



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



2025-0596
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 236 McKinley Ave, Piqua, OH
(Miami County) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Jackson Heath (W)
Date of Activity: 02/21/2025
Activity Location: Piqua Police Department – Business – 100 N. Wayne Street, Piqua, OH 45356
Author: SA David Hornyak, #112

Narrative:

On February 21, 2025, at approximately 2159 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Dave Hornyak interviewed Piqua Police Officer Jackson Heath, badge number 209, relative to the officer-involved critical incident that occurred earlier that evening at 236 McKinley Avenue, Piqua, Ohio. Also present was Off. Heath's FOP Attorney Brian Brennaman.

The interview took place at the Piqua Police Department (PPD). The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual. Off. Heath stated that he was voluntarily attending the interview and then provided the following information:

Officer Heath has been with the PPD for approximately two years. On [REDACTED], he was working his [REDACTED] when he and Officer Mote were dispatched to 236 McKinley on a domestic disturbance. The call involved a female resident reporting that her son, David West, had assaulted her. Officers Heath, Mote, Kimpel, and Lt. Rodriguez at the residence at approximately the same time and were let into the residence by West's parents.

West's mother described being pushed over by West and hitting her head. West's parents said that West was in the basement and that he had some type of "kinetic pistol" with him. Officers proceeded to the doorway of the basement. As the officers prepared to go downstairs to talk with West, Lt. Rodriguez was near the left side of the doorway. Off. Heath opened the basement door, and Lt. Rodriguez first called down the stairs to West who replied to officers that he had a pistol. In response to the comment about West having a pistol, the officers remained at the top of the stairs and Off. Heath drew his firearm. Seeing that other officers had their pistols out, Off. Heath then reholstered his firearm and pulled out his Taser. Lt.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Rodriguez remained at the left side of the doorway with the best view of the basement which opened up to the right. Off. Heath was stationed at the right side of the doorway and was unable to see much beyond the stairs and a small part of an air mattress on the floor.

Lt. Rodriguez called out to West, multiple times to come upstairs with his hands up. West responded with statements that Off. Heath could not recall. At some point, Lt. Rodriguez fired multiple shots down the basement and then called out for West who did not respond. Off. Heath heard what he believed to be agonal breathing from downstairs. The officers then proceeded downstairs and found West lying in the southeast corner of the basement. Lt. Rodriguez "kicked away" the pistol that had been in West's hands. West was still breathing, but gasping. Off. Zach Smith also arrived and brought in first aid supplies as other officers initiated life saving measures. After West ceased making any sounds, CPR was initiated until primary care was turned over to the arriving medics.

Off. Heath did not fire during the incident and is positive that only Lt. Rodriguez is the only officer who fired his weapon. After the shooting Lt. Rodriguez told officers that he fired after West had pointed his gun at him. Off. Heath stated that he had no option to deploy his Taser as he was never able to see West from his position at the top of the stairs.

Officer Heath stated that, prior to this incident, he was aware that West had known mental health issues, had previously fought officers, and had made suicidal comments. Approximately one year ago, Off. Heath and other officers responded to an address on Broadway in Piqua regarding West being suicidal. Off. Heath believes that was his only previous interaction with West.

Officer Heath stated that, having been present and involved in the encounter with David West, he has no reason to believe that Lt. Rodriguez should not have fired his weapon. The interview terminated at approximately 2215 hours.

The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device. This report is a summary only. The entire interview can be reviewed on the recording.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-02-21 / Off. Jackson Heath interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.