



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Involves: David West (S)
Date of Activity: 02/21/2025
Author: SA David Hornyak, #112

To: Paul Watkins, Miami County Prosecutor

CC: SAS William Jones, Ohio BCI

From: SA Dave Hornyak, Ohio BCI

Date: March 25, 2025

Case Title: Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 236 McKinley Ave., Piqua, OH

Case Number: 2025-0596

Preface:

This report only briefly summarizes investigative activity and information related to this case. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary; therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be reviewed in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Audio and/or video recordings, where they exist, should also be reviewed as they may contain further specific details.

CASE REQUEST:

On February 21, 2025, the Piqua Police Department contacted the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) to request an investigation into an officer-involved critical incident that resulted in the death of Piqua resident David West (DOB 7/21/1980).

INVESTIGATIVE TEAM:

BCI Special Agents Dave Hornyak and Steve Seitzman conducted the criminal investigation. BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) Special Agent Sarah Taylor and Crime Scene Technician Amy Cruey processed the scene and collected all evidence.

CASE OVERVIEW:

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On the evening of February 21, 2025, the Piqua Police Department (PPD) responded to 236 McKinley Ave. after receiving a 911 call from resident Tammy West. Ms. West stated that her son, David West, had assaulted her and she recommended that PPD send "...a lot of officers." After arriving, officers were invited into the home and received initial information from Mrs. West. They were then led to the basement doorway having been advised that David West was downstairs. The officers interacted with David West from the doorway on the first floor while David West remained in the basement. Duane West informed the officers that David West was armed with a pepper ball gun. During the incident, David West reportedly pointed the pistol in the direction of Lt. Marcos Rodriguez before Lt. Rodriguez fired multiple shots, striking and ultimately killing David West.

BWC VIDEO REVIEW:

Upon arrival at the Piqua Police Department, agents reviewed video from officers' body-worn cameras (BWCs). Officers can be seen interacting with West from the top of the stairs while West remains in the basement. Officers can be heard identifying that they are from the police department. West tells officers that he has a pistol, states that he is refusing to leave, and also calls them "...kidnapping bastards." PPD Lt. Marcos Rodriguez tells West to come out with his hands up before West can be seen on the video raising his pistol directly at Lt. Rodriguez. Lt. Rodriguez fires four shots in response and West disappears from the frame deeper into the basement. Officers remain briefly upstairs before taking the risk to proceed into the basement where they find West lying on the floor with his pistol still near. Seeing that West has suffered multiple gunshot wounds, officers then begin life saving measures until the arrival of emergency medical responders.

INITIAL INVESTIGATION AND INTERVIEWS:

BCI conducted interviews with David West's parents and all officers who initially responded to the residence. Tammy West stated to BCI that her son, David West, had pushed her over violently and temporarily knocked her out, which led to her calling 911. Tammy said that David West "had rage in his eyes," was "a monster" when he drank, and had clearly been drinking that day. Duane West told BCI agents that his son, David West, had the eyes of a "serial killer" that evening. Duane stated that he had informed arriving officers that David West was armed with a pepper ball gun. Tammy acknowledged to interviewing agents that she did not know for certain what type of gun David West may have had and further stated she understood that the officers could not be certain how David was armed. Duane stated to agents that the pepper ball gun looked "real." Duane further described David West as "sneaky" and acknowledged that he did not know what else David may have had with him in the basement. Duane and Tammy separately also told investigators that they did not blame the officers for what happened to David.*

Along with Lt. Marcos Rodriguez, Piqua Police Officers Adam Kimpel, Hunter Mote, and Jackson Heath were also initial responders to the domestic incident. All of the officers reported to BCI that, from their positions near the basement door, they heard West inform officers that he had a pistol. Each of the officers also advised that they were not in a position to see West during his interaction with Lt. Rodriguez.

LT. RODRIGUEZ'S BWC:

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After it was initially reported that Lt. Rodriguez's BWC had not been working during the incident, it was later found that the camera had been operational and recorded the entire encounter. On the footage, David West can be heard telling officers that he has a pistol and can then be seen pointing it directly up the stairs at Lt. Rodriguez. Lt. Rodriguez is then seen firing his duty pistol at West in response. West's pistol was also equipped with a laser optic which can be seen in the video.

CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION:

The BCI Crime Scene Unit collected all evidence in the case, which included both weapons used in the incident: Byrna SD pistol (black) and Lt. Rodriguez's duty pistol. The full Crime Scene investigative report is contained within the BCI case file.

INVOLVED-OFFICER INTERVIEW:

During his voluntary interview with BCI, Lt. Rodriguez stated that when officers first encountered David West that evening, from his position in the basement of the residence, West told the officers he had a gun. Lt. Rodriguez said that during the encounter, West held what looked to be a black semi-automatic pistol and pointed it directly at him. Lt. Rodriguez stated that when brandishing the weapon, West used a two-handed grip with arms fully extended directly up the stairs at him. Lt. Rodriguez said that, believing his life was in danger, he then fired multiple times at West. Lt. Rodriguez said that West then disappeared into the basement. When officers went down the stairs to check on him they found West on the floor bleeding. Lt. Rodriguez stated that officers then initiated life-saving measures until medics arrived.

AUTOPSY:

The Montgomery County Coroner's Office conducted an autopsy on February 22, 2025. The preliminary autopsy report confirmed that David West died of [REDACTED] The final autopsy and toxicology reports remain pending at this time.

End of summary.

**Ten days after the critical incident, Duane West recanted much of his original statement and made accusations against the Piqua Police Department, which are further documented within this case file.*