



Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Prosecutor Summary

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Involves: Deputy ██████████ (S), Devon Lee Taylor (S)  
Date of Activity: 05/19/2022  
Author: SA Shane R. Hanshaw, #102

To: Nicole Coil, Washington County Prosecutor

CC: Kevin Barbeau, Special Agent Supervisor

From: Shane Hanshaw, Special Agent

Date: 10/04/2022

Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident

Case Number: 2021-1115

### Investigative Request

On Thursday, May 19, 2022, Captain B. Lockhart of the Washington County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident. The incident reportedly occurred on May 19, 2022, in the area of State Route 339 near the 3-mile marker, and resulted in the death of Devon Taylor.

### Preface

The following prosecutor summary serves as an overview into the criminal investigation of an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place on Thursday, May 19, 2022, on State Route 339 in Washington County, Ohio.

*This report only summarizes the investigative activity and information gathered by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Every fact, detail, and full summary of all interviews is not presented in this report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be reviewed in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation*

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This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of the involved parties' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

### Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent Shane Hanshaw (SA Hanshaw) was assigned as the lead SIU case agent. SA Hanshaw received assistance in the investigation from SA James Mulford (SA Mulford), SA Jonathan Scale (SA Scale), and SA James Poole (SA Poole). BCI Special Agents Matthew Austin (SA Austin) and Shawn Rowley (SA Rowley) of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident, documenting, preserving, and collecting possible evidence. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Kevin Barbeau. Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

### Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview of the one officer who discharged his weapon.
- Recorded interviews of nine officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information.
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene.
- Interviews of two civilian witnesses to the incident.
- Interviews of family members or associates of the decedent.
- Obtained and reviewed post mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports.
- Obtained and reviewed police report(s) of prior law enforcement contact(s) with the subject.
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident.
- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident.
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting).
- 3D scans / model of incident area.

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- Processing of involved vehicle(s) for potential evidence.
- Shooting reconstruction and trajectory analysis.
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident. Communication between Deputy ██████ and dispatch. Communication between other units and dispatch. Reviewed during body worn camera review.
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident.
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement.
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
  - Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
  - Firearm operability testing.
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officer involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any).
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers.
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons.
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review.
- Performed records checks, including LEADS and NCIC off-line search, for the vehicle(s) involved in the incident.
- Crash reports completed by the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP).
- Obtained and reviewed reports prepared by the Marietta Police Department regarding prior activities of Devon Taylor.

### Incident Summary/Overview

On Thursday, May 19, 2022, at approximately 0600 hours, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by Captain Bryan Lockhart (Capt. Lockhart) of the Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) to conduct an independent investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of State Route 339. BCI Special Agent Shane Hanshaw (SA Hanshaw) responded to assist, arriving at approximately 0940 hours. Also responding from the BCI Special Investigations Unit were Special Agents Mulford and Scale. Additionally, the BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to process the scene by documenting and collecting pertinent evidence.

The shooting incident involved a subject, Devon Taylor (Taylor), and members of the Washington County Sheriff's Office. The incident resulted in the death Taylor.

### Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent, Taylor, was obtained from the Montgomery

County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]

### Physical Evidence

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting in order to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. Multiple agents responded and processed the scene to include photographing and mapping the area, as well as the search for documentation and collection of items of possible evidence. Detailed crime scene reports were completed with the below information only summarizing some of the more significant findings.

Involved party, Taylor, was found slumped over the center console of the vehicle. Multiple suspected bullet wounds were observed. When removed from the vehicle, a plastic firearm was found between Taylor's legs. Taylor was also wearing a small headlamp.

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene, vehicles, and autopsies (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

All casings and projectiles examined by the Firearms Section indicated that the items tested were consistent with Deputy [REDACTED]'s issued duty weapon.

### Involved Officer interview

At the onset of the interview, Deputy [REDACTED] said he was working his normal shift when the incident occurred. Deputy [REDACTED] stated on the date of the incident, he noticed a vehicle that he targeted on his radar traveling 83 miles per hour in a 60 mile per hour zone. Deputy [REDACTED] said he conducted a turn on the vehicle on State Route 339. Deputy [REDACTED] said the vehicle exited into the parking lot of the Silver Moon Diner. Deputy [REDACTED] said the vehicle pulled in facing the diner and he pulled in facing the vehicle. Deputy [REDACTED] said the driver whipped around and was facing his police vehicle and then sped off. Deputy [REDACTED] said he initiated his lights and siren, and pursued the

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vehicle.

During the pursuit Deputy ██████ said he advised his dispatcher that the driver of the vehicle had caused a crash with another vehicle. Deputy ██████ said he advised his dispatcher to send an ambulance to the location of the vehicle.

After the crash, Deputy ██████ said the fleeing vehicle went off the right side of the road. Deputy ██████ said this location was the end of the pursuit. Deputy ██████ said at this point he exited his vehicle and approached the front of the fleeing vehicle because the side curtain airbags were down and he could not see into the vehicle from the side.

Deputy ██████ said as he walked around the front of the vehicle, the driver of the vehicle pointed a pistol at his face and a strobe. When asked what occurred after that, Attorney Cosenza advised Deputy ██████ that it was not a good idea to continue. At that point Deputy ██████ said he reacted to what he saw and stated the contents of the body worn camera would constitute the rest of his statement.

### Officer Interviews

The following officers were interviewed regarding their knowledge and involvement:

- Deputy A. Wallace
- Deputy D. Aultman
- Deputy Lt. P. Gherke
- Deputy Sgt. J. McConnel
- Belpre P.D. Officer Sgt. M. Stump.
- Athens P.D. Officer J. Emerick
- Deputy Captain B. Lockhart
- Deputy Lt. E. Hunter
- Deputy Sgt. B Johnson

### Witness Interviews

- Lisa Taylor
- Ashlee Jones

### Video Recordings

A review of the Body Worn Camera (BWC) of Deputy ██████ was conducted. The BWC gives an account of the incident from the beginning of the pursuit until other officers arrived and Deputy ██████ was relieved of his post at the scene.

A review of the video collected from Tri-state Concrete Pumping was reviewed and gives an account of the end of the pursuit. The video shows involved part Taylor's vehicle spinning in the roadway on State Route 339 and coming to a rest off the right

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side of the roadway. The video also shows Deputy [REDACTED] arriving and exiting his vehicle as well as additional motorist traveling on State Route 339.

### Summary

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this case have been interviewed, and all known records have been obtained and reviewed. BCI has striven to conduct a thorough, accurate, and impartial investigation into this Officer-Involved Critical Incident. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. It would appear that BCI's investigation into the Officer-Involved Critical Incident is complete unless such new information would be discovered through Grand Jury or other processes.

BCI will remain available for consultation and will look forward to your assessment of this investigation and to your decision as to any additional efforts, processes, or further assistance you might determine necessary.

### Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Shane Hanshaw. SA Hanshaw can be reached via email at [shane.hanshaw@ohioago.gov](mailto:shane.hanshaw@ohioago.gov) or by telephone, at (740) 837-0159