



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



2022-0310
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 913 Lebanon Street, Monroe,
Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Dustin Booth (S)
Date of Activity: 02/12/2022
Activity Location: Monroe Police Department – Business – 601 South Main Street,
Monroe, OH 45050, Butler County
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On February 12, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) received a request for assistance from the Monroe Police Department (Monroe PD). The request was in regard to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place on February 11, 2022. The OICI occurred at the intersection of New Garver Road at Lebanon Street in Monroe, Ohio. Officers made a traffic stop on a vehicle containing Dustin Booth (Booth), who was a subject from a previous mental health call that occurred at 120 Bluegrass Lane in Monroe. The traffic stop turned into an officer involved shooting where Booth was shot numerous times. Booth was transported to Atrium Medical Center in Middletown, Ohio, where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

BCI Special Agents Rick Ward (SA Ward) and Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) interviewed Justin Duh (Mr. Duh) regarding his involvement in the incident. Mr. Duh was Booth's friend and was driving the vehicle involved in the traffic stop. 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 unless noted by quotations.

Mr. Duh provided SA Ward and SA Seitzman with the following information:

Mr. Duh and Booth were friends since middle school. He said Booth was a "heavy pot smoker" in his college years; however, he stopped to obtain employment. He did not know Booth to use any other drugs. He also did not know Booth to have any mental health disorders or take prescriptions for mental health disorders and he did not believe Booth had any financial hardships. He described Booth as a hard worker. Booth worked at Cleveland Cliffs as a crane operator; he also ran a soft-washing business on the side. Mr. Duh often referred business to Booth. Approximately two weeks ago, he referred a client to Booth; however, it took Booth more than a day to respond, which was unusual. Mr. Duh later spoke with Booth by telephone

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when Booth apologized for the delay and said he was busy. Mr. Duh said the conversation was out of the ordinary. He requested Booth provide a quote for the client, which he agreed to do. A week passed without Booth providing the quote to Mr. Duh.

On February 7, 2022, at approximately 0745 hours, Mr. Duh sent Booth a text message once again requesting a quote for the client. Within approximately thirty-seconds, Booth called him, which he described as unusual. He recalled Booth was "acting different" and was "off." During the conversation, Booth told him he was recently in the hospital for psychiatric issues. Booth told him he "needed a break." Mr. Duh reiterated he knew Booth for a long time, and this was out of character for him.

On February 8, 2022, Booth sent Mr. Duh a Facebook message regarding a truck he wanted to purchase. He called Booth and said he was "very manic" about the truck. He recalled their conversation being "all over the place," which was not completely unusual. He still felt that Booth was "off." Booth tried to call him later in the day, but he was unable to answer.

On or around Wednesday February 9, 2022, Mr. Duh called Booth. He described Booth as being "fucking off" and was saying "really fucking weird shit." He recalled Booth acting as if he was in a position of authority and made statements like "God would never let them do that to me." He described Booth's behavior as "out of character." Booth rambled on about his pension, Donald Trump, and the owner of the Solid Rock Church.

Mr. Duh remembered talking to his wife about Booth's behavior. He told her that Booth was having a spiritual break through or was about to "shoot a Wal-Mart up." On Friday, February 11, 2022, Mr. Duh's wife informed him about a Facebook post where Booth mentioned wanting to meet world leaders in Dubai. His wife called him at approximately 1630 hours and told him something was going on in Monroe near Bluegrass Lane, which he knew was Booth's street. Mr. Duh drove to the area to check on Booth. He spoke with Booth on the phone while he drove to his residence. It was his opinion that Booth was having a mental breakdown.

When Mr. Duh arrived, he spoke with Monroe PD Captain Curlis and Brandi Booth (Ms. Booth) in the street on Bluegrass Lane. He remembered Braxton Booth, the Booths' oldest son, Booth's mother, Ms. Booth's mother being there as well. Bentley Booth, the Booths' youngest son, was staying at a friend's residence.

Mr. Duh stated Sgt. Curlis informed him that officers were going to move out and monitor the situation. Mr. Duh also left, but returned approximately twenty minutes later after "rolling a couple joints up." He spoke with Ms. Booth, and they both agreed it would be a good idea for him to try to talk to Booth. His plan was to get Booth to fall asleep, as he had information he had been up for several days. At a minimum, he wanted to remove Booth's guns. He estimated Booth had ten guns.

