



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



2023-2598

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 415 Gregg Street, Washington Court House, OH 43160

Investigative Activity: Scene Processing
Activity Date: October 1, 2023
Activity Location: 415 Gregg Street, Washington Court House, OH 43160 (*Scene 1*)
Washington Court House Police Department (*Scene 2*)
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Mathew Austin

On October 1, 2023, the Washington Court House Police Department (WCHPD) requested assistance from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) regarding an officer involved critical incident. It was reported that a male subject, later identified as Timothy West (West), was tased after fleeing on foot from a vehicle during a traffic stop. WCHPD reported that after being tased, West fell to the ground, became unresponsive, and he was pronounced deceased a short time later at the hospital. Special Agent (SA) Mathew Austin from the Crime Scene Unit along with SA Steven Seitzman and Lauren Frazier from the Special Investigations Unit responded to assist.

SA Austin arrived at the incident location (see above) at approximately 2100 hours and met with SA Seitzman and Frazier. Crime scene tape and WCHPD personnel secured the southwest side yard of 415 Gregg Street. SA Austin was advised this was the location where West was tased. The residential street ran northeast/southwest and SA Austin was advised the traffic stop occurred to the southwest a few homes down. WCHPD pointed out a stain in the roadway in front of 328 Gregg Street that was reportedly from their cruiser; both the cruiser and the vehicle from the traffic stop had been removed. SA Austin was advised both vehicles had been heading northeast when the stop occurred, and that West had fled northeast.



Image 1. Overall diagram of scene

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SA Austin documented the scene through photography and used a Leica 3D scanner to collect measurements of the area. 415 Gregg Street was described as a single-story white home with a short driveway leading from the roadway to an attached garage. SA Seitzman advised he had obtained written consent from the homeowner to process the property. The southwest side of the home had a large grass side yard, a line of evergreen trees and a lattice wall. Beyond the trees and lattice was a paved side patio, brick chimney, and an entrance to the home. The homeowners advised there was a security camera at the rear of the patio area that was not operational. A small gap between trees served as the only real entrance/exit to the side patio area.



Image 2. Patio area on SW side of 415 Gregg Street

SA Austin collected several items of evidence from the area. Item 1 was a pair of black and yellow sunglasses. A cut blue XL t-shirt (item 2) was collected from the yard. A small piece of blue fabric that appeared torn was also located at the entrance to the patio area (item 3). Two green Taser cartridge doors were located on the paved portion of the patio just beyond the gap in the trees with numerous anti-felon identifications disks (AFIDs) nearby. The cartridge doors and AFIDs were collected together as item 4. A disturbance to the soil/mulch that appeared to be a skid mark was observed on the north side of the gap in the trees. A brick that was partially exposed had a reddish-brown stain that tested positive for blood using TMB¹. Swabs of the bloodstain were collected as item 5.

¹ Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) is a presumptive chemical test for blood based on the detection of hemoglobin. It is a color producing test that will turn the swab a bluish green color if positive.

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Image 3. Disturbed ground and bloody brick

A few pieces of suspected packaging from medical intervention were observed in the grass and documented through photography. No other items of evidence were located. SA Austin cleared this scene at approximately 2222 hours.

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Scene 2- Washington Court House Police Department

At approximately 2230 hours, SA Austin met with the involved officer, Officer Phillips, at the WCHPD. Officer Phillips was documented through photography. SA Austin was advised that he appeared as he did during the incident except for his Taser and body worn camera which had already been collected by WCHPD supervisors. Officer Phillips' firearm and spare magazines were photographed and found to all be completely loaded. Officer Phillips advised that he did not have any physical contact or altercation with West prior to the Taser deployment.

SA Austin was provided with Officer Phillips' Taser (s/n [REDACTED]) and an unfired cartridge in a sealed plastic bag by Lieutenant Pheifer. With assistance from SA Seitzman, the data from the Taser was downloaded prior to it and the cartridge being packaged together as item 1. Sergeant Heinz provided SA Austin with a fired Taser cartridge (s/n [REDACTED]) in a sealed plastic bag that he advised was collected from the incident location (item 3).

SA Austin was also provided with numerous paper bags and backpacks by Sergeant Heinz that he advised were West's property. The property was documented through photography and in general, consisted of miscellaneous items, tools, clothing, a Florida ID card belonging to West, and some suspected drug paraphernalia. One of the paper bags reportedly contained the property located on West immediately after the incident. This bag contained a hat, two phones, \$250 in currency, a glass pipe, a folding knife, and an Ozark Trail fixed-blade knife. A separate paper bag labeled "E.R." was found to contain green underwear, two black socks, a cut pair of khaki-colored shorts, a cut black belt, and an empty Ozark Trail fixed-knife sheath. Sergeant Heinz reported the knife was found in the sheath on West's belt after the incident. The clothing collected from the hospital along with the fixed-blade knife were collected together as item 2 (see image 4 below).

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Image 4. West's clothing and fixed-blade knife

SA Austin cleared scene 2 at approximately 0000 hours. On October 2, 2023, at 0240 hours, all of the collected evidence from both scenes were placed into temporary evidence locker B at the BCI office in Athens, OH. On October 3, 2023, at 1330 hours, these items were then placed into evidence at the BCI office in London.

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