



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



2022-1564
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Ervin Michael Hawk (W)
Date of Activity: 07/24/2022
Activity Location: Hawk, Ervin Michael – Home – 1138 Ashwood Drive, South
Charleston, OH 45368, Clark County
Author: SA Ryan D. Scheiderer, #89

Narrative:

On July 24, 2022 at approximately 1808 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Ryan Scheiderer obtained a recorded statement from Ervin Hawk (Hawk) regarding the July 24, 2022, Officer-Involved Critical Incident between numerous law enforcement agencies in Clark County, Ohio, and the resident of 1132 Ashwood Drive, Cole White (White). As a result of the incident, Clark County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) Deputy Matthew Yates (Deputy Yates) was fatally shot by White. White and his mother, Jodie Arbuckle (Arbuckle) were later found deceased inside White's residence after it had been consumed by fire. The following is a summation of the contact with Hawk and additional details can be found in the attached audio recording.

Hawk resides at 1138 Ashwood Drive. On this date, Hawk woke up at approximately 1030 hours and let his dogs outside to relieve themselves. As Hawk was getting his dogs back inside the residence, he heard someone "screaming". Hawk exited his residence and observed a female standing in the middle of the street down by 1132 Ashwood Drive. The female was using a cellular telephone when Hawk first saw her. Hawk noticed other residents outside, but no one was assisting the female. Hawk thought there was a medical emergency, so he approached the female and inquired what was wrong. The female told him someone was "hurt" inside White's residence and she needed help. Hawk approached the front door to White's residence and as he attempted to open it, a neighbor yelled to him "He's got a gun". Hawk retreated and observed three (3) sheriff's office cruisers arrive on scene.

Hawk went across the street (area of 1133 Ashwood Drive) and observed two (2) deputies approach White's door. The lead deputy, later identified as Deputy Yates, had difficulty breaching the door and eventually turned around and kicked the door to breach it (mule-kick). Deputy Yates entered White's residence with another deputy following. Hawk heard the deputies yelling "Sheriff's Office" followed by something unintelligible. Hawk then heard

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“Boom... boom... boom” (gunfire) and observed Deputy Yates fall to the ground inside the residence and the second deputy ran out of the residence. After that, additional law enforcement officers arrived in the area. Hawk observed “SWAT” try a second attempt to enter the residence and at that time Hawk heard additional gunfire. Hawk believed it took approximately two (2) hours for SWAT to retrieve Deputy Yates from the residence.

Hawk clarified that when Deputy Yates was shot, there were three (3) very loud and distinct gunshots which he believed came from White followed by gunfire from the deputies. Hawk observed smoke exiting the northwest corner of the roof which he believed came from White’s gunfire. Hawk described White’s gunfire as “high-powered” and possibly a .45 pistol, rifle, or shotgun. Hawk believed White was positioned in the northwest corner of the trailer when he shot at the deputies. After SWAT retrieved Deputy Yates there was additional gunfire, but Hawk was located down the street at that time so he was not sure who was responsible for the gunfire. Hawk stated the fire at White’s residence started after the “barrage” of “smoke-grenades”, “concussion-grenades, and “tear-gas” deployed by the SWAT team.

Hawk later learned that the female outside asking for help was White’s mother’s wife. The silver car parked in front of White’s residence belonged to White’s mother. Hawk clarified that when he first approached the female, she did tell him her wife was inside White’s residence and needed help. The female kept yelling “Get Jodie out” during the incident. The female later told Hawk that “Jodie” was her wife and White’s mother. The female told Hawk that “Jodie” entered a window to gain entry into White’s residence and was shot six (6) times by White. The female told Hawk she heard “Oh my god” from inside White’s residence. Hawk did not hear any gunfire until he observed Deputy Yates being shot.

Hawk would occasionally see White outside walking in the late afternoon or evenings. Hawk described White as “seclusive”. Hawk was not aware of any issues involving White, but did note that White usually is shirtless when he’s outside. Hawk learned from neighbors that today White’s mother was checking on him and trying to bring him food. According to a neighbor, White had been observed outside eating leaves off of trees in the past.

Hawk admitted he recorded video of some of the incident with his cellular telephone. SA Scheiderer notified Special Agent Supervisor Justin Root of the video and he retrieved the video(s) from Hawk. Hawk didn’t have any additional information.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-24 / Ervin Hawk Audio Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.