



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



2024-2738

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 345 Lincoln Ave.,
Lancaster, OH 43130 (L)

Investigative Activity: Witness Interview
Involves: Deputy Benjamin Roderick (W)
Activity Date: 01/07/2025
Activity Location: 345 Lincoln Ave., Lancaster, OH 43130
Authoring Agent: SA James H Gore

Narrative:

On Tuesday, January 07, 2025, at approximately 1552 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Aja Chung (SA Chung) and SA James Gore (SA Gore) interviewed Deputy Benjamin Roderick (Dep. Roderick) at the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) in Lancaster. Dep. Roderick was accompanied by attorney Joe Hegedus, of the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). Dep. Roderick was identified as an officer who witnessed or had some level of interaction with Chad Evangelista (Evangelista) during a law enforcement encounter in the vicinity of 720 W. Waterloo Street in Canal Winchester on September 7, 2024. Evangelista was later transported to Fairfield Medical Center, and eventually to Riverside Hospital where he died on September 9, 2024. The purpose of the interview was to obtain any relevant information that Dep. Roderick had regarding the encounter with Mr. Evangelista.

Dep. Roderick said he has been employed at FCSO since February 2024. He said his prior law enforcement employment goes back to 2011, as a deputy sheriff in Ross County and as a patrol officer for the Lithopolis Police Department. Dep. Roderick stated that he was also an 18-year veteran of the Army Reserve.

Dep. Roderick explained that on September 7, 2024, he was working his normal shift, which was 0600 to 1800 hours. He recalled being in Millersport with Dep. Renner when they heard over the radio that [REDACTED] was being dispatched to a call in Canal Winchester. Dep. Roderick stated that after [REDACTED] arrived at his call, he radioed that the subject was running, or something along those lines. Dep. Roderick said both he and Dep. Renner decided to respond to Canal Winchester to assist [REDACTED]. Dep. Roderick estimated it took about 15 minutes to arrive.

Dep. Roderick stated that when he arrived on scene in Canal Winchester, he observed that other officers from Madison Township and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office were already there. He said the officers were attempting to place Evangelista in the

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back of [REDACTED] patrol vehicle. Dep. Roderick said he was going to assist the other officers by pulling Evangelista into the seating compartment from the driver's side, but by the time he made it to the driver's side of [REDACTED] vehicle, Evangelista was already inside. Dep. Roderick said he had no further involvement in the matter.

The interview concluded at approximately 1558 hours.

An audio copy of Dep. Roderick's interview is available for further review as an attachment to this report.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

1. Deputy Benjamin Roderick interview

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