



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



2022-1356

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio
44301

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer Nick Cockrell

Activity Date: September 28, 2022

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 2320 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Chuck Moran interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Officer Nick Cockrell (Cockrell), who was accompanied by his attorney, Jason Wells, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at 1460 Triplett Boulevard, Akron, Ohio. Fraternal Order of Police Akron Lodge #7 President Clay Cozart was also present during the interview.

The interview was audio recorded.

Officer Cockrell was identified as being a police officer who had some level of involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 1659 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Cockrell did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident and arrived on scene after the shooting. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

On June 27, 2022, Officer Cockrell was the driver of marked APD cruiser, Car 3, and his partner, Officer Reddish, was the passenger. Officer Cockrell was wearing his standard APD uniform.

Prior to the interview, SA Momchilov was advised that Officer Cockrell had typed a supplemental report that documented his involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting. Officer Cockrell wished to read the narrative out loud and then he would answer any follow-up questions, if needed.

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Officer Cockrell's typed narrative reads:

NARRATIVE

I, Officer N Cockrell 1435, was working Car 3 with my partner, Ofc Reddish 1495. We tried to stay in the area of the chase to help block intersections. We were several streets south of the chase when the suspect bailed from the vehicle. We arrived at the scene shortly after the shots had been fired. I approached the suspect lying on the ground in the parking lot. He already had approximately eight officers around him, trying to treat his wounds. I assisted in opening medical gauze packages. Once AFD arrived on scene and determined the suspect had passed, I proceeded to help tape off the scene. Someone had reported there were some fireworks going off in the area at the time of the shooting so I checked houses in the area. I was unable to locate anyone that had been firing them off. I also got the names and ID numbers of the medical personnel/firefighters who were on scene. I handed that list over to Sgt Pasternak. From then on I just helped to secure the scene.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Cockrell what specifically caused him to respond to the scene. Officer Cockrell explained that he and his partner, Officer Reddish, were outside of their cruiser when, "We heard the chase go out." Officer Cockrell advised that when they were approaching their cruiser, they "Heard that the shot had been fired from the vehicle." Officer Cockrell and Officer Reddish entered their cruiser and proceeded to the area. SA Momchilov asked Officer Cockrell if he recalled any signals being broadcasted. Officer Cockrell advised that he could not remember if a Signal 5 or a Signal 21 was called out.

SA Momchilov stated to Officer Cockrell that he mentioned that the "Suspect bailed from the vehicle." SA Momchilov asked Officer Cockrell how he knew that information. Officer Cockrell advised that it was broadcasted over the radio.

Officer Cockrell stated he did not see or hear any portion of the shooting. SA Momchilov asked Officer Cockrell if he had conversation with any of the involved officers. Officer Cockrell replied, "No." Officer Cockrell advised the he did not get close to the vehicle that the individual was driving.

Officer Cockrell was wearing a body-worn camera and it was activated. Officer Cockrell stated he has not viewed his body-worn camera footage.

At the end of the interview, Officer Cockrell was afforded the opportunity to view his body-worn camera footage. Officer Cockrell declined.

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Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

The above images are from Officer Cockrell's body-worn camera footage. Based upon Officer Cockrell's body-worn camera footage, it appears that Officer Cockrell activates his body-worn camera while already on scene (Figure 1). Officer Cockrell is then observed approaching the scene (Figure 2). Officer Cockrell remains in the area while Akron Fire/EMS and Akron Police render aid (Figure 3).

Attachments:

The audio recording of the interview is attached to this Investigative Report.

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