



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



2020-3388

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1062 Oberlin Drive, Columbus, Ohio

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer, Interview with Witness
Involves: Officer Grant Pritchard (W)
Date of Activity: 01/12/2021
Activity Location: 5th Precinct Sub-Station – 1371 Cleveland Ave, Columbus, Ohio, OH, Franklin County
Author: SA Jennifer Comisford, #163

Narrative:

On January 12, 2021, at approximately 2343 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Jenny Comisford (SA Comisford) and Jon Scale (SA Scale) interviewed Officer Grant Pritchard (Officer Pritchard) of the Columbus Police Department (CPD). The voluntary interview was conducted at CPD Substation 5, located at 1371 Cleveland Avenue, Columbus, OH.

The purpose of the interview was to discuss Officer Pritchard's response to an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) on the morning of December 22, 2020, at 1062 Oberlin Drive, Columbus, OH. The OICI involved CPD and a male later identified as Andre Hill (Hill).

Also present for the entirety of Officer Pritchard's interview was Fraternal Order of Police Attorney Jaclyn Tipton (Tipton). It should be noted that prior to the interview, Tipton informed Agents that any BCI questions regarding body worn cameras or the rendering of aid would not be answered. Prior to commencing the interview, Officer Pritchard reviewed his OICI body worn camera video on SA Comisford's laptop in the presence of his attorney.

The conversation was audio recorded and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the attached audio for complete details. The following is a summation of Officer Pritchard's interview.

Officer Pritchard was asked what prompted his response to 1062 Oberlin Drive on December 22, 2020. Officer Pritchard explained he was parked at CPD Substation 4, located at 294 East 11th Avenue, when he heard an officer air "shots fired" over the radio. Officer Pritchard later learned that airing officer was CPD Officer Amy Detweiler (Officer Detweiler).

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Officer Pritchard stated he was assigned as Unit 41 at the time of the OICI, and was driving CPD marked cruiser 41. Officer Pritchard was a one officer car that shift. He estimated his response time to scene as eight minutes and advised he parked his cruiser on Oberlin Drive (south of the incident location).

Officer Pritchard was asked what he did upon arrival on scene. Officer Pritchard explained he initially followed officers who were seen running into the garage of the residence. It was then he observed Hill lying on the ground in the driveway, halfway in the garage. Officer Pritchard did not observe any injuries to Hill at that time, but confirmed Hill was not speaking. Officer Pritchard confirmed he did not observe any officers attempting to verbally communicate with Hill while on scene.

Officer Pritchard and other officers cleared the garage and residence at 1062 Oberlin Drive. Officer Pritchard recalled the light(s) in the garage being off at the time it was cleared. An unidentified officer made contact with a male inside the residence believed to be the homeowner. Officer Pritchard advised that a female identified as Dystanie LNU (Dystanie) was also in the home at that time. Officer Pritchard was asked if either the homeowner or Dystanie made any statements while officers were clearing the residence. Officer Pritchard recalled the homeowner questioning if officers shot. Officer Pritchard did not hear any officers respond.

After clearing the residence and exiting the home, an officer instructed Officer Pritchard to move his cruiser closer to the scene for purposes of securing a witness. Officer Pritchard walked to his cruiser and Dystanie was brought to him. He and Dystanie reportedly engaged in small talk, and Dystanie commented that Hill was bringing her Christmas money or Christmas presents (something to that effect). Dystanie referred to or identified Hill as an ex-boyfriend or current boyfriend during conversation with Officer Pritchard.

When Officer Pritchard arrived on scene, he observed CPD Officer Adam Coy (Officer Coy) walking away from the garage area. Officer Pritchard advised he did not see Officer Detweiler while on scene. He confirmed he did not speak with either officer. Officer Pritchard was asked if he heard Officers Coy or Detweiler speaking with other officers on scene. Officer Pritchard only recalled officers questioning what happened and asking questions about the scene in general, in order to ascertain what needed to be done.

Officer Pritchard did not observe any weapons at the scene, nor did he recall seeing any property near Hill's body. Officer Pritchard was not aware of any evidence or property collected from the scene. He did not interview anyone regarding the OICI.

Officer Pritchard identified Officer Coy as a midwatch officer. Officer Pritchard confirmed he has responded to calls for service with Officer Coy and Officer Detweiler on previous occasions. He advised he reports to a different substation than Officers Coy and Detweiler. Officer Pritchard was not aware of either officer having been involved in an OICI prior to the incident in question.

Officer Pritchard could not recall ever being dispatched to 1062 Oberlin Drive, nor having any prior contact with Hill, Dystanie, or the homeowner. Officer Pritchard was in his cruiser when EMS personnel were on scene.

The interview concluded at approximately 1205 hours on January 13, 2021.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01:2021-01-12 Officer Grant Pritchard Interview