

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



2022-1527

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 5760 US 62, Hillsboro, OH, Highland County (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: Richard Jean Poulin (S)

Date of Activity: 07/21/2022

Activity Location: Highland County Sheriffs Office – Business – Highland County

Justice Center, 130 Homestead Avenue, Hillsboro, OH 45133,

Highland County

Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On July 17, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by Highland County Sheriff Donald Barrera to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on US 62 near the Hillsboro Church of God (5760 US 62, Hillsboro, Ohio). The OICI entailed Highland County Sheriff's Office Sergeant (Sgt. Firing a single, fatal shot at Richard Jean Poulin (Poulin) at the end of a vehicle pursuit.

On July 21, 2022, at 1827 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman), Richard Ward (SA Ward), and Kenneth Smith (SA Smith) interviewed Highland County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Deputy Dylan Quenneville (Deputy Quenneville) regarding his involvement in the OICI on July 17, 2022. The interview took place at HCSO. Deputy Quenneville was represented by Fraternal Order of Police Senior Staff Representative Barry Gray. Deputy Quenneville confirmed he was attending the interview voluntarily. The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device.

The information provided below summarizes key points from the recorded interview and is not a verbatim account. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify the content of the interview.

While the terms "suspect" or "subject" may have been used by Deputy Quenneville during the interview to identify Poulin, for clarity, knowing that Poulin had been identified during the investigation, Poulin's name will be utilized in this report.

Deputy Quenneville advised that he has been employed by HCSO since 2016. He stated that

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he began his career with HCSO as a dispatcher. In 2017, he was transferred to the jail division of HCSO. He was later transferred back to the dispatch center until he was reassigned to the road patrol as a sworn deputy on June 19, 2022. He did not have any prior law enforcement experience prior to working for HCSO. His unit number is "thirty-six-eighteen (3618)," which is also his radio call sign. He said that he was working the midnight shift on July 16-July 17, 2022. His duty hours were between 1900-0700 hours. He explained to the agents that he was still in the field training program and was paired with his training deputy, Deputy Steven Alexander (Deputy Alexander). He said they were driving a marked HCSO cruiser on that date. He advised that he was wearing his department-issued deputy sheriff uniform.

Regarding the OICI, Deputy Quenneville advised BCI agents of the following information:

Deputy Quenneville said he was sitting in the "bull pen" area at the HCSO. He was notified via dispatch of a vehicle pursuit initiated by Sgt. He was informed the pursuit was southbound on US-62 from the unincorporated Samantha community. Sgt. requested he and Deputy Alexander respond to the Westview Motors business to deploy a tire deflation device. They responded to the area, and Deputy Alexander subsequently deployed the tire deflation device as Poulin passed them. They believed the deployment was successful.

After Poulin's vehicle passed Westview Motors, Deputies Quenneville and Alexander joined the pursuit. He believed they were the fourth police vehicle in the pursuit. He said they were behind Sgt. Deputy Sarah McKenzie (Deputy McKenzie), and a Hillsboro police officer [Officer Daniel Hopkins]. He recalled that Hillsboro Police Officer Childers deployed a tire deflation device near the Frisch's restaurant in Hillsboro.

The pursuit continued through Hillsboro. He said the vehicle finally came to a stop, and Sgt. and Deputy McKenzie conducted a "felony stop." He clarified that Sgt. parked behind Poulin's vehicle and Deputy McKenzie parked to the right of Sgt. cruiser. Sgt. utilized the public address system in his cruiser to give commands to Poulin. As Sgt. was giving commands, he and Deputy Alexander arrived and parked to the left of Sgt. s cruiser. He said Poulin failed to follow Sgt. s instructions.
Sgt. eventually exited his cruiser and went to the passenger side of Poulin's truck. He recalled that Sgt. struck the front passenger window with his collapsible ASP baton. He did not recall with which hand Sgt. was holding the baton. After striking the front passenger window, Sgt. yelled for Deputy Alexander to go to the driver's side to get Poulin out of the vehicle. Deputy Quenneville went to the left rear of Poulin's truck. He recalled seeing Deputy Alexander attempting to shatter the window with the "butt of his gun." He said that Deputy Alexander's attempts were unsuccessful and the magazine ejected from his gun. Sgt. then came around the front of Poulin's truck and struck the driver's window with his collapsible baton. He remembered seeing Sgt. with his baton and handgun out, but he wasn't sure with which hand Sgt. was holding each object. He saw Deputy Alexander reach down to retrieve his ejected magazine, and at that time, he heard an apparent gunshot.

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Deputy Quenneville said he retreated further behind Poulin's truck. He heard Sqt.

Deputy Alexander that he did not pull the trigger on his gun and he was uncertain as to why it discharged. He went to the driver's door with Deputy Alexander. He observed blood on Poulin's shirt and a wound on the left side of his neck. Deputy Alexander applied pressure to the wound,

and he removed Poulin from the vehicle with the help of Deputy Alexander. Once Poulin was out of the vehicle, he held pressure on Poulin's wound while Deputy McKenzie ran to her cruiser to retrieve first aid supplies. Once Deputy McKenzie returned, he removed gauze from the first aid kit and used it to apply pressure to Poulin's wound. He waited with Poulin until EMS arrived. While he was rendering aid to Poulin, he believed someone reached inside Poulin's truck to turn off the radio, though he was uncertain who. He did not know whether any other deputies went inside the truck, as his focus was on providing aid to Poulin.

Deputy Quenneville recalled that at some point during the critical portion of the incident, Sgt. dropped his baton. Deputy Quenneville picked it up and placed it on a toolbox in the bed of Poulin's pick-up truck.

After Poulin's care was relinquished to EMS personnel, Deputy Quenneville placed crime scene tape around the scene.

Deputy Quenneville drew a diagram of the placement of the police cruisers in relation to Poulin's vehicle. He signed the diagram and provided it to BCI agents. The diagram was added to the permanent case file.

The interview was concluded at 1841 hours. The audio recording is attached below. Also attached is Deputy Quenneville's drawing.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-21/ Interview of HCSO Deputy Dylan Quenneville

Attachment # 02: Deputy Quenneville Drawing of Scene

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Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.



