



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



2022-1354
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 135 Old National Rd, Lore City
(L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Sheriff Jeffrey D. Paden (W)
Date of Activity: 07/19/2022
Activity Location: Guernsey County Sheriff's Office – Business – 601 Southgate Parkway, Cambridge, OH 43725, Guernsey County
Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at 1045 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) interviewed Guernsey County Sheriff Jeffery Paden (Sheriff Paden). The interview took place at the Guernsey County Sheriff's office at 601 Southgate Pkwy., Cambridge, Ohio. Sheriff Paden was identified as being a police officer who responded to a vehicle barricade situation which involved the now deceased Joy Graham. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Prior to the interview SA Poole advised Sheriff Paden that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation and that this interview was voluntary. Sheriff Paden verbally confirmed he understood and acknowledged he would like to continue with the interview.

Sheriff Paden stated he was off duty when he received a phone call from Major Wilkinson regarding the activation of the Strategic Response Team (SRT). Sheriff Paden received a debrief from him regarding a female driver who lead Barnesville Police Department on a pursuit, Ohio State highway Patrol then spiked the tires, and now the suspect has barricaded herself in the vehicle with a gun. Sheriff Paden decided to respond since he was available. Sheriff Paden believed he arrived at the scene around 10:22 PM.

Sheriff Paden took over as a lead negotiator with the suspect, who was later identified as Joy Graham (Graham). While negotiating with Graham, Sheriff Paden did confirm with Graham that

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

she did have a gun and she was not going to comply with orders of law enforcement.

SA Poole asked Sheriff Paden if he thought Graham was acting unusual during their conversations. Sheriff Paden stated, "Yes." He explained he found it weird that she was putting on Chapstick in the mirror acting like the situation they were all in was not a big deal and was not comprehending law enforcement's orders. Sheriff Paden stated he thought Graham might have been on drugs or had some mental issues during that time.

Sheriff Paden explained Major Wilkinson had finalized a plan to extract Graham from the vehicle. Sheriff Paden's role was to use a ballistic shield to approach Graham's vehicle on the rear driver's side at a forty-five degree angle to continue negotiations with Graham and to be used as a distraction while the SRT approaches from the passenger side.

Sheriff Paden explained he heard the SRT break the passenger window and saw Graham turn her head in that direction. Sheriff Paden explained from where he was he could only see Graham's neck and head. Sheriff Paden explained that is when he heard the flash grenade go off followed by shots being fired. During that time, he could still see Graham's head looking toward the passenger side door when heard a final gunshot and saw Graham's head go limp.

Sheriff Paden explained how he then tactically approached the driver's side door behind the ballistic shield. He was not getting a response from Graham so he broke the driver's side window with the shield. Sheriff Paden explained he saw that the handgun was still in Graham's hand with her index finger in the trigger guard. Sheriff Paden explained, for everyone's safety, he retrieved the pistol from Graham, later giving it to BCI's forensic Special Agents.

After securing the pistol, Sheriff Paden explained he extracted Joy Graham out of the vehicle and called for the medic to come in. The medics found a slight electromagnetic pulse and began chest compressions ultimately transporting her to the hospital.

Sheriff Paden also explained he did not have a body camera on at the time.

SA Poole asked Sheriff Paden what weapon he had out during the incident. Sheriff Paden stated, he had a 40. caliber Smith and Wesson handgun while initiating negotiations, but did not have a weapon out when he approached the vehicle behind the shield.

SA Poole asked if Sheriff Paden fired his weapon at any time. Sheriff Paden stated, "No."

SA Poole asked Sheriff Paden if he ever saw Graham point the weapon at anyone during the incident. Sheriff Paden explained, from his point of view no he could not see her hands.

SA Poole asked Sheriff Paden if during his negotiations with Graham if she ever threatened to use her weapon. Sheriff Paden stated, "No."

SA Poole asked Sheriff Paden if he saw who shot first or which deputies shot. Sheriff Paden stated, "No." He further explained stating from the angle he was at he could not see who was on the passenger side of the vehicle, and when the shots rang out he hunched behind the ballistic shield because he was exposed with no cover. He did not see if the deputies on the driver side shot or not. Sheriff Paden also explained when he heard the last shot and saw Graham's head go limp, he thought she might have shot herself. After reviewing the body worn cameras he

then realized which deputies shot.

The interview ended at 1057 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 7-19-22 Sheriff Jeffrey Paden interview