



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



2023-2210

Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED] Howland
Township, OH 44484 Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Neighborhood Canvass

Activity Date: August 23, 2023

Activity Location: Highlawn Avenue SE, Howland Township, Ohio 44484

Authoring Agent: SA Andrew J. Harasimchuk #170

Narrative:

On Wednesday, August 23, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Andrew Harasimchuk (Harasimchuk) conducted a neighborhood canvass in the area of Highlawn Avenue SE, Howland Township, Ohio 44484. The purpose of the canvass was to identify and interview potential witnesses to the officer-involved shooting that occurred at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Howland Township, Ohio 44484, on Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

During the neighborhood canvass, SA Harasimchuk made or attempted to make contact with the residents at the following addresses:

- [REDACTED] Highlawn Avenue SE, Howland Township, Ohio

SA Harasimchuk spoke with Kevin Shorts (Kevin), Sally Ann Shorts (Sally Ann) and Joshua Shorts (Joshua) at this location. Kevin advised SA Harasimchuk that he [Kevin] was home with Sally Ann and Joshua when this incident took place. Kevin said that his [Kevin] other son Justin Shorts was also home for part of this incident. Kevin said that he [Kevin] saw the incident take place from the beginning until midnight. Kevin said that he [Kevin] saw the first two officers arrive with their guns drawn at approximately 8:15pm. Kevin and Sally Ann said that they saw [REDACTED] arrive home somewhere around 8pm. Kevin advised SA Harasimchuk that he [Kevin] had two video cameras on his [Kevin] property that recorded the incident. Kevin and Sally Ann said that they heard officers trying to talk to Randal Fife (Fife) and get him [Fife] to answer his [Fife] phone or come outside. Kevin and Sally Ann stated that they did not hear Fife say anything. Kevin said that he [Kevin] heard a "door breach explosion" at approximately 6:35am. Kevin said he [Kevin] saw a drone come around the house and then he [Kevin] heard gunfire. Kevin said he [Kevin] had heard officers say something about a shotgun early. Kevin said that he [Kevin] thought he [Kevin] heard a shotgun fire twice followed by "automatic fire." Kevin said that he [Kevin] heard two sets of gunfire. Kevin said he [Kevin] believed he [Kevin] heard officers tell someone to get down on the ground. Kevin and Joshua both stated that there was a distinct difference in sound between the shotgun and the other gunfire.

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It should be noted that BCI Cyber Crimes SA William Conn (Conn) responded to the scene and obtained a copy of the video surveillance footage from [REDACTED] Highlawn Avenue SE.

- [REDACTED] Highlawn Avenue SE, Howland Township, Ohio

There was no response at the door and no visible exterior video surveillance cameras. SA Harasimchuk left his business card in the front door.

Before SA Harasimchuk cleared the scene, Barbra Goncz (Goncz) arrived at this location. Goncz advised SA Harasimchuk that she [Goncz] owns the residence, however she [Goncz] rents the home out to her [Goncz's] son. Goncz advised SA Harasimchuk that no one was home when this incident had taken place. Goncz stated that there are no video surveillance cameras at the residence. It should be noted that based on prior conversations with other neighbors, SA Harasimchuk learned that Goncz did not live at this residence and was not present when this incident had taken place, therefore the conversation with Goncz was not audio recorded.

- [REDACTED] Highlawn Avenue SE, Howland Township, Ohio

There was no response at the door and no visible exterior video surveillance cameras. SA Harasimchuk left his business card in the front door.

Before SA Harasimchuk cleared the scene, SA Harasimchuk was flagged down by a male, later identified as Barry Baer (Baer). Baer said that he [Baer] was home with his [Baer's] wife, Dawn Logue-Baer (Dawn) when this incident took place. Baer said that Dawn saw and heard everything. Baer advised SA Harasimchuk that he [Baer] has hearing issues. Baer said that he saw police officers outside with their guns drawn and a SWAT truck pull up. Baer said that all the police cars left at about 4am and he [Baer] thought that the incident was over. Baer said that he [Baer] later heard a loud boom followed by gunfire. Baer told SA Harasimchuk that Dawn was at work but Baer said that he [Baer] would have Dawn call SA Harasimchuk at a later date.

