry's belongings in the fire pit. Jerry said this is the last time he was unfaithful to Pamela.

Jerry explained when Pamela had made suicidal threats in the past, he contacted to police to "ping" her phone to locate her. Jerry was unsure why he didn't contact police on the night in question. Jerry said Pamela did not tell him who specifically she was going out with for drinks that night. Jerry confirmed he had received pictures from Pamela's friend, Krissy Lovely (Lovely), on the night of the incident, but didn't see them until he woke up the following morning. In the screenshots, Pamela is holding a gun to her own head. Jerry explained he had deleted the pictures from his phone after he provided them to a Circleville PD detective because he "didn't want to see them" or Pamela's daughters to see them. Jerry explained the pictures from Lovely were screenshots of a video call between Lovely and Pamela. Lovely told Jerry she had contacted the police after her video call with Pamela.

Jerry reported Pamela's past suicide attempts were always with medication overdose, and never with a gun or a weapon, and the last time Pamela attempted suicide was several years ago. Jerry discovered someone identifying herself as "Jamie Lee" posted on Pamela's Facebook page after Pamela died and indicated she saw Pamela at the Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE) bar on the night of February 24, 2023 around 1930 hours. Jamie Lee posted on Pamela's Facebook page, "She did not seem stressed and just wanted company."

Jerry had no explanation why Pamela demonstrated suicidal behavior on the day and night before the OICI on February 25, 2023. Jerry denied Pamela had confronted him with allegations of Jerry being unfaithful. Jerry confirmed Pamela was still on mental health medication which she may have taken and mixed with alcohol on the night of the incident. Jerry explained Pamela

had "taken off" (on foot) in the past when mixing alcohol with her medications, but had never acted suicidal or in a manner in which Jerry would have been concerned about Pamela's safety. Jerry added Pamela's doctor had changed her medication approximately two months ago.

Jerry stated he had no other information to provide which he felt would be helpful to the investigation.

Interview concluded at approximately 1542 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Jerry Croston Interview Audio 2023-03-08