



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



2022-1090

Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 8643 Werger Road, Windham Township, OH

Investigative Activity: Neighborhood Canvass
Activity Date: 5/14/2022
Activity Location: Werger Road, Windham Township, OH 44231
Authoring Agent: SA Jon Lieber #50

Narrative:

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jon Lieber (Lieber), SA Arvin Clar and Portage County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) Detective Mike Hanna conducted a neighborhood canvass in the area of Werger Road, Windham Township, Ohio. The purpose for the canvass was to identify and interview potential witnesses to the officer-involved shooting that occurred at 643 Werger Road, Windham Township, Ohio, on Saturday, May 14, 2022. During the neighborhood canvass, investigators made or attempted contact with the residents at the following addresses:

8653 Werger Road (1239 hours)

Timothy Campbell (Campbell) stated that the female that died [Cora Baughman] is his ex-mother-in-law. Campbell said that he thought that Cora Baughman (Baughman) would kill him one day. Campbell said that he was in his bedroom when he heard screaming. He looked out his bedroom window and saw two police officers moving quickly up the driveway of the neighboring residence [8643 Werger Road]. Campbell said that he heard the officers yell repeatedly, "Drop the gun, drop the gun, drop the gun." Campbell then heard gunshots. Campbell said that he could not see Baughman at the time of the shooting. Campbell stated that from his window, he can't see past the mulch area, located near the garage. Campbell stated that he was in the bathroom at the time he first heard officers yell, "Drop the gun." He was able to get up, wipe himself and then run to the window; that's when he saw the officers coming up the driveway. Campbell said that he heard 12 to 15 shots. He did not know if one or both officers fired.

SA Lieber asked Campbell if he was aware of the dispute that was going on between the neighbors. Campbell said that his son [Aaron Baughman] called him. He said that his son lives in a cottage that is located behind Baughman's trailer. Campbell said that his son called him just as he heard officers say, "We're working on her." His son asked if he knew where Baughman was because they couldn't find her. They thought that she could be involved in what happened next door. Campbell got off the phone and more officers arrived on scene.

Campbell said that he told the officers not to trust his son. He said that he told the officers that if they see his son coming, to watch themselves. Campbell also said that there were other guns in the Baughman residence, including a semi-automatic pistol and a shotgun.

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Campbell said that he was the only person home at the time of the shooting. SA Lieber asked about Campbell's earlier statement that he thought Baughman was going to kill him. Campbell said that Baughman was evil. Campbell said that his ex-wife [Baughman's daughter] committed suicide. He said that he and his ex-wife built their house together. Campbell said that he got hurt at work and was taking pain killers. His ex-wife got addicted to pain killers. Ultimately, Campbell took their children and left while his ex-wife stayed in the house. About two years later, Campbell came back to the house and then his ex-wife moved out. Some years later, his ex-wife wanted to get back together with him but he didn't want to. Campbell said that Baughman also wouldn't let his ex-wife move in with her. Campbell then said that his ex-wife committed suicide by overdosing on pills. Campbell said that her family always blamed Campbell for her death. SA Lieber asked how long ago his ex-wife committed suicide. Campbell said it was about five or six years ago. Campbell said that he received a five-page letter from his ex-wife after her death (She mailed the letter before her death). Campbell did not give the letter to his ex-wife's family because he didn't want them to know that she committed suicide. He preferred for them to think her death was an accident. When the family found out about the letter, they were very mad at Campbell.

SA Lieber asked about the dispute between Baughman and their neighbor. Campbell said that the neighbors got upset and called the health department on Baughman because there was sewage coming from Baughman's property onto the neighbor's [Rick and Barb Knerem] property. Barb Knerem (Barb) told Campbell that she informed the health department that there were two dwellings on Baughman's property, when the lot is only designed for one. Campbell stated that his oldest son lives in the cottage on the back of the property. He said that "Once you fucked with him, you open the gates of hell. You don't fuck with that kid or their way of life." Campbell said that Barb and Rick are not the easiest neighbors to live next to. He said that they are vindictive. Campbell said that when his son called him about the complaint to the health department, he told Campbell that Baughman had "just been stewing about it."

