



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



2024-3294

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage Bike Trail near
North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview
Involves: Officer Joshua Twigg (W)
Activity Date: 11/05/2024
Activity Location: Bret Jordan Co. L.P.A
206 S. Meridian Street, Suite A,
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
Authoring Agent: SA Matthew Armstrong

Narrative:

On Tuesday, November 05, 2024, at 1420 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (SA Fletcher) and SA Matt Armstrong (SA Armstrong) interviewed Ravenna Police Department (RPD) Officer Joshua Twigg (Twigg). Officer Twigg was accompanied by his attorney, Paul Siegferth Jr., of the Bret Jordan CO. L.P.A. The interview took place in a conference room at 206 S. Meridian Street, Suite A, Ravenna, Ohio 44266. The interview was audio and video recorded. The video recording has been stored in the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item G. The audio recording has been attached to this report.

Officer Twigg was identified as a RPD police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the October 22, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of the Portage Bike Trail and North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio. Officer Twigg did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation. It does not purport to contain all of the questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview. It may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information obtained during the interview. Time references included in this report correspond with the video recording.

Throughout the interview Officer Twigg provided the following information:

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Officer Twigg has been a police officer for 8 years and has been employed at the RPD for the past 7 years. During the incident he wore his police uniform with an external vest carrier and considered himself to be well represented as a police officer. Officer Twigg drove cruiser #4, marked with "Ravenna Police" and equipped with emergency lights and sirens. His radio call sign was 426. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

Officer Twigg was equipped with a body worn camera, and it was recording during the incident. He had reviewed video footage available online one time after the incident.

On October 22, 2024, he and other officers of the RPD were dispatched to a stabbing on the bike trail off Freedom Street. The dispatcher indicated the caller was a passerby on a bike who reported a guy came out of the wood and said he was stabbed by a person in the woods.

Officer Twigg was the first on scene. He met with the caller near the roadway who said the victim had just collapsed. Officer Twigg could see a male lying on the ground approximately 30 feet away. When he approached the male, he could see the male's arm was wrapped in a shirt with blood all over it. He had the male remove the shirt and he could see a large cut across his arm. When Officer Twigg asked if the male had been stabbed anywhere else, he indicated he had been stabbed in his butt. The male said a guy in the woods had stabbed him.

When Officer Twigg asked where the suspect was the victim replied he was over in the tent area. He described the suspect as shirtless with a knife. Officer Twigg then looked in the direction of where the tents were and saw a shirtless male walking out of the woods. He had his arms spread open and could see he had a sword or machete. The male was yelling and began walking toward him and the victim.

Officer Twigg and the other officers gathered and began moving toward the subject because it appeared the subject was seeking the victim. As the subject moved toward them, Officer Twigg could see the subject held an axe in his left hand and claw looking knife in his right hand. Officer Twigg then drew his weapon and ordered the subject to stop multiple times. As the subject continued moving toward them, he was screaming and shaking the axe and knife around. Officer Twigg identified himself as a police officer multiple times and the subject still advanced toward them. During that time a cyclist on the bike path rode around the subject and continued down the bike path. The cyclist was within approximately 4 feet of the subject at the time he passed the subject.

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Officer Twigg explained him and the other officers were positioned relatively close together in a "U" shape between the subject and the victim. When the subject was approximately 20 feet from them, Officer Twigg began to pull the trigger on his gun. The subject was yelling "Fuck you" and other stuff. Officer Twigg believed the subject was on a mission to come after them or the victim who was directly behind them. Officer Twigg heard [REDACTED] say "I have a shot." He then heard two or three rapid gunshots and saw the subject immediately fall to the ground. At that point he had not fired and he did not fire because the subject had fallen to the ground.

[REDACTED] instructed him to remove the axe away from the subject. He then picked up the axe and moved it off to the side near the railroad tracks. The knife had fallen near the subject's hand but he could not remember if he or another officer moved the knife away from the subject.

After the weapons were moved away, the fire department came up and began rendering aid to the subject. Officer Twigg assisted them in rendering aid.

Officer Twigg estimated he heard 4 gunshots fired rapidly. [REDACTED] was to his left and he knew [REDACTED] was firing but he did not know who else was firing.

During the incident, he feared for his safety and the safety of others. As the subject advanced toward them, Officer Twigg believed the subject was trying to get to the victim to further injure him.

Officer Twigg consented to agents reviewing all body camera video including any potential Garrity derived information and any written reports he may complete.

The interview concluded at approximately 1441 hours.

References:

Reference Item G – RPD Officer Interviews

Attachments:

1. 2024-11-05 Audio Interview Witness Officer Joshua Twigg