



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



2022-1354

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 135 Old National Rd, Lore City
(L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Deputy Ben Coblentz (W)
Date of Activity: 06/25/2022
Activity Location: – 135 Old National Rd, Lore City, OH 43755, Guernsey County
Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On July 25, 2022, at 0318 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) interviewed Guernsey County Deputy Ben Coblentz (Deputy Coblentz). The interview took place at the scene located at 135 Old National Rd., Lore City, Ohio. Deputy Coblentz was identified as being a police officer who responded to a vehicle barricade situation which involved the now deceased, Joy Graham (Graham). The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

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.

Prior to the interview SA Poole advised Deputy Coblentz that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation and that this interview was voluntary. Deputy Coblentz verbally confirmed he understood and acknowledged he would like to continue with the interview.

Deputy Coblentz stated he was signing on to start his shift when he heard there was a pursuit in the county. Deputy Coblentz stated he marked in service and requested to assist in the situation.

Deputy Coblentz explained when he arrived he positioned himself behind the driver side door of a Barnesville police cruiser. The cruiser was positioned to the rear of Graham's vehicle. Deputy Coblentz said he had his department issued rifle out and could see Graham through her side mirror.

Deputy Coblentz explained when the SRT approached the vehicle his focus was on Graham's door in case she was to jump out and start shooting. Deputy Coblentz explained when the flash grenade went off he was too focused on Graham's door and did not see who fired first or who

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shot. He just knew that there was some firing from the left side of the vehicle from the SRT. Deputy Coblenz stated he could not identify who exactly shot.

SA Poole asked if Deputy Coblenz ever discharged his weapon. Deputy Coblenz said, "No."

SA Poole asked if Deputy Coblenz saw who shot. Deputy Coblenz explained he was too focused on Graham's door and did not see who fired first or who shot. He stated he could not identify who exactly shot.

SA Poole asked if Deputy Coblenz remembered how many shots were fired. Deputy Coblenz said, "No."

SA Poole asked if Deputy Coblenz's actions and the actions of the officers around him were in line with policy and procedures. Deputy Coblenz said, "Yes, and yes."

The interview concluded at 0336 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Deputy Ben Coblenz 6-25-22

Attachment # 02: Deputy Ben Coblenz Statement Drawing Signed



Sheriff



Removed from vehicle

Fine
Resting
Victim



Shooting

5m

Collected

Barnesville PO

Barnesville PO

Subject

Went back

Mo'ic Schubert

585

6/23/2022 03:37AM

Deputy Ben Cobente