



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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

Investigative Activity: Witness Interview
Involves: Donathan Herron (W)
Activity Date: 05/08/2024
Activity Location: 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA Matthew Armstrong #146

Narrative:

On May 8, 2024, at approximately 2149 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) and SA Andrew Harasimchuk (Harasimchuk) interviewed Donathan Herron (Donathan). Donathan was a resident of 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio, and a cousin of Jason Norris (Jason) who was involved in the incident. The interview took place in the living room and was recorded on SA Armstrong's body worn camera (BWC).

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 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.

During the interview Donathan provided the following information:

He had not seen his cousin Jason in years. He did not know when Jason arrived, but said he came downstairs and woke him up at 6:30 PM or 7:00 PM. He believed Jason had come to see his grandmother. He and Jason talked for a few minutes before Jason went back upstairs and opened a can of peaches for their grandmother. When Jason came back downstairs, they decided they were going to go to Elyria to see the neighborhood where Jason grew up. He estimated Jason had been there for approximately 30 minutes before they went out the door. When they went out the front door all hell broke loose.

Jason yelled at him to go back inside. Police were yelling and calling Donathan by name telling him to get on the ground. He heard officers repeatedly yelling to get on the ground and then he heard two gunshots. He did not hear Jason say anything to the police.

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Initially Donathan said when the shots were fired, he could not see who was firing. He said "I just seen him shoot towards the back of the, towards the shed and the other shot I just heard in the distance. I could just hear both of them going off" (5:42). When asked if Jason was one of the individuals who was shooting, he replied "Yea Jason was one of them that shot...I don't know if he shot first or if he shot after" (6:00).

When asked for more details about the gunshots and what made him believe Jason fired, Donathan said he didn't know if Jason fired, and he never saw him with a gun. After he heard the two shots, he saw Jason fall to the ground. Donathan said at that point he was already on the ground.

Donathan said Jason did not tell him anything about the murder in Tennessee. Donathan said he and his grandmother did not find out about it until after the shooting when they called Jason's brother to tell him Jason had been shot.

A copy of the video recorded interview has been stored on evidence.com and in the BCI SIU case file in Reference Item A.

References:

1. Item A - BWC Recordings - Neighborhood Canvass and Witness Interviews

Attachments:

None

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