



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



2023-0408
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1680 Stringtown Rd., Grove
City 43123 (L)

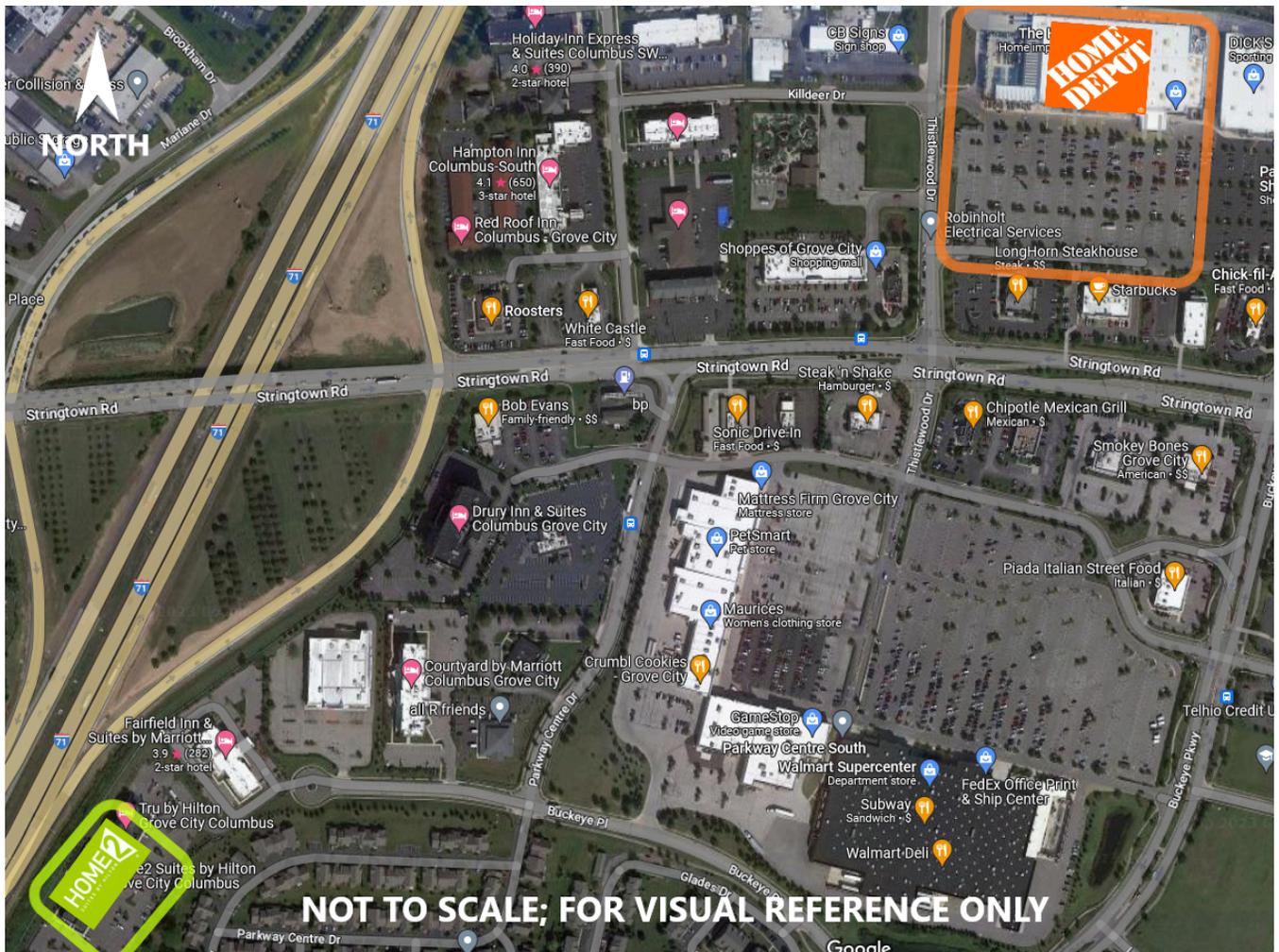
Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Officer Jared Nelson (W)
Date of Activity: 02/12/2023
Author: SA James H Gore, #168

Narrative:

On February 12, 2023 at approximately 0110 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) James Gore interviewed Grove City Police Officer Jared Nelson (badge #146). Ofc. Nelson was identified as one of the officers from Grove City who responded to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident involving members of the Columbus Police Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team. The incident occurred in the parking lot of the Home Depot, 1680 Stringtown Rd., Grove City, on the previous evening after 2000 hours. The purpose of the interview was to obtain an account Ofc. Nelson's observations and actions regarding the incident. The interview took place in front of the Home Depot.

Ofc. Nelson advised he has been employed by Grove City for nearly five years. Ofc. Nelson is assigned to Patrol as a K9 handler, and his normal shift 1300 hours to 2100 hours, with Sundays and Mondays off.

Ofc. Nelson said he was dispatched to a hotel (Home2 Suites) to meet a female complainant. While speaking with the woman, Ofc. Nelson explained he was approached by a Columbus SWAT officer. The group was attempting to locate a wanted subject who was supposed to be at the hotel. The subject reportedly communicated that he was at a different hotel, and then he finally agreed to meet at the Home Depot, according to Ofc. Nelson.



According to Ofc. Nelson, the woman was communicating with the subject through text messages, while purportedly pretending to be another woman. Ofc. Nelson said he did not view the text message conversations. It was Ofc. Nelson's understanding that the woman he was in contact with was a cousin of the wanted subject.

Ofc. Nelson said the SWAT team member requested that Grove City units back out of the area so they could take the lead in searching for the subject (*note: the SWAT units were in unmarked vehicles*). Ofc. Nelson said after it was determined that the subject was not going to be at the Home2 Suites, the SWAT members redeployed to Home Depot. Ofc. Nelson explained that the SWAT officer later called him on the phone, and Ofc. Nelson relayed what the subject said he was wearing. Ofc. Nelson said he responded to the Home Depot from the Home2 Suites once he heard shots fired.

Ofc. Nelson said as he arrived at Home Depot, the subject was being extracted from a vehicle and the driver was in handcuffs. Ofc. Nelson said the female party later arrived at the Home Depot and asked him what happened, but he told her that he could not tell her anything. The woman was placed in a police vehicle to be interviewed later. Ofc. Nelson said he did not interview any parties at the scene.

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Ofc. Nelson recalled overhearing either the woman or whomever she was on the phone with, say something to the effect of, 'I knew he wasn't going to go out unless it was suicide by cop.' Ofc. Nelson reiterated that he did not know if the complainant made the statement or the person on speaker phone made the statement. He said he believed the complainant was on the phone with the 'victim's' mother (*note: the male subject reportedly had an arrest warrant from Athens County for sexual battery or rape of a minor child*).

SA Gore later reviewed Ofc. Nelson's body-worn camera footage, and he found that the footage was consistent with Ofc. Nelson's recollection.

An audio copy of Ofc. Nelson's interview was attached to this report for reference. Video files from Ofc. Nelson's body-worn camera are available for review, but they were not attached due to the large size of the files.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-0212-01-14-58 Grove City PD Ofc. Jared Nelson Interview – SA Gore