



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



2025-0559

Officer Involved Critical Incident – [REDACTED] Miami
Township, Ohio (Montgomery Co.) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Crystal Rankins (W)
Date of Activity: 02/19/2025
Activity Location: Miami Twp. (Miamisburg) Police Department – Business – 2660
Lyons Road, Miamisburg, OH 45342
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On Wednesday, February 19, 2025, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by the Miami Township Police Department (Montgomery County), to assist with an Officer Involved Critical Incident that occurred at [REDACTED] OH. The involved subject, Jayden Cole Stephenson, charged toward officers with a knife and officers fired at the subject.

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Lauren Frazier (SA Frazier) and Steve Seitzman (SA Seitzman) interviewed Miami Township Police Officer Crystal Rankins (Officer Rankins). Officer Rankins, was accompanied by Attorney Steve Lazarus and Union Representative Tyler Wilson. The interview took place at the Miami Township Police Department, located at 2660 Lyons Road, Miamisburg, OH. The interview was audio recorded and began at approximately 1845 hours.

Officer Rankins was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the officer-involved critical incident that occurred in Miami Township, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Rankins 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, which was known or observed by this officer.

Officer Rankins has been employed by the Miami Township Police Department for about 11 years. She has been a police officer for a total of 16 years. During the incident, Officer Rankins was wearing her standard police uniform and was working [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] hours. Officer Rankins was equipped with a body worn camera (BWC), which she stated was operable and recording at the time of the incident.

Officer Rankins stated that she was on another call for a road rage incident. She heard via

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

radio that there was a family problem, which she described as a son with a knife making threats to family members. She immediately cleared the call and responded to the incident on [REDACTED].

Once Officer Rankins arrived on scene, she said that she observed Miami Township [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at the front door of the residence. [REDACTED] was equipped with a less lethal bean bag shotgun. Officer Rankins said that she believed [REDACTED] had lethal cover but was not sure. She said that [REDACTED] had lethal cover behind the other officers.

Officer Rankins said that officers were trying to de-escalate the situation with the subject for several minutes. She recalled the subject talking about a car. Officers were trying to resolve the situation, by telling him they would get him the car, if he put down the knife. Officer Rankins said that she saw the subject with the knife in his hand, who was in the living room area, but said that she did not have a full visual of the subject.

The subject refused to comply with officers. Officer Rankins said that officers made a plan at the door, to use less lethal, if the subject got up. Shortly after, the subject stood up, and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] deployed two (2) less lethal bean bag rounds. Officer Rankins does not believe the bean bag rounds were effective because the subject got up and ran up the steps. She said that later, when she was assessing the subject's injuries, she noticed that he may have been struck by the bean bag rounds in the arm.

Officer Rankins said that the subject ran upstairs into a bedroom and shut the door. Officers followed the subject into the hallway. Officer Rankins said that their goal was to get to the door safely and apprehend the subject. Officers called for [REDACTED] to bring up the taser and [REDACTED] advised he was going to kick the door in. Once inside the bedroom, Officer Rankins heard multiple officers giving commands to "drop the knife" before the subject went into the bathroom.

Officer Rankins saw the subject go into the bathroom and officers got the bathroom door open. Additional commands were given to "put down the knife." Officer Rankins heard [REDACTED] [REDACTED] tell [REDACTED] to deploy the taser. [REDACTED] deployed the taser and Officer Rankins believed it had taken effect. Officer Rankins thought that the subject was going to comply, so she put her handgun away, and began switching to handcuffs. At this time, Officer Rankins stated that the subject jumped up with the knife in his hand, started running towards officers, and shots were fired.

Officer Rankins said that all the officers were in the bedroom at this time. She said that it was a small space, so the subject was only a few feet away, when shots were fired. Officer Rankins could not recall how many officers fired their weapons nor how many shots were fired. Officer Rankins did not fire her duty weapon. She said that [REDACTED] was in front of her, and she was putting her firearm away, to transition to handcuffs. Officer Rankins was in the process of putting her gun away, when officers began backing up, and she did not have a clear shot. Officer Rankins said that if officers had not fired, the subject would likely have stabbed [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. She said that the subject knew [REDACTED] was the one who had tased him. She said that the subject was not happy, and he was focused on coming toward [REDACTED].

Officers began rendering aid to the subject. Officer Rankins said that they grabbed sheets off of the bed to try and control the bleeding and kept checking his pulse. Officer Rankins asked for medics to respond via radio and began cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). She said that herself, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] took turns performing CPR. Officer Rankins said that the subject was bleeding from his neck and they were trying to control the bleeding, while performing CPR. Miami Valley Fire Department responded to take over medical intervention, but it is unknown what care was performed.

Officer Rankins did not recall any statements that were made by subject during the altercation upstairs. Officer Rankins was not aware of any past interactions with the subject, nor recent history involving the subject. Officer Rankins said that she did not have any other interaction with the family or other officers, following the incident.

The interview concluded at approximately 1901 hours. The audio recorded interview is attached to this report (attachment #01).

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-02-19 / Officer Crystal Rankins Audio Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.