



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



2023-1835
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 114 North Ninth St, Byesville,
OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Sgt. Keith Rogers (W)
Date of Activity: 07/11/2023
Activity Location: Wise, Jeremiah – Home – 114 North Ninth St, Byesville, OH 43723,
Guernsey County
Author: SA Craig Call

Narrative:

On July 11, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Investigations and Crime Scene Units were requested by the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (shooting) involving members of the Byesville Police Department (BPD), GCSO, and Jeremiah Wise (Wise). It was reported to BCI the incident occurred at Wise's residence, 114 North 9th Street, Byesville, Ohio, and resulted in Wise being shot and transported to a nearby hospital where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

On the same date, BCI Special Agent Craig Call (SA Call) responded to the above-mentioned address to investigate the incident. GCSO Sgt. Keith Rogers (Sgt. Rogers) identified himself as a non-shooting officer witness officer involved in the incident. SA Call requested to interview Sgt. Rogers about his involvement in the incident and Sgt. Rogers agreed to be interviewed voluntarily. Sgt. Rogers was informed BCI's investigation is criminal and not part of an internal review by the GCSO. Sgt. Rogers agreed to be interviewed under these conditions.

The interview took place in a vehicle positioned near the intersection of Pearl Street and North 9th Street. The interview was audio recorded and began at approximately 2253 hours.

Sgt. Rogers is badge number 3009 and is currently assigned to the road patrol division as the third shift, 2300-0700 hours, sergeant. During the incident Sgt. Rogers was operating GCSO cruiser number 9.

Sgt. Rogers described being called in early to assist BPD and GCSO with a stand-off style incident at the above referenced address. Sgt. Rogers looked at his phone and said he was called at approximately 1903 hours and responded to the scene in approximately 15-20 minutes. Upon arriving, Sgt. Rogers said the GCSO SWAT team and hostage negotiators (HNT) were already on scene as well as multiple officers from BPD. Sgt. Rogers described the SWAT

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and HNT were staged at an area out of sight of the residence. Sgt. Rogers believed the incident was the result of a called in welfare check on the involved subject, later identified as Wise, that escalated into the stand-off.

Sgt. Rogers reported being on the perimeter of the scene for approximately 15-20 when he was instructed to replace BPD [REDACTED]'s position in the front of the residence. Sgt. Rogers pointed to this location and identified [REDACTED]'s approximate position as being in the roadway on North 9th Street just to the Southwest of the residence. Sgt. Rogers indicated as he pulled his cruiser behind [REDACTED] and got out to meet with him, Wise exited the residence wearing gym shorts, no shorts, and a cellphone in his hand. Sgt. Rogers said Wise yelled various profanities at officers as well as gesturing with his middle finger. Sgt. Rogers described trying to engage in a dialogue with Wise to de-escalate the situation, but was unsuccessful. Sgt. Rogers indicated Wise returned inside the residence at this time.

Sgt. Rogers said he returned to his cruiser to move it closer to [REDACTED]'s cruiser in order for [REDACTED] to clear the area. Sgt. Rogers described hearing the words "drop the gun" yelled loudly followed by multiple gunshots as he was exiting his cruiser. Sgt. Rogers said he could not see if Wise or the other officers on scene fired weapons due to his positioning. Sgt. Rogers reiterated at different times during the interview he only audibly heard the shots and never observed anyone shoot at any time during the incident. In response to hearing the shots fired, Sgt. Rogers, now armed with a patrol rifle, described moving to the front of the residence with other officers and observed Wise laying in the doorway with a black semi-automatic pistol near his feet. Sgt. Rogers indicated members of the GCSO SWAT team arrived and ultimately made entry into the residence. Sgt. Rogers said he also made entry with SWAT and secured the firearm he initially observed from the roadway. Sgt. Rogers indicated Wise was moving around some during this process, but did not engage in any dialogue. Sgt. Rogers said he did not observe any gunshot wounds on Wise's person, however he did report hearing GCSO TEMS Courtney Ryan request a chest seal so he assumed Wise sustained a gunshot wound to the torso. Sgt. Rogers also reported he observed Deputy Jeff Barton assisting GCSO TEMS Ryan while she was rendering aid to Wise. Sgt. Rogers indicated there was an emergency medical squad on standby and Wise was transported from the scene quickly.

Sgt. Rogers reported there was a short briefing after Wise was transported where he learned [REDACTED] GCSO Deputy [REDACTED] and BDP Auxiliary Officer [REDACTED] fired their weapons during the incident. Sgt. Rogers said he knew the positions of the above officers' cruisers during the incident, but did not observe their actual personal locations when they fired. Sgt. Rogers said Deputy [REDACTED]'s cruiser was in the intersection of Pearl Street and North 9th Street and BPD [REDACTED]'s cruiser was positioned further down North 9th Street Northeast of Deputy [REDACTED]. Sgt. Rogers described the firearms used in the incident were provided to him and placed in his cruiser for evidence collection. Sgt. Rogers indicated [REDACTED] and BPD [REDACTED] were armed with rifles and Deputy [REDACTED] was armed with a handgun.

Sgt. Rogers said he was wearing a body worn camera during the incident, but had not looked at the footage prior to giving a statement as he had not yet left the scene.

Sgt. Rogers said he was armed throughout the entirety of the incident, however he never fired any of his weapons. Sgt. Rogers said he has no previous contacts with Wise and had never

before been to the 114 North 9th Street address.

The interview concluded at approximately 2327 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: GCSO Sgt Rogers Interview