



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



2023-2234

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 2001 E. Livingston St., Celina,  
Oh. 45822

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Date of Activity:** 09/05/2023  
**Activity Location:** Celina Police Department – Business – 202 North Main Street,  
Celina, OH 45822, Mercer County  
**Author:** SA Tiffany Najmulski, #49

**Narrative:**

On 09/05/2023, Special Agent (SA) Tiffany Najmulski (Najmulski) and Special Agent (SA) Jason Snyder (Snyder) met with Celina Officer Anthony Poppe (Officer Poppe) at the Celina Police Department (CPD), 202 N. Main Street, Celina, Ohio. Also present for the interview was Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Attorney John Sauter.

The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what Officer Poppe's role was when he arrived as back up after the shooting took place during the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI). The following is a summary of the interview which was recorded and attached to the case file.

Officer Poppe advised he signed the criminal investigation notification form and did not have questions regarding signing it. Officer Poppe and his attorney provided SA Snyder with a copy of Officer Poppe's statement regarding the events of the OICI which Officer Poppe signed and dated.

Officer Poppe described his role the night of the incident. Around 0200 hours, Officer Powell radioed he was on a vehicle in the park, which Officer Poppe said was not unusual for that location. Officer Poppe said he started heading that way and he heard Officer Rice say he was out with Officer Powell. Officer Poppe said he heard, who he thought was, Officer Rice say the driver was taking off and a short time later, said shots fired. Officer Poppe told dispatch to get St. Mary's Police, Coldwater Police, and the Mercer County Sheriff's Department in route.

As Officer Poppe approached the area, he saw Officer Rice and Officer Powell's vehicles parked in a northeast position. The police vehicles appeared, to Officer Poppe, to be in a felony stop position on a silver Chevy Trailblazer that was parked on the bike path. Officer Poppe was unable to see movement in the subject's vehicle. He was then told there was a passenger in the vehicle so he got on his loud speaker and gave orders to the driver to put his hands out the window. The passenger yelled out that the driver was injured. Officer Poppe radioed for an

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Finalized by SAS Scott A. Stranahan on  
09/13/2023

ambulance to come to the scene. The passenger was ordered out and detained. The passenger then stated she had a baby in the car. Officer Poppe noticed blood on her leg and asked her if she was okay. The passenger advised she was and that she had had surgery. Officer Poppe asked the passenger if there were weapons in the car and she stated there was a knife in the car.

Officer Poppe stated the decision was made to approach the vehicle and not wait for back up so officers could check on the baby. Officers approached the car and retrieved the baby from the car. The baby was examined and looked to be fine. She was eventually returned to her mother.

Officer Powell and Officer Poppe then approached the driver and found him slumped over. Officer Poppe saw two bullet holes through the rear passenger window what looked to be in the direction of the driver. Officer Poppe saw blood on the floorboard, a small knife, and a large sheathed knife "like a bush knife". He checked the driver and found he had a pulse and called for an ambulance. Officer Poppe said the driver's hand was near the larger knife so he moved the driver's hand and noticed the driver was incapacitated and had no resistance. Officer Poppe saw the driver's eye lids were open a little bit and Officer Powell said the driver was breathing.

Officer Poppe saw a cell phone on the dashboard and heard someone yelling in the background. Officer Poppe said he could not focus knowing someone was on the phone and if the person on the line was a family member, he did not want them hearing their loved one was hurt so he ended the call.

Then, Officer Powell told Officer Poppe the driver did not have a pulse. Officer Poppe said the man was large in size and Officer Poppe had not wanted to get the man out of the car without the ambulance and the manpower to get him out. When back up from the other police departments arrived, officers were then able to get the driver out onto the ground. Officer Poppe saw one gunshot wound to the driver's back and leg. Before doing CPR, Officer Poppe said he knew he needed to get the wounds "sealed up". Officer Poppe and other officers rendered medical aid to the driver until medics arrived.

Officer Poppe received information from Officer Powell that the female passenger made an unsolicited comment that the subject should not have done what he did. She also said the subject had anger issues and autistic tendencies.

Officer Poppe said as he examined the scene, he saw unspent and spent rounds and gun magazines on the ground. SA Snyder asked Officer Poppe to sketch the scene as it was when he arrived, which he did (attached).

Officer Poppe stated he had body cam and dash cam video recordings and those had been downloaded and given to special agents.

