



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



2023-2232

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 5991 S Sunbury Rd, Westerville
OH 43081

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Leah Charamut (W)
Date of Activity: 10/03/2023
Activity Location: Charamut, Leah – Home – 630 S. Sunbury Road #217, Westerville, OH 43081
Author: SA Chad Holcomb, #61

Narrative:

On October 3, 2023 at 1842 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chad Holcomb (Holcomb) and SA Matt Collins (SA Collins) interviewed Leah Charamut (Charamut) relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on August 24, 2023. The interview took place at Charamut's residence. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

Charamut answered her door and SA Holcomb and SA Collins identified themselves and asked Charamut if she would be willing to talk with agents; she agreed.

Charamut stated that what she remembers and what she saw on the news were two different things. SA Holcomb stated that the interview and her statement should be what she remembers from the incident and not what she saw on the news or from the media. Charamut has talked to a councilor regarding this event. Charamut doesn't remember some parts of the incident and the councilor told her it's because she froze during the incident and her brain went into protective mode.

Charamut stated that she was at home and was contacted by her neighbor, Kay Coder (Coder). Coder informed Charamut that she had locked her keys inside her car at Kroger. Charamut went to Kroger to help Coder with her vehicle. They called Blendon Township Police Department (BTPD) for assistance in unlocking the car.

Charamut heard that a female, Ta'Kiya Young (Young), had just stole liquor and was sitting in her vehicle near Charamut and the vehicle that BTPD was attempting to unlock. Charamut believed that Young's car was parked facing their vehicle (front of the vehicle pulled in to the parking spot) and that Young would've had to back out to drive away from the parking spot. Both BTPD officers stopped trying to unlock the car and went over to Young's vehicle. Officers

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on
10/23/2023

were yelling at her to get out of her car. One officer was on the driver's side and the other officer was on the passenger side of Young's vehicle. Charamut didn't hear Young say anything. Charamut doesn't remember any gunshots while Young was parked in the parking spot.

As Young's vehicle was moving towards the Kroger Pharmacy window, Charamut believes she heard a gunshot then. The car then hit a pillar near the building. The police then shot into her window and Charamut saw a 'flare' coming out of the gun. Young was then dragged onto the ground.

Charamut didn't see any other civilians with Young and didn't see Young park the car or go into the store. Charamut was a courtesy clerk at the S. Sunbury Road Kroger for about a year but doesn't currently work there. She never worked in the liquor store. Kroger employees knew that people would steal food and alcohol. Charamut doesn't know if she has ever seen Young at the Kroger.

The interview concluded at approximately 1857 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-2232 Leah Charamut Interview