

Witness Statement Form

Incident Date: 17JAN24 Time: 1900 Incident # 2024-015839
 Address of Occurrence: 7702 Spafford Rd District: 4 Zone: 1
 Officer Name: Vincent A. Schneider, Lieutenant Badge# 8566 Bureau/District 4 Platoon C
 Citizen Name: N/A

Witness Statement

Sir:

On January 17, 2024, I was assigned to District 4 as car 4S32. Around 1838 hours, District 4 patrol personnel responded to 7702 Spafford Rd for a male subject, later identified as Robert Perkins, discharging a firearm from that location. I responded from 9333 Kinsman Ave to assist car 4S33, SGT. Wills #9321, and patrol personnel with their priority assignment assigned by CCS.

While operating vehicle 452, I parked 50 yds (est.) south of 7702 Spafford Rd. After exiting my vehicle, I made contact with SGT. Wills, and we began to establish outer and inner cordon/perimeter. As the cordon/perimeter was being established, I made contact with car 4A35, P.O. Bloxton #32 and P.O. Morrison #1017, who were standing on the northeast side of 7702 Spafford Rd. P.O. Bloxton appeared to have established verbal communications with Mr. Perkins as I approached his position. Mr. Perkins was located on the second floor of the building. As P.O. Bloxton was speaking with Mr. Perkins, an unidentified black male exited the front door 7629 Spafford Rd and began to yell in the direction of the second floor. P.O. Bloxton and I ordered the male to go back inside his residence. After he retreated into his residence, P.O. Bloxton began to issue Mr. Perkins verbal commands to not grab a rifle that was located in his direct vicinity. At that time, I ordered P.O. Bloxton and P.O. Morrison to pull back from their position and seek cover behind a Ford panel van. As the officers and I approached cover, I overheard two gunshots from the upper level 7702 Spafford Rd. At that point, I advised all personnel within the cordon/perimeter via portable radio to seek cover. After all personnel were accounted for, SGT. Wills conferred with CCS via mobile phone and requested CPD SWAT support.

Shortly after the gunfire, SWAT arrived on scene and began to deploy operators throughout the cordon/perimeter. I relocated to residence directly south of the target location and controlled the outer perimeter. Next, I observed the SWAT ARV parked on the northeast side of 7702 Spafford Rd. Some time later, the ARV breached the front door of 7702 Spafford Rd. After the ARV was positioned, operators inside the vehicle attempted to make contact with Mr. Perkins by utilizing a vehicle mounted loud speaker. As the SWAT operator inside the ARV was attempting to make contact with Mr. Perkins, I observed the CCSO ARV arrive on scene and position south of the CPD ARV on Spafford Rd. As SWAT was attempting to make contact with Mr. Perkins, I heard multiple gunshots. Next, an unidentified SWAT operator advised all personnel on scene via radio that Mr. Perkins shot the ARVs. From my position, I observed damaged glass on the passenger side of CCSO ARV and damage to the front windshield of the CPD ARV. After the rifle projectiles struck the ARVs, an unidentified SWAT operator advised via radio that the integrity of the ARV was compromised. From my position, I observed a suppressed M4/AR-15 long gun resting on the top turret of the CCSO ARV. After Mr. Perkins engaged the ARVs, I overheard suppressed gunfire coming from the CCSO ARV. Moments later, I was advised by one of the CPD SWAT operators that they were going to enter the location. After SWAT personnel entered the target location from the front entrance, CEMS was requested. After SWAT cleared the target location, I advised all personnel on scene to stand fast pending arrival of IAU and FIT. P.O. Morrison established a crime scene log and began to identify and document all personnel on scene.

Signature:  #8566 LT. Badge# (if applicable) 8566

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Phone Number: 216-623-5409 Email address vschneider@clevelandohio.gov

After SIU, FIT and IAU arrived on scene, my duty weapon and magazines were inspected. Next, I ordered personnel on scene to meet with FIT for weapon and magazine inspections. While located next to the CPD ARV, I observed damage to the hood and front bumper areas. Next to the passenger side of the ARV, I observed a spent 12 gauge shotgun shell.

*** Depleted WCS CAD# 2024-015935 ***

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