



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: Jonathan Dobben (W)
Activity Date: 12/26/2022
Activity Location: 188 East Cassel Drive, Barberton, Ohio 44203
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente

Narrative:

On Monday, December 26, 2022, at 1529 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (Valente) and SA Charlie Snyder interviewed Jonathan Dobben (Dobben). Dobben was identified as a possible witness to the officer-involved shooting in Barberton, Ohio, on December 26, 2022. The interview with Dobben was audio recorded and attached to this report.

Dobben also provided SA Valente with electronic copies of pictures he took during the incident on his cellular phone. Those images are attached to this report.

During the interview, Dobben reported the following:

On the morning of December 26, 2022, he drove to The Coffee Pot (a restaurant located at 205 2ND Street Northwest, Barberton, Ohio). When Dobben pulled up to the restaurant, he saw a couple standing in the doorway to the establishment and thought they might have been arguing. Dobben then “noticed there was a guy on the other side of the street” at the same time. Dobben exited his car and entered the restaurant. Dobben sat at a booth that allowed him to look out at the street and vacant lot across from the restaurant. Once seated, Dobben “seen this guy running in that empty parking lot, and I seen a policeman pull up.” Dobben observed additional police arrive and surround the man, “and next thing I know they had their guns drawn...and he started like, he kept going towards the one police officer and we seen something come out of the air. We figured he fired his weapon.” Dobben then clarified he didn’t know if it was a taser or firearm the police had fired at the man. Dobben continued, once the man was on the ground, the police were yelling at him and “kept him at bay there and then ran over and the one officer jumped on him and looked like he threw something away from him. We couldn’t tell from our angle what it was.”

When Dobben was asked if the subject (Zachary Zoran) was responding to the officers, Dobben stated, “No he didn’t, no he didn’t look like he was responding at all ‘cause he stepped, even when their guns were drawn he was still going towards the one officer.”

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When asked if the officers were moving away or towards the subject, Dobben stated the officers were moving away from the subject, and “he kept on moving toward them,” and “he was not backing down, he was moving towards the officers.” Dobben further clarified, “He wasn’t exactly, you know, ready to tackle them or anything but he was definitely moving towards them. I mean he wasn’t obeying no, you know.”

After one of the officers approached Zoran, “he (the officer) kinda looked like he had thrown something away,” while Zoran “moved almost underneath that white pick-up truck that was sitting over there.”

When asked, Dobben stated he believed the subject was “from my angle, maybe five or six feet probably,” from the officer that fired at the time he was shot by the police but was not confident in providing a numerical distance with any certainty.

Dobben did not hear a gunshot but believed he saw a shot fired while he observed the incident unfold. Dobben did not hear anything said by Zoran or by the officers during the incident.

Attachments:

1. 2022-12-26: Jonathan Dobben Interview
2. 2022-12-26 Dobbin Image 1
3. 2022-12-26 Dobbin Image 2
4. 2022-12-26 Dobbin Image 3
5. 2022-12-26 Dobbin Image 4
6. 2022-12-26 Dobbin Image 5



Decorative gold and red lettering on the window, including the word "OFFICE" in red and gold script.

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