



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



2024-3294
Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage Bike Trail near
North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview
Involves: Officer Matthew Meyers (W)
Activity Date: 11/05/2024
Activity Location: Bret Jordan Co. L.P.A
206 S. Meridian Street, Suite A,
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
Authoring Agent: SA Matthew Armstrong

Narrative:

On Tuesday, November 05, 2024, at 1448 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (SA Fletcher) and SA Matt Armstrong (SA Armstrong) interviewed Ravenna Police Department (RPD) Officer Matthew Meyers (Meyers). Officer Meyers was accompanied by his attorney, Paul Siegfert Jr., of the Bret Jordan CO. L.P.A. The interview took place in a conference room at 206 S. Meridian Street, Suite A, Ravenna, Ohio 44266. The interview was audio and video recorded. The video recording has been stored in the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item G. The audio recording has been attached to this report.

Officer Meyers was identified as a RPD police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the October 22, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of the Portage Bike Trail and North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio. Officer Meyers did not discharge a firearm during the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation. It does not purport to contain all the questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview. It may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information obtained during the interview. Time references included in this report correspond with the video recording.

Throughout the interview Officer Meyers provided the following information:

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Officer Meyers has been a police officer for 25 years and has been employed at the RPD for the past 18 years. During the incident, he wore his police uniform with an external vest carrier and considered himself to be well represented as a police officer. Officer Meyers drove cruiser #10, marked with "Ravenna Police" and equipped with emergency lights and sirens. His radio call sign was 424. He stated that he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

Officer Meyers was equipped with a body-worn camera. It was recording during the incident. His cruiser was equipped with a dash camera which was also recording during the incident. He had seen portions of the video footage on the news approximately two times, but he had not watched complete video recordings of the incident.

On October 22, 2024, he and other officers of the RPD were dispatched to a possible stabbing on the Headwaters Trail east of Freedom Street. The dispatcher indicated the subject may have been stabbed in the buttocks and the arm. While driving to the area, he heard Officer Twigg say he had confirmed someone had been stabbed and that someone was walking toward him with a sword. When he arrived, he heard Officer Twigg giving commands saying "Stop! Police Stop! Drop it!" He then jogged toward Officer Twigg and [REDACTED]. He believed [REDACTED] was close behind him.

When he made it to them, he could see the subject was approaching them with a double-bladed axe in his left hand. He estimated the subject approached from approximately 150 yards away. They all began moving forward to create space between them and the stabbing victim. Officers continued to give commands repeatedly, but the subject kept approaching them. At one point the subject stopped and raised the axe above his head in an attack position. They began retreating but the subject kept coming toward them saying "Fuck you! Fuck you! (05:55)" He added the subject also continued toward them with a "1000-yard stare", the axe in one hand, and a knife in his right hand.

At one point he remembered the subject was not stopping and he said, "God we have to do it." or "We're going to have to do this." He could feel his trigger clicking as he squeezed it, but he did not fire. As he squeezed his trigger, he heard [REDACTED] say, "I have a shot (04:45)." He also heard more than one gun being fired and saw the subject fall to ground.

When they moved up to the subject, he kicked the axe away and Officer Twigg removed the knife from the subject's right hand. He believed Officer Twigg secured the knife. They immediately began treating the subject. He remembered Officer Twigg

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packed a wound. The medics were close behind them. One of the medics ran to them and began treating the subject.

He believed he was to the left of the other three officers. [REDACTED] was to his right followed by [REDACTED] and then to the far right was Officer Twigg. He was not certain of the positions of [REDACTED] and Officer Twigg and said they could have been reversed.

He believed Officer Twigg asked for another squad and he remembered hearing sirens in the background. After moving away from the subject, he asked [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] if they had fired their guns. They indicated they did.

When the shots were fired, he estimated the subject was less than 12 feet from them and continued toward them. He reiterated that he heard [REDACTED] say, "I have a shot." and believed that was the reason he did not fire. However, he knew from the video that [REDACTED] actually said, "Shots fired." and that [REDACTED] never said, "I have a shot." He believed he heard between 4 and 6 quick gunshots. Originally, he believed everyone but him was firing.

Officer Meyers said he feared for his safety during the incident, but it was hard to describe how he felt during the incident. As the subject advanced toward them, he believed the subject intended to get to the victim and finish what he started.

Officer Meyers consented to agents reviewing all body camera video including any potential Garrity derived information and any written reports he may complete.

References:

Reference Item G - RPD Officer Interviews

Attachments:

1. 2024-11-05 Audio Interview Witness Officer Matthew Meyers