Officer Poppe had no further pertinent information and the interview concluded.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from

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the audio recording. 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 or responses. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the audio recording.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment # 01: Statement of Anthony Poppe
- Attachment # 02: CIN for Powell Poppe and Rice
- Attachment # 03: Officer Poppe

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**STATEMENT OF  
CELINA POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROLMAN ANTHONY (AJ) POPPE  
REGARDING INCIDENT OF AUGUST 25, 2023**

I began full-time employment with the City of Celina Police Department in June, 2015 as a Patrolman. I have prior military experience. I was in the Marine Corps from September, 2009 through February, 2013.

I completed my basic peace officer training in April, 2015 at Wright State University-Lake Campus in Celina, Ohio.

My current supervisors at the PD are Sgt. Bartlett and Sgt. Crosby. My regularly assigned work hours are from 8:00 PM until 4:00 AM. I work Wednesday PM through Monday AM. My current assignment is road patrol. I am an FTO since 2018. Since 2022 I have served as an instructor at the Police Academy.

I do not wear contacts or prescription glasses. I do not take prescription medication. I was not under the influence of alcohol or any drug, prescription or otherwise, on the date of the incident. I had not consumed alcohol in the 48 hours prior to the incident.

I have received no discipline related to any use of force. I did not use any force in the August 25, 2023 incident.

I am familiar with the PD's use of force policies, as I receive training on them in a class setting on an annual basis. The use of force training is lead by Patrolman David Powell. I last receive use of force training in December 2022 or January 2023.

I carry a S&W 40 as my primary duty weapon. The pistol is issued to me by the PD. I last qualified for the weapon earlier this summer. I carry two (2) magazines on an outer carrier (vest), with one (1) additional magazine loaded in the pistol. There are fifteen (15) rounds of

ammunition in each magazine. I typically load one (1) additional round of ammunition in the chamber of my duty weapon.

I had access to an AR-15 rifle and a Mossberg shotgun in my patrol vehicle at the time of the incident. I also qualified with the weapons this summer. I did not use either of those weapons during the incident.

On the date of the incident, I was well-rested. I had not worked any overtime or special duty prior to the start of that shift. I was dressed in the standard City of Celina Police Department uniform, which clearly identifies me as a law enforcement officer. I was wearing a body-worn-camera in accordance with the PD's body-cam policy. I arrived to the scene of the incident in marked-cruiser #211, which is a Ford Explorer SUV. The cruiser contains an in-car video recording system. To the best of my knowledge, both my body camera and in-car camera were recording during the incident. My radio call sign is Unit 10.

Prior to hearing radio traffic which led me to respond to the scene of the incident at Eastview Park, I was engaged in routine patrol activities. There was nothing particularly unique about the first six (6) hours of my shift. The weather was hot and humid. When I arrived at Eastview Park, the lighting was dark with minimal illumination provided by a single light pole on the west-side of the parking lot in which the incident occurred.

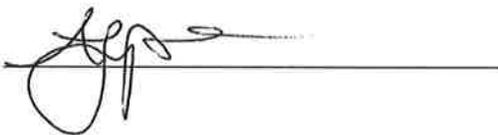
I arrived at Eastview Park less than one minute after I heard radio traffic indicating that shots had been fired. I did not witness shots being fired or any use of force. At the time of my arrival, the vehicle belonging to Corey Andrew was parked on a bike path adjacent to the Eastview Park pond. I assisted Patrolman Powell and Patrolman Justin Rice; I ordered the occupants to exit the vehicle. The female passenger exited the vehicle and walked to my location. As I was

detaining her, she mentioned that her daughter was in the car. I asked if the daughter was ok, and she said she thought so.

I then went to the vehicle where I assisted in removing Mr. Andrew from the vehicle so that he could receive medical treatment on his gunshot wounds. Once Mr. Andrew was placed on the ground I assisted in attempting to perform life-saving measures.

I eventually returned to speak with the female occupant of the vehicle who had been reunited with her child. When I was asking questions about Mr. Andrew and where they lived, she indicated to me that she wished Mr. Andrew would have made a better choice.

I continued to assist with securing the scene, gathering information, and contacting supervisors.



