



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 Duane Monroe (Deputy Monroe) on October 8, 2022, at 2255 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 Monroe 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 Monroe during the interview to identify Jones, for clarity, knowing that Jones had been identified earlier in the investigation, his name will be utilized in this report.

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Deputy Monroe advised that he has been employed by BCSO for twenty-four years. Prior to working for BCSO, he worked for the Hamilton Police Department, the Bellbrook Police Department, and the Village of Waynesville Police Department. His current assignment is road patrol, but he has additional assignments as an accident reconstructionist on the Regional Serious Accident Reconstruction Team, a drone pilot, and a master evidence technician.

Deputy Monroe was off duty but was requested by his supervisor to respond to the area of Morris Road for the purpose of deploying a drone. He said he received the call from his supervisor at approximately 1939 hours. He estimated that he arrived on the scene at approximately 2000 hours. Once he arrived at the scene, he was requested to respond to Tara Brooke Way near Hollyberry Lane. When he arrived on Tara Brooke Way, he heard three or four gunshots west of his location. He responded to the area of the shots on Tara Brooke Court. He parked next to an HPD cruiser. The HPD cruiser had its flood lights on, illuminating the area in front of it. He noticed an HPD officer standing outside the driver's door with his rifle. He saw another HPD officer to his right on a driveway [the driveway was determined to be 6453 Tara Brooke Court].

Deputy Monroe recalled seeing Jones on the ground. He said Jones was on his back with his head pointed north. Deputy Monroe approached Jones with the HPD officer near the cruiser. They both located a gun next to Jones' side. Deputy Monroe kicked the gun away. He said Jones was moaning and had slight movements. He helped roll Jones on his stomach. Jones was then handcuffed by the two HPD officers.

Deputy Monroe then recalled seeing several officers from Fairfield Township and West Chester Township, as well as deputies from BCSO. He directed West Chester Township Canine Officer Michael Veeneman to separate the two HPD officers and to have someone stay with them.

Deputy Monroe was handed a pair of sheers to cut Jones' clothing. He observed a bullet hole on Jones' back through his shirt. As he cut Jones' shirt, he observed what appeared to be a graze wound on Jones' back. He saw another bullet wound on his lower back. He rolled Jones onto his back with help from other officers. He described Jones' breathing as agonal. BCSO Deputies Murphy and Henson initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Deputy Monroe ran to his cruiser to obtain a bag-valve mask. He returned and used the bag-valve mask. He observed other officers packing Jones' wounds with gauze.

Deputy Monroe advised that the paramedics arrived and loaded Jones into the ambulance. He was transported to West Chester Hospital. Deputy Monroe took photographs of the scene, which will be collected by SA Seitzman at a later date. Deputy York found a bullet casing on the driveway of 6453 Tara Brooke Court. Deputy Henson found a second bullet casing on the driveway. Deputy Monroe located a bullet casing on the hood of the HPD cruiser.

Deputy Monroe said the HPD officer on the driveway of 6453 Tara Brooke Court said he fired twice. He said the deputy standing by the HPD cruiser said he fired once. Deputy Monroe said he did not know the names of the involved HPD officers, though one of the officers later told him that he was one of their academy instructors. He said deputies placed cones on top of the casings.

SA Seitzman asked Deputy Monroe if the HPD officers made any statements to him after the

shooting. He said he asked the HPD officers if they were okay, to which they answered in the affirmative. He then asked the officers if Jones had shot toward them. The HPD officer to his left, who he described as the "taller, younger one," whose name begins with an "L," said "his arm started moving."

Deputy Monroe said he observed an HPD sergeant take and secure the involved officers' rifles.

SA Seitzman asked for clarification on the wounds Deputy Monroe observed. He said one was on his back, about "mid-back toward the left side" and it looked like a "through-and-through, possibly." He said another wound was on the "lower right side, towards the back but closer to the side, distal from the midline."

The interview was concluded at 2309 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-10-08/ Interview with BCSO Deputy Duane Monroe

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.