



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



2025-1603
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4482 Hampton Woods
Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43230 (L)

Investigative Activity: Uninvolved Officer Interview
Involves: Sergeant Dan Weaver
Activity Date: 05/20/2025
Activity Location: CPD SWAT Headquarters
Authoring Agent: SA Brady Curry

Narrative:

On May 20, 2025, at approximately 0329 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Brady Curry (SA Curry) obtained a recorded statement from Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Sergeant Dan Weaver regarding the May 19, 2025, fatal shooting incident between CPD officers and Jerry Smith (Smith) that occurred at 4482 Hampton Woods Court in Columbus, Ohio. The contact with Sgt. Weaver took place at the CPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) building. Prior to providing a statement, Sgt. Weaver was notified that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation into the shooting incident, and he confirmed he would provide a voluntary statement. The following is a summation of the statement of Sgt. Weaver and additional details can be found in the attached audio recording.

Sgt. Weaver (badge #5335) advised the Hostage Negotiation Team was activated, and he responded to the scene. While enroute to the scene, Sgt. Weaver learned that Sergeant Jason Ayers (Sgt. Ayers) was on the phone with Smith. Sgt. Ayers maintained the primary communicator with Smith throughout the negotiations while Sgt. Weaver assisted Sgt. Ayers.

Sgt. Weaver advised there were numerous phone and FaceTime calls because they would frequently drop, or Smith would hang up.

Sgt. Weaver stated that Smith was very angry, and it was hard to try and get him settled down. Sgt. Weaver stated Marybeth Bright (Mary) spoke briefly about the original call. Mary stated that Jerry had a job interview today and it did not go well. Smith came home and started drinking. Sgt. Weaver stated this was the extent of Mary's explanation of what happened.

Sgt. Weaver stated multiple times they attempted to get Mary and Smith out of the house. Smith was agitated about the police presence and Smith thought that the

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officers were going to kill him if he came outside. Smith told Sgt. Weaver multiple times that he was going to exit the residence with a gun. Sgt. Weaver stated that Smith said there was never a time that he was going to exit the residence without the gun. Sgt. Weaver stated that Smith told him that he had a 30-round magazine or something to that effect. Sgt. Weaver told another negotiator to let SWAT know about the high capacity of ammunition. Smith was told not to bring the gun outside and Smith was adamant that he would not do that. Smith mentioned that he wanted to come outside with Mary because she was white and Smith thought the Police would treat her differently. SWAT advised they had an arrest plan for both Smith and Mary to exit the residence. Smith was told over the phone that they could both come out. Smith was also told to leave the gun in the residence. Smith stated multiple times throughout the conversation that the gun would be in his hand. Earlier, Sgt. Weaver stated Mary was told multiple times that she could leave but never did. Sgt. Weaver believed that Mary thought she could help Smith, which is why Sgt. Weaver thinks Mary did not leave the residence.

SA Curry asked Sgt. Weaver if Smith made any threats. Sgt. Weaver stated that it was not crystal clear, but Smith stated that he "was ready." Sgt. Weaver inferred from that statement that Smith was ready to be involved in a shooting.

While on the phone, Sgt. Weaver heard a struggle. Sgt. Weaver thought he heard Mary say that Smith shot himself and that Smith was bleeding. Mary was told by Sgt. Ayers to leave the residence. A short time later, Sgt. Weaver and Sgt. Ayers were then told by the Team Leader that Mary did exit the residence. Mary took the phone with her. Sgt. Weaver was unaware at this time that a SWAT Operator shot Smith. Later, Sgt. Weaver was told what happened.

The interview concluded at approximately 0401 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.

References:

Attachments:

Sergeant Dan Weaver Interview

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