



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



2022-2121  
Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 6463 Tara Brooke Court,  
Hamilton, OH 45011 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** Stephaun Syllas Jones (S)  
**Date of Activity:** 10/08/2022  
**Activity Location:** – 6463 Tara Brooke Ct , Hamilton, OH 45011, Butler County  
**Author:** SA Steven Seitzman

**Narrative:**

On October 8, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by the city of Hamilton Police Department (HPD) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred at 6463 Tara Brooke Court, Hamilton, Ohio. Stephaun Syllas Jones (Jones) was a suspect in a homicide that occurred in the city of Hamilton. Jones fled in a vehicle and ultimately abandoned the vehicle in the driveway of 6322 Morris Road. Jones was confronted by responding officers. Jones ran from the officers, which resulted in a search for him. HPD Officers James Leisinger (Officer Leisinger) and Bryan Bowlin (Officer Bowlin) subsequently encountered Jones near 6463 Tara Brooke Court. Officer Leisinger and Officer Bowlin discharged their department-issued AR-15 rifles, striking and critically wounding Jones. Jones was transported to the UC Health West Chester Hospital, where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

BCI Special Agent Steven Seitzman conducted an interview with Butler County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Deputy Zachary York (Deputy York) on October 8, 2022, at 2212 hours. The interview took place in SA Seitzman's vehicle, which was parked on Tara Brooke Court near Tara Brooke Way. The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device. Deputy York confirmed that he was speaking with SA Seitzman voluntarily.

The information provided below summarizes key points from the recorded interview and is not a verbatim account. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify the content of the interview.

While the terms "suspect" or "subject" may have been used by Deputy York during the interview to identify Jones, knowing that Jones had been identified earlier in the investigation, his name will be utilized in this report.

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Deputy York advised that he has been employed by BCSO for a total of four-and-a-half years. He stated that he was assigned to the road patrol approximately seven months ago. Prior to being assigned to the road patrol, he worked in the jail and the courts. His shift on October 8, 2022, was from 1800 hours until 0600 hours on October 9, 2022.

Deputy York advised that on October 8, 2022, at approximately 1900 hours, he heard over the police radio that a subject, later identified as Jones, fled in a vehicle from a shooting in the city of Hamilton. He was further advised over the radio that Jones had a gunshot wound. He received additional information that Jones was on Millikin Road headed toward Fairfield Township. He stated that he was under the impression that someone, either an HPD officer or a civilian, was following behind Jones' vehicle.

Deputy York learned that Jones had abandoned his vehicle in a driveway on Morris Road. He was told that Jones took off on foot and was last seen near the woodline next to the driveway. He secured the perimeter around the woodline until he was called to assist in clearing a barn in the backyard of the residence. He remained near the barn and was waiting for the West Chester Township Police canine to pass him. After the canine went by, he followed behind and entered Tara Brooke Court, north of what would become the OICI scene.

Deputy York estimated he was a quarter or half a mile north of the OICI scene when he heard three shots fired. He ran toward the sound of the gunshots with the other officers. He saw an officer handcuffing Jones on the ground. He observed a black handgun next to Jones. He said the gun appeared jammed to him as the slide was not all the way forward.

Deputy York said he watched officers render aid to Jones. He heard an officer say that Jones had quit breathing, so officers turned him on his back and initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). He said at one point, CPR was stopped so officers could pack Jones' wounds with gauze. He said CPR was then restarted. He believed the CPR efforts were successful, as he heard officers state Jones was breathing again. He said Jones never said anything during the encounter.

Deputy York said that paramedics arrived and loaded Jones into the ambulance. He advised that Deputy Matthew Murphy rode inside the ambulance as it traveled to UC Health West Chester Hospital.

Deputy York recalled that a Fairfield Township officer placed crime scene tape around the scene. He searched for bullet casings and found one on the driveway of 6453 Tara Brooke Court.

SA Seitzman asked Deputy York if he knew the officers who fired their weapons. He said he did not know them but knew they were two HPD officers. He said he did not have any conversations with them.

The interview was concluded at 2222 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2022-10-08/ Interview with BCSO Deputy Zachary York

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# **Exhibit 1**

**Included as a separate file.**