



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: 07/17/2022
Activity Location: – 5760 US 62, 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 [REDACTED] (Sgt. [REDACTED]) firing a single, fatal shot at Richard Jean Poulin (Poulin) at the end of a vehicle pursuit.

BCI Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Kenneth Smith conducted an interview with Hillsboro Police Officer Daniel Hopkins (Officer Hopkins) on July 17, 2022, at 0614 hours. Officer Hopkins was involved in the pursuit while it was within the jurisdiction of Hillsboro. The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device.

The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are 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.

Officer Hopkins has been employed by the Hillsboro Police Department for approximately three years. He had prior service with the Peebles Police Department, Wilmington Police Department, and the Highland County Sheriff's Office. He has been a police officer since 2007. His badge number and radio call sign are 1210. He was the officer-in-charge during the shift.

Regarding Officer Hopkins' involvement in the vehicle pursuit, he advised BCI agents of the following:

Officer Hopkins and fellow officer, Officer William Childers (Officer Childers), were at the Hillsboro Police Department when they received information from their dispatcher that a pursuit was coming through their jurisdiction. The information they received was that the

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Highland County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) was pursuing a vehicle southbound on US 62 near the unincorporated community of Samantha. He heard via the pursuit radio channel that HCSO set up a spike strip on US 62 near Westview Motors (1585 N High St #9495, Hillsboro, Ohio). The spike strip device was reportedly successful, as Poulin's tires became deflated.

Officer Hopkins drove to the area of US 62 near Hobart Drive. Officer Childers responded to the area of Frisch's Big Boy Restaurant (1285 N High St, Hillsboro, Ohio), where he subsequently deployed a spike strip device. Both Officer Hopkins and Officer Childers joined the pursuit until it reached the end of the Hillsboro city limits.

After some time had passed, Officer Hopkins heard Sgt. ██████ say something to the effect of, "We have a gunshot victim. Start the chopper." Officer Hopkins sent Officer Childers to the scene to offer assistance. Officer Childers radioed that HCSO needed the roadway closed.

Officer Hopkins responded to the scene. He met with HCSO deputies Dylan Quenneville (Deputy Quenneville) and Sarah McKenzie (Deputy McKenzie). He asked if they needed any assistance, to which they answered in the negative. Officer Hopkins advised BCI agents that he observed Poulin in the roadway. He described Poulin's breathing as "very shallow" and far apart. He saw a wound near Poulin's left shoulder. He also saw Deputy Quenneville holding pressure on the left side of Poulin's neck. He also saw Poulin bleeding from his nose and mouth.

Once EMTs arrived, Officer Hopkins helped load Poulin onto the cot. He said Poulin appeared to be breathing at that time.

Officer Hopkins said he learned what happened to Poulin from one of the deputies at the scene, though he did not recall who told him. He was advised by the unknown deputy that Poulin was shot via an accidental discharge. He said the information came from either Deputy Quenneville, Deputy Steven Alexander, or Deputy McKenzie. Sgt. ██████ had already left the scene prior to Officer Hopkins' arrival.

Officer Hopkins advised BCI agents that during his stint with the HCSO, he worked with Deputy Alexander and Sgt. ██████

The interview was concluded at 0626 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-17/ Hillsboro PD Officer Daniel Hopkins

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.