



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



2024-3294

Investigation - Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage
Bike Trail Near North Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio:

Investigative Activity: Interview with Anthony Tomecko-Ravenna Fire/EMS
Involves: Anthony Tomecko (W)
Activity Date: 10/22/2024
Activity Location: Portage Bike Trail Near-North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 1329 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) interviewed Ravenna Firefighter Anthony Tomecko (Firefighter Tomecko) at the scene of this incident. It was reported that Firefighter Tomecko may have witnessed some portion of the shooting.

Firefighter Tomecko explained that Ravenna Fire/Ems was dispatched, at approximately 1104 hours, to the area of the "bike trail" for a possible stabbing. Firefighter Tomecko stated that they responded from University Hospital-Portage. When they arrived on scene, Firefighter Tomecko stated that a Ravenna Police officer was standing near a guardrail. The officer was asked if it was safe for them to approach the stabbing victim. Firefighter Tomecko stated the officer responded, "Stand back for a second" because they could not locate the "suspect." However, Firefighter Tomecko stated, "But there was someone walking towards them down the hike and bike trail a little further."

At that point, Firefighter Tomecko stated they were told they were clear to "try and get the victim." Firefighter Tomecko then began walking down the trail. When he arrived at the stabbing victim, Firefighter Tomecko advised there was also a "witness" with the stabbing victim.

Firefighter Tomecko stated, "At that point, P.D. (Police Department) made contact with the suspect, further down. They were giving him multiple commands, I guess he had some sort of weapon in his hand coming towards them, lawful commands for him to drop the weapon. When I got to the victim, I told him if he was able to walk, to get up, with the witness and start moving away, towards the street. As soon as I helped the victim off the floor, that's when the shots were fired. My partner was able to get the victim and the witness away from that general area and after the shots stopped, they secured the weapon, I made my way down to the second victim (the individual who was

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shot) and once I got there, I checked for a pulse, once they secured the weapon. No pulse, started, called for them to bring our trauma bag down there, started assessing the patient. He had no pulse." Firefighter Tomecko, when other Firefighter/Ems personnel arrived, began treatment.

Firefighter Tomecko explained that the witness who was initially next to the stabbing victim had his phone out and Firefighter Tomecko believed the witness was recording the incident.

SA Momchilov asked Firefighter Tomecko how far away the "suspect" was away from the stabbing victim. Firefighter Tomecko estimated approximately 50 feet. SA Momchilov asked if the individual who was shot was walking towards officers. Firefighter Tomecko replied, "Yes, he was walking toward them." However, Firefighter Tomecko explained that there was a "wall" of officers (approximately 4 to 5) and it was difficult for him to see past the officers.

SA Momchilov stated, "You said he had an object in his hand, you said was a weapon." Firefighter Tomecko interrupted and stated, "They said, 'drop the axe' or 'drop the knife,' it was something big." Firefighter Tomecko stated he did not actually see the individual with the object in his hand, but he did see it lying on the ground after the shooting. Firefighter Tomecko further explained that his view was obstructed by the officers and that his main concern was getting the stabbing victim and the witness out of the area.

SA Momchilov stated, "So you pretty much grabbed the victim and you guys got out of there."

Firefighter Tomecko replied, "I started, I had my back turned and they were starting to walk and they started running and at that point when they, when the victim and the witness started running, my partner was already, had the stretcher out by right where the trail starts and was instructing them to come to the stretcher."

Firefighter Tomecko continued, "Once I saw the victim get onto the stretcher that's when I heard the shots and I kind of just stayed there for a second, cause at that point I knew they were shooting at him and once he dropped and the gunshots stopped and they secured the weapon, that's when I ran down there to start aid on him."

SA Momchilov asked Firefighter Tomecko if he could tell how far away the officers were from the individual when they fired. Firefighter Tomecko stated that he could not tell but then stated, "maybe 10 feet." Firefighter Tomecko also stated that the individual was walking toward officers when they fired.

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SA Momchilov asked Firefighter Tomecko if the stabbing victim made any statements to him. Firefighter Tomecko stated he did not. Firefighter Tomecko also stated that he did not know the name of the witness who was initially with the stabbing victim.

Agents were later able to identify the witness as Jack Chandler (See Investigative Report titled, "Witness Interview-Jack Chandler" for further detail).

The interview with Firefighter Tomecko was recorded via audio. That audio recording is attached to this Investigative Report.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. Audio Interview of Firefighter Anthony Tomecko

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