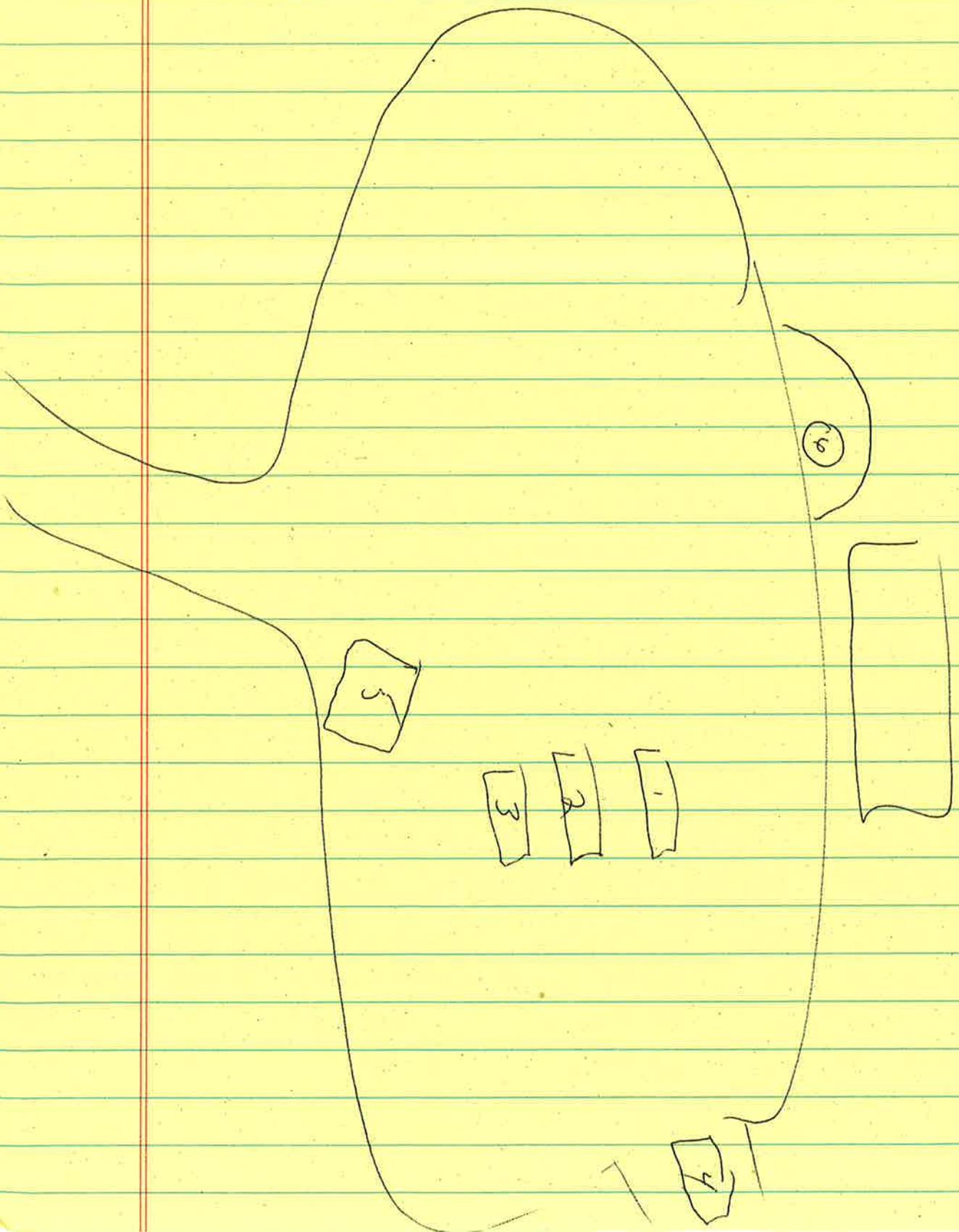
Patrolman Anthony Poppe



Date

Anthony Poppe

AP 9-5-23





Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation



**Criminal Investigation Notification**

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is **not** a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

PT. Dave Power  
Printed Name of Interviewee

9/5/2023  
Date / Time

  
Signature of Interviewee

SA JASON Snyder  
BCI Agent (Printed)

  
BCI Agent (Signature)



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Justin Rice  
Printed Name of Interviewee

09-05-23 14:03 hrs  
Date / Time

[Signature]  
Signature of Interviewee

SA. JASON Snyder  
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]  
BCI Agent (Signature)



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Anthony Poppe  
Printed Name of Interviewee

9-5-23 258pm  
Date / Time

[Signature]  
Signature of Interviewee

SA. Jason Snyder  
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]  
BCI Agent (Signature)