



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



2022-2918

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 500 West Hopocan, Barberton, OH
44203

Investigative Activity: Interview of Witness
Involves: Ryan Williams (W)
Activity Date: December 27, 2022
Activity Location: 154 Wooster Road North, Barberton, Ohio 44203
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Todd A. Clark #139

Narrative:

On Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at approximately 1658 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Todd Clark (Clark) and SA Nick Valente (Valente) interviewed Ryan Williams (Williams). Williams said he was driving north on Second Street when he saw a police car heading south. Williams said the police car proceeded through the stop light with its lights on, but no siren. Williams thought it was odd to see a Barberton police car do that, so he decided to follow the car. Williams said he followed the police car, and it was the second police car to arrive on the scene of the incident.

Williams said by the time he got to the stop light on West Lake Avenue, he saw one officer out of the car with his gun drawn. Williams said he saw the officer he followed get out of the car and draw his gun. Williams said one officer was positioned at the male's "twelve" and one was at the male's "two-thirty/three." Williams said the male was walking towards the officers. Williams said the officers were yelling at the male. Williams said he could not hear what the officers said. Williams said the male was not saying anything.

When the light turned green, Williams drove through the intersection. Williams said it took about 15 seconds for him to turn around in an alley near the Coffee Pot, a restaurant across the street. Williams said he lost sight of the male and the officers when he was turning around in the alley. Williams said he heard a gunshot when he was turning around, but he did not see the person who fired. Williams believed the officer on the right of the man was the one that shot him.

Williams said he came back to the area where the police were and parked on the corner. Williams said he took some video and a picture after the shooting. Williams said the police did not give the male CPR. Williams said a third officer came on scene and used a knife to cut the male's jacket off of him. Williams said he believed they turned the male over to check for an exit wound. Williams said he did not see the man with a knife. Williams said he never saw the man lunge at the officers. Williams said he believed the man was "not paying them no mind." Williams said the man had a bookbag in his right hand and a shopping bag in his left hand. Williams said he could not see how the man could have had a knife on him.

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Williams said the officers were walking around frantic, waiting for the ambulance to show up. Williams said it took the ambulance four to seven minutes to show up. Williams said CPR was started on the male, then the officers had them stop. Williams said he heard the officers ask if there was a pulse. Williams said the EMS guy said there was no pulse. Williams believed the male was dead at that point. Williams said an ambulance guy with black camouflage would not stop CPR except when one of the officers wanted to take the handcuffs off the male. After they removed the handcuffs, EMS resumed CPR. Williams said he thought the male was shot in the chest.

Williams said there were two other people standing in front of the Coffee Pot. Williams believed they may have saw the shooting.

Williams said he contacted the Barberton Police Department on scene. Williams talked with a detective on scene who told him the male had a knife. Williams said he was troubled by the incident because he never saw someone get shot before.

Williams provided the video and picture he took of the incident.

The audio recording was attached to this report for review.

Reference Item:

The videos and photograph provided by Williams were saved to a thumb drive, labeled Reference Item B and placed in the BCI SIU Case file.

Attachments:

2022-12-27: Audio interview Ryan Williams