At approximately 2000 hours, he returned to Booth's residence. Booth was on the phone with the Cleveland Cliffs union president when he arrived. He was wearing a "six shooter" .44 caliber gun on a leather belt. He said Booth was berating the person on the other end of the phone conversation, which was unusual for Booth. He also remembered Booth saying, "It's the power of God in me" and talking about meeting people in Dubai. He also recalled Booth saying negative things about their friends, because they "won't come" join him "in the revolution." Mr.

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Duh suggested they smoke pot and talk, which Booth agreed to.

At some point, Booth said he needed to take a shower, as he had not taken one in two days. Mr. Duh said he would get a pizza while he was in the shower. Booth agreed to take a shower, but began walking from room to room picking things up and setting them down. Booth stripped down to his underwear and commented he was going to take a shower. Booth then deviated and talked about setting his Christmas tree up, which was displayed in the family room on a coffee table and a ladder. Mr. Duh observed several Nerf guns around the Christmas tree. He observed three shotguns propped up against the windows in the family room. He also observed several guns in a gun cabinet in the office.

Mr. Duh and Booth made plans to get food after Booth took a shower. Booth went into the bathroom but walked out after a couple minutes. Mr. Duh said Booth seemed paranoid and told him to go get the food, and he would stay and take a shower.

Mr. Duh left to get pizza at a nearby Cassano's restaurant. He called Ms. Booth and gave her an update. She sent him a Monroe PD officer's phone number (later determined to be Det. Aaron Ledford (Det. Ledford)). He sent text messages to Det. Ledford and gave him updates. Det. Ledford informed him Monroe PD officers could make a traffic stop on his vehicle should he get Booth inside of it.

When Mr. Duh returned with the pizza, Booth was dressed and mentioned he wanted to leave. Booth was not wearing the gun and leather belt at that time. They both ate the pizza, then made plans to go to see Booth's sister. As Booth was getting in Mr. Duh's pick-up truck, he asked him if he had his gun. He told him he did not, and Booth insisted on going back inside the residence to grab his gun. They both went back inside and searched for the gun, as Booth had misplaced it. Booth initially accused Mr. Duh of hiding his gun; however, Booth subsequently found it on his bed. Booth placed the gun and leather belt in a bag.

Mr. Duh and Booth went back to Mr. Duh's pick-up truck. Booth placed the bag containing the gun behind his seat. Mr. Duh sent a message to Det. Ledford letting him know the gun was inside the vehicle. They turned out of the neighborhood, and Monroe PD cruisers followed behind. Booth commented he thought people were following them. As they were on Lebanon Street at New Garver Road, the police lights were activated to make a traffic stop. Booth went for the bag containing the gun. Mr. Duh fought with him in an attempt to prevent Booth from getting the gun. Booth said, "Justin, stop it motherfucker" during the struggle; however, he never said what his intentions were. Mr. Duh pleaded with Booth and said, "Don't fucking do this."

Booth was able to get control of the bag and exited the vehicle. Booth moved toward the front bumper of Mr. Duh's vehicle. Mr. Duh exited the vehicle within seconds of Booth. Mr. Duh faced the officers, got on his knees, threw his hands up, and shouted, "He's got a fucking gun." Knowing that Booth was in close proximity, Mr. Duh got up and approached the Monroe PD officers.

Mr. Duh recalled seeing most of the Monroe PD officers going around to the passenger side of his vehicle. The officers and Booth ended up closer to SR 63 and New Garver Road, at which point he heard, "bang, bang, bang, bang, bang." He was initially uncertain if they were

gunshots or some type of flash bang. He later guessed the sounds were 9 mm rounds being fired. He advised he has experience with firearms and did not hear the sound of a .44 caliber, which was the type of firearm Booth had. He did not see anyone shooting their guns. He estimated Booth was shot five to eight times. He was surprised when Ms. Booth later told him Booth was shot approximately fifteen times.

Mr. Duh opined Booth would have hurt someone if the situation had not concluded the way it did. He feared Booth would have harmed his children because he was so "ratcheted up" and was a "force-on-force kind of guy." He said it was never his intent to have Monroe PD officers deal with an armed Booth. He stated Booth should not have put the officers in that position.

The interview was concluded at approximately 0322 hours. See the attached audio recording of the interview for additional information.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-02-12 / Justin Duh Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.