



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



2023-2232

Theft Offense - Ta'kiya Mone't Yvette Young, Ofc. Connor Grubb (S)

To: Gary Tyack, Franklin County Prosecutor
From: Ohio BCI Special Agent James Poole #81
Activity Location: 5991 Sunbury Rd Westerville OH 43081
Date: November 18, 2023
BCI Case #: 2023-2232
Lab #: 2023-18282

On August 24, 2023, BCI was requested by Blendon Township Police Department (BTPD) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) and Theft Offense which occurred at the Kroger located at 5991 South Sunbury Road in Westerville, OH. An unidentified female, who was later identified as Ta'kiya Young (Young), was confronted by BTPD officers regarding an accusation of theft from Kroger. During the encounter, Young reportedly attempted to flee the scene and struck a BTPD officer with her vehicle, and a BTPD officer discharged their firearm in response. Young was transported to Mount Carmel St. Ann's medical center with alleged gunshot wounds, where she was later pronounced deceased.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the August 24, 2023, Theft that was conducted prior to the officer involved shooting in Franklin County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail are not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident.

Investigative Team

Lead BCI Special Agent:

- SA James Poole

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA Kyle Douglas

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- SA Andrew Russell
- SA Jonathan Scale
- SA Matthew Collins
- SA Ryan Scheiderer
- SA Chad Holcomb
- SA David Hornyak
- SA Perry Roeser
- SA Steven Seitzman
- SA Jennifer Comisford
- SA David Wieging
- SA Joseph Wilhelm
- SA Lauren Frazier
- SA Douglas Eveslage

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents/Evidence Technicians:

- SA Mathew Austin (lead)
- SA Cassie Tackett

BCI Investigative Supervisors:

- Acting Special Agent Supervisor James Mulford BCI

Criminal Intelligence Analysts:

- Stephanie Little (primary)

BCI Cyber Crimes Unit Personnel:

- Computer Forensic Specialist Jarrod Scott

Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort

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to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview of the officers who discharged their weapons
- Recorded interviews of officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview(s) of the involved subject and others subjects directly involved in the incident
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) communications relative to the incident
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Conducted search warrants on phones, vehicle, and communication apps

Incident Summary/Overview

On August 24, 2023 at approximately 1823 hours, BTPD officers were assisting an individual who was locked out of their vehicle in the Kroger parking lot located at 5991 South Sunbury Road in Westerville, OH. While assisting with the vehicle lockout, a Kroger employee ran from the store to the officers and advised them a female in a nearby vehicle had stolen items from the store. Officers approached the vehicle, which was a black Lexus sedan. Sgt. Moynihan knocked on the driver window and advised the female driver to exit the vehicle. The female driver was later identified as Ta'kiya Young (Young). Sgt. Moynihan gave Young several commands to exit the vehicle, telling her, "Out of the car." Ofc. Grubb had observed the interaction between Sgt. Moynihan and Young, then moved past Sgt. Moynihan and positioned himself in front of Young's vehicle. As Young does not comply with Sgt. Moynihan's commands to exit the vehicle, Ofc. Grubb also gave Young verbal commands and unholstered his duty weapon. Young denied stealing anything from Kroger and refused to exit the vehicle, stating, "No I'm not gonna do that." Young begins to turn her steering wheel and

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accelerated towards Ofc. Grubb at a rapid speed. Sgt. Moynihan grabbed the top of the driver window, which was partially open, and attempts to break the window. As Young's vehicle came into contact with Ofc. Grubb, he fired one shot at Young inside the vehicle with a one-handed righthand grip, and his left hand on the hood of Young's vehicle. Ofc. Young's vehicle continued to roll towards the Kroger building, near the "Rx Walkup" window. Young's vehicle came to a stop underneath an awning near a pillar attached to the Kroger building. As the vehicle came to a stop, Young fell out of the vehicle to the ground. Ofc. Grubb and Sgt. Moynihan secured Young with handcuffs and then began rendering first aid. Ofc. Grubb requested emergency medical response via radio dispatch. Emergency medics arrived several minutes later to transport Young to the hospital where she was later pronounced deceased.

Subsequent Investigation

After further investigation it was found that Young and two other unknown Black females, one closely resembling Young's sister, Tanyla Young (Tanyla), and the third female who is still unknown at this time, were stealing liquor from multiple Kroger locations on August 24, 2023. The three individuals were seen on surveillance cameras around 5:30PM at the Pickerington Kroger, located at 7833 Refugee Rd., Pickerington, Ohio, in Fairfield County. The three females had reportedly stolen fifteen (15) bottles totaling \$617.85.4. The three females were then seen leaving in a black Lexus sedan and were last seen speeding through the parking lot.

At 6:30PM, Young and the same two females, dressed in the same clothing, are seen entering the Westerville Kroger, located at 5991 Sunbury Rd., Westerville, Ohio, in Franklin County. They are then witnessed stealing a total of twelve (12) bottles of liquor totaling \$701.82. The females then leave, with Young getting into a black Lexus and the other two females leaving in a black Chevrolet Cruze with no license plates. The two females are able to leave while Young is encountered by the Blendon Township Police officers.

After the officer involved incident occurs, BCI Crime scene conducts a search on Young's vehicle and finds seventeen (17) bottles of Liquor totaling \$580.85. The bottles are identified as being the same bottles from the Pickerington Kroger and Westerville Kroger.

