



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



2023-2598

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 415 Gregg Street, Washington
Courthouse, OH – Fayette County (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Sergeant Jeffery Heinz (W)
Date of Activity: 10/01/2023
Activity Location: Washington Court House Police Dept. – Business – 130 North
Fayette Street, Washington Court House, OH 43160
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On October 1, 2023 at approximately 1847 hours, the Washington Court House Police Department requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred after the involved subject, Timothy D. West (West), fled on foot from a traffic stop and was subdued by the pursuing officer, Officer Trevor Phillips, with a Taser energy weapon. After the Taser deployment, West became unresponsive and was later pronounced deceased.

Washington Court House Police Lieutenant Matthew Pfeifer advised SA Seitzman that Sergeant Jeffery Heinz responded to the scene after the OICI. At 2232 hours, SA Seitzman and SA Frazier interviewed