Campbell then asked SA Lieber if Baughman had her .38 (revolver). SA Lieber informed Campbell that he has not walked into the scene yet and that he is not sure. Campbell said that his son informed him that Baughman's gun is up at the trailer "and the clip is not even in it." SA Lieber asked Campbell if he knew the manufacturer or color of the .38 revolver. Campbell said that he did not know. He said that his son, in the past, has mentioned the .38 and had said that Baughman would carry it. Campbell said he did not personally ever see the .38 but just that his son saw it and talked about it.

Campbell said that Rick and Barb called him after the shooting and told him what happened. Campbell said that he learned that Baughman came into the garage and was "beating on the

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garage door." Rick opened the door and told Baughman that he doesn't come to her house and he doesn't want her at his house. Meanwhile, Barb called 911. Baughman started beating on the door again. Rick stepped into the garage and told Baughman that she needed to leave right now. Baughman then pulled out a gun. Barb then told 911 that Baughman has a gun.

SA Lieber asked if he could take a photograph from inside Campbell's master bedroom from the window he was looking out of at the time of the shooting. The photographs are shown below. Note that the arrows and written identifiers were added by SA Lieber. The original photographs have been attached to this report.



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Below is the view from Campbell's master bedroom window:



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Below is a photograph showing the relationship between the area of the shooting and Campbell's residence:



8609 Werger Road

At 1316 hours, investigators spoke with Ashley Harman (Harman). Harman stated that she doesn't live at 8609 Werger Road, but her parents do live there. Harman was not at the house at the time of the shooting. Harman said that as far as she knows, her parents were sleeping at the time of the shooting. Harman said that Baughman's boyfriend called her parents and told them that Baughman had been shot. Harman said that there is a history with the neighbors and the people that live next to Baughman [Rick and Barb Knerem].

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Jamison and Dawn McQuerry (Dawn) live at 8609 Werger Road. Investigators spoke to Jamison and Dawn at 1535 hours. Dawn said that they were sleeping at the time of the shooting. Jamison said that Dawn works night shift. At 9:30 AM, Jamison received a call from Baughman's boyfriend [Dogan] saying that Baughman was shot. Jamison said that when he went outside, everything was already taped off. He said that Baughman is their best friend.

Jamison said that Baughman and the neighbor [Rick and Barb Knerem] didn't get along. Jamison stated that a long time ago, there was some infidelity between Baughman's nephew and Barb. Jamison stated that it is constantly back and forth between mowing the lawn, the trees, the health department and the septic system. Jamison said that recently he spoke with Baughman, and he learned that the Knerem's called the health department and complained about Baughman's septic system. Apparently, the health department came to the Baughman residence and "It was a big issue with the health department." Jamison said that Baughman was a little disgruntled, but he doesn't know what made her go to the Knerem's house this morning. Jamison said that the Knerem's have called the police on other neighbors in the past.

Dawn said that she doesn't think that Baughman would have hurt anybody. She said that if Baughman had a gun, she doesn't think that she would have used it. Jamison said that he thought Baughman went to the Knerem's house "for a fear factor to where she's finally at her boiling point. She had enough of those people." Jamison said that Baughman was the type of person that if she didn't like you, she would tell you. Dawn said that 15 years ago, when they purchased their house on Werger Road, the realtor told them that they would be moving into a hornet's nest. Dawn said that the feud between Baughman and the Knerem's has been going on since before they moved onto the street.

Jamison said that the Knerem's picked at Baughman. He gave examples of complaints about the Baughman's dog barking or a stick from a tree that fell into the Knerem's yard. Dawn said that it was petty stuff. Jamison said that it really must have been something to push Baughman over the edge for her to go to the Knerem's house. He said that Baughman went to the Knerem's and confronted them before but they just had words in the yard. Jamison said that if Baughman had a gun and an officer told her to drop it, he's sure that she would have dropped it. He said that Baughman has a concealed carry permit.

The interviews conducted were recorded. A copy of the recordings are attached to this Investigative Report.







