



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



2023-0052

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1785 Rt. 28, Lot 419, Goshen Township, OH 45122 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Tyler Smith (W)
Date of Activity: 01/17/2023
Activity Location: Smith, Officer Tyler – Business – 6757 Goshen Rd, Goshen, OH 45122, Clermont County
Author: SA Douglas Eveslage, #66

Narrative:

On January 6, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) was called by the Goshen Township Police Department in Clermont County, Ohio, to assist with an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred at 1785 State Route 28, Lot 419 AA, Goshen Township, Ohio, between the Goshen Township Police Department and subject, Thomas Dewald Jr. (Dewald).

On January 17, 2023, Special Agents Lauren Frazier and Douglas Eveslage interviewed Officer Tyler Smith (Smith) at the Goshen Township Police Department, located at 6757 Goshen Road, Goshen, Ohio. Also present for the interview was Attorney Steve Lazarus. The interview began at 0943 hours.

Smith has been a police officer for approximately ten years and the last two years have been with the Goshen Township Police Department. Smith's badge number is 36, he was a uniformed officer wearing a body camera on January 6, 2023, operating on Clermont County's primary radio channel, and his shift was from 1200 hours to 0000 hours.

Smith responded to 1785 State Route 28, Lot 419 for a male subject, Thomas Dewald Jr, with active felony domestic warrants filed by the Goshen Township Police Department. Smith explained that Detectives ██████████ and Christopher McMillan arrived first, Officer Matthew Richwine and Sergeant Dillon West arrived next, and Officer Smith was the last to arrive on scene. When Smith entered the residence he could hear "them saying drop the knives, drop the knives." Smith stated that he drew his "service weapon" as he entered the bedroom where other officers were and noticed Dewald on the ground and saw the taser wires, but did not know at that time who had deployed the taser.

Smith said the other officers made statements that Dewald had "cut his neck", so Smith

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holstered and located towels in the residence to assist with medical treatment of Dewald's injuries; however, Detective [REDACTED] was already applying "direct pressure" to Dewald's neck with a t-shirt. Smith recalls Sergeant West retrieving a first aid kit and Detective McMillan retrieving an automated external defibrillator (AED).

Dewald's stepson, Brian Hendrigan, was also inside the residence when officers were involved in the critical incident.

This report was concluded at 0951 hours and only includes the pertinent portions of the interview. Please refer to the audio recording for additional information.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-01-17 Ofc. Tyler Smith Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.