On August 31, 2023, at approximately, 1501 hours, SA Harasimchuk called Dawn at [REDACTED]. During this phone conversation Dawn said that she [Dawn] saw the police outside with their guns out when this incident had taken place. Dawn stated that the police told her [Dawn] to evacuate, so she [Dawn] went into her [Dawn's] backyard

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for a while. Dawn said that in the morning she [Dawn] heard a loud explosion followed by gunfire. Dawn said that she [Dawn] saw an officer and another person being taken out of the house on a stretcher. Dawn said that she [Dawn] heard the police on the "PA" system most of the night. Dawn said that she heard the police saying things like 'Randall please put the gun down, please come out with your hands up, and we just want you to answer the phone.'

- [REDACTED] Highlawn Avenue SE, Howland Township, Ohio

SA Harasimchuk spoke with Michelle McMahon (McMahon) at this location. McMahon advised SA Harasimchuk that she [McMahon] saw this incident take place. McMahon said that she [McMahon] was home with her [McMahon] husband Richard McMahon (Richard) at the time, but Richard was currently sleeping. McMahon said that she [McMahon] heard the "negotiator" on the megaphone every 15 minutes or so beginning at approximately 11:00 or 11:30pm until approximately 2 or 3 in the morning. McMahon said that she [McMahon] heard the negotiator saying things like 'come out with your hands up, we just want to talk and we aren't going to shoot you.' McMahon said that everything went quiet at approximately 2 or 3 in the morning and the drones were put up. McMahon said that she [McMahon] then went to bed after the drones went up but woke up at about 6:30am when she [McMahon] heard a flashbang go off followed by gunfire. McMahon said that she [McMahon] saw an officer and "the kid" being put into ambulances.

- [REDACTED] Highlawn Avenue SE, Howland Township, Ohio

SA Harasimchuk spoke with Gavin Clark (Clark). Clark said that he [Clark] resides at [REDACTED] Highlawn Avenue, however Clark said that he [Clark] had been outside since approximately 9 o'clock last night and had been standing in the area of 3710 Highlawn Avenue SE. Clark said that the police arrived around 8 o'clock the night before and that he heard a female on a megaphone asking "Randall" to come out and to answer the phone. When asked, Clark said that he [Clark] went inside at about 2 o'clock. When asked, Clark said that he [Clark] heard the flashbang at about 6:30. When asked, Clark said that he [Clark] then heard about 30 shots being fired. When asked, Clark said that there was a pause in between the gunfire.



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- ██████ Highlawn Avenue SE, Howland Township, Ohio

SA Harasimchuk spoke with a female who said that she was the babysitter and that the homeowner was currently working. SA Harasimchuk left a business card with the babysitter. There were no visible exterior video surveillance cameras on the exterior of the residence.

- ██████ Highlawn Avenue SE, Howland Township, Ohio

There was no response at the door and no visible exterior video surveillance cameras. SA Harasimchuk left his business card in the front door.

- ██████ Woodbine Avenue SE, Howland Township, Ohio

There was no response at the door and no visible exterior video surveillance cameras. SA Harasimchuk left his business card in the front door.

Attachments:

1. Neighborhood Canvass of ██████ Highlawn Avenue SE - 08/23/2023
2. Neighborhood Canvass of ██████/█████/█████ & ██████ Highlawn Avenue SE - 08/23/2023
3. Neighborhood Canvass of ██████ Highlawn Avenue SE/█████ Woodbine Avenue - 08/23/2023
4. Neighborhood Canvass of ██████ Highlawn Avenue SE - 08/23/2023
5. Phone Interview of Dawn Logue-Baer - 08/31/2023