



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



2022-1090

Officer-Involved Critical Incident-Cora Baughman

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Keith Whan #903
Activity Date: 5/14/2022
Activity Location: 8643 Werger Rd., Garrettsville, Ohio
Authoring Agent: Arvin E. Clar #127

Narrative:

On Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 1342 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Arvin Clar (Clar) and SA Jonathan Lieber (Lieber) interviewed Sergeant (Sgt.) Keith Whan (Whan) of the Garrettsville Police Department; who was accompanied by his attorney, George Gerken (Gerken), from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at 10147 Royalton Rd., North Royalton. The interview was audio recorded.

Sgt. Whan read, understood and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

Sgt. Whan was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 14, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 8643 Werger Rd., Garrettsville, Ohio. Reportedly, Sgt. Whan did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Sgt. Whan stated his radio call sign on May 14, 2022, was #903. He has been employed by the Garrettsville Police Department for about 14 years. He has been a police officer for a total of 14 years. During the incident, Sgt. Whan wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove a 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe, unit #962, a black and white, marked with POLICE emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does wear corrective lenses.

In the beginning of the interview, a clarification was made as to the location and venue of the incident. Attorney Gerken raised the concern that the location of the incident was not Garrettsville but identified as Wyndham Township. Sgt. Whan said that the mailing address for Werger Rd. was shown as Garrettsville, Ohio. The location was solely noted for the recorded interview.

Sgt. Whan said that when responding to the incident, both his police vehicle camera and his body-worn camera were functioning.



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Sgt. Whan reported that the day of the incident, he was “on station” when the dispatcher requested “back-up” to an incident located on Werger Rd. for a neighborhood dispute.

Sgt. Whan then said that he proceeded to respond to the location and while responding, he [Sgt. Whan] activated his police radio to scan, so that he could hear other sheriff units responding to the incident location.

Sgt. Whan said that he learned from the radio communication that the subject was “banging on the doors and windows” and armed with a weapon.

Sgt. Whan could hear on the radio that Sheriff’s Deputy █████ (█████) was responding and he was responding from the Ravenna area.

Sgt. Whan decided to stage at the end of the street, that he identified as Werger Rd, and wait for the other police vehicles.

Sgt. Whan said that upon █████ arriving, they both proceed to the location on Werger Rd. Sgt. Whan explained that he believed that when he activated his overhead lights, his body-worn camera and in-car camera became activated.

Sgt. Whan said on both units arriving on the location, 8643 Werger Rd., they positioned their vehicles so that the road was blocked to oncoming traffic.

Sgt. Whan then said that at the end of the driveway by the street [Werger Rd.], he did observe “an older female” come out of the garage of the location. Sgt. Whan also said that one garage door was open, while the other garage door was closed.

The garage door that was opened was identified as being closest to the house.

The female came walking out of the garage and was observed walking out to the garage from the driver’s side of a parked SUV, closest to the entrance of the house.

Sgt. Whan then heard █████ give commands to the female to drop the weapon. Sgt. Whan said, due to his position, he could not see the female subject’s hand. Sgt. Whan said he unholstered his weapon and observed █████ having his weapon in his hands.

Sgt. Whan said, as they got closer to the subject, he could see the female subject having a black revolver in her hand. Sgt. Whan said he took cover to the rear side of a parked pick up truck, as well as █████ utilizing the vehicle for cover.

Sgt. Whan said he gave one command to the subject to drop her gun. Sgt. Whan said that █████ continued to give commands to the female to drop her gun.



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Sgt. Whan explained that the female was inside of the garage with a black revolver.

Sgt. Whan then said that [REDACTED] went into the garage and approached the subject from the driver's side of a parked SUV inside of the garage. Sgt. Whan took a "tactical" position from the rear passenger side of the parked SUV.

Sgt. Whan explained that [REDACTED] gave a command to the subject to drop the gun. [REDACTED] was inside of the garage by the rear of the parked SUV vehicles. The subject was in the front of the vehicle's driver's side.

Sgt. Whan said he heard [REDACTED] give the command to the female to drop the gun. Sgt. Whan said he heard the female say, "No." Sgt. Whan then said he heard a "volley" of shots.

Sgt. Whan then radioed to dispatch that shots were fired and start a squad.

Sgt. Whan said he observed a blood-stained black revolver on the ground, laying by the front of the vehicle.

Sgt. Whan assisted [REDACTED] in securing the subject, who was laying on the garage floor on the driver's front side of the parked SUV.

Sgt. Whan responded back to his vehicle and retrieved his medical supply bag to begin first aid on the subject.

Sgt. Whan said the other officers arrived on scene and began to assist in administering first aid until the EMS Squad arrived.

Sgt. Whan does recall that upon arriving on the scene on Werger, he did observe two people inside of the house.

SA Lieber asked Sgt. Whan if he [Sgt. Whan] heard any other responses from the female subject besides the word "no." Sgt. Whan replied that he did not hear any other communication from the female subject.

Sgt. Whan also said he does not know the female subject.

Sgt. Whan said that he did watch his body cam video on one occasion. Sgt. Whan also said he has observed the edited video given to the media.

The interview concluded at approximately 1355 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

Keith Whan
Printed Name of Interviewee

6-7-22 (6-14-22)
Date / Time

[Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

ARVIN E. CLAR
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)