Special Agents attempted to Interview Tanyla Young regarding her involvement, but were unable to get ahold of her. Special Agents also used search warrants on Young's phone and vehicle to try and identify the third female but were unable to.

Physical Evidence and Laboratory Reports

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Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

Seventeen (17) bottles of liquor were recovered from young's vehicle.

Young's Phone

Investigative Interviews

The following information comprises extremely abbreviated versions of the statements made by the witness and/or participants of this incident deemed by the author to be of most relevance to the overall understanding of the incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview, including those not synopsized below.

Jessica Enochs

Enochs stated that she was inside the Kroger liquor store making a purchase. The clerk at the counter left from behind the counter, was watching and asked three African American females if they needed anything; they replied no. Enochs stated that the clerk said, "those bottles sure fit nice in your purse, don't they". Enochs didn't see the females placing any liquor in their purses, but she did hear them putting the liquor in the purses and the clinking noises of the bottles touching each other. Enochs doesn't remember what the females were wearing but said they were a bit heavier in weight and doesn't think any of them were over the age of 25. All the females had very large handbags. Enochs left the liquor store and proceeded near the self-checkout near the pharmacy. Enochs didn't know if the liquor store clerk was able to tell other Kroger employees what was going on. Enochs told two employees and informed them that some people were attempting to steal from the liquor store. Additional Kroger employees were then called over. As Enochs and the Kroger employees were standing near the self-checkout, the three females walked by and Enochs pointed them out to the Kroger employees. As the females went out the door, the security alarms went off. A female Kroger employee followed the three females out the door. Enochs didn't see if the females split up or stayed together once they exited the store.

Barbara Elek

Elek stated that she was working at the Kroger located at 5991 S. Sunbury Road on August 24th. Elek was working at the self-checkout located near the pharmacy and liquor store. Elek was with her co-worker, near the self-checkout, when the co-worker mentioned that people stole items from the liquor store. She saw Ta'kiya Young

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(Young) and at least one other African-American female with large bags exit the store near the self-checkout. Elek never exited the store and never left the self-checkout area

Jaylyn Young

Kroger employee Jaylyn Young (Jaylyn) provided a verbal statement to BCI regarding the incident. Jaylyn had also provided a written witness statement to a deputy from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO). Jaylyn had been working near the Kroger front desk when three females triggered the theft sensor lights and sirens as they exited the store. Another employee notified Jaylyn the females had stolen alcohol from the liquor store inside Kroger. Jaylyn exited the store to attempt to obtain a photo of license plates of the vehicles entered by the females. One of the females, later identified as Ta'kiya Young (Young), entered a black sedan. Jaylyn observed two BTPD police officers assisting someone parked directly behind Young's vehicle. Jaylyn notified BTPD Sgt. Moynihan a theft from Kroger had just been committed by Young. Jaylyn heard Sgt. Moynihan command Young to get out of the vehicle, which she refused to do. Jaylyn stated Sgt. Moynihan confronted Ta'kiya about the theft and ordered her to get out of the car. Jaylyn stated Ta'kiya still refused and began to start her vehicle. Jaylyn recalled a second BTPD officer had positioned himself in front of Young's vehicle on the driver side with his weapon out pointing downward. As Young started her vehicle, Jaylyn explained the second BTPD officer raised his weapon and pointed it at Young, commanding her to stop and get out. Jaylyn stated the officer commanded Young to get out, "at least five different times." Jaylyn stated she did not want to witness anything further and turned to leave. Jaylyn then saw the back of Young's vehicle move forward and heard the engine roar. Jaylyn then heard one gunshot, which caused her to run back into the Kroger. Jaylyn explained how she ran directly inside and did not look back. After a few minutes, Jaylyn stated she then looked out the front doors of Kroger to see what had happened and saw Young's vehicle crashed into the side of the Kroger building with officers conducting CPR on Young.

Tanyla Young

Tanyla Young (Tanyla), sister of Ta'kiya Young, was identified by the BCI Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) as a potential witness to the OICI and as one of the three females who was with Young stealing liquor. On November 5, 2023, BCI Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) attempted to contact Attorney Frank Benson (Attorney Benson), who is representing Tanyla, to interview her as a potential witness to the OICI. On November 7th, 2023, Attorney Benson advised SA Poole he had not made contact yet with his client Tanyla regarding the incident. On November 8th, 2023, SA Poole and SA Scheiderer attempted to locate Tanyla at her residence of 2627 Divot Pl., Columbus, Ohio. Agents were greeted with a young teenage male named Tim who stated Tanyla
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lived there, but was at work. When asked where she worked, Tim did not know where Tanyla worked and stated, "Somewhere on the eastside." When asked if agents could have her phone number to call her, Tim gave a wrong number. Agents called the number Tim gave and a female answered who identified as Mercedes Lyson. Agents tried calling two other numbers they had on file for Tanyla, but found they were disconnected.

Summary

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed (or attempted), and all known pertinent records and evidence have been obtained and reviewed. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. BCI's investigation into this Theft Incident is concluded unless such new information/witnesses is/are identified through grand jury or other means. Agents remain available for consultation and/or to perform any additional investigation, analysis, processing and/or other assistance/involvement which might be deemed to be necessary to the investigation.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the Theft incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent James Poole. SA Poole can be reached via email at James.poole@ohioago.gov or by telephone, at 614-370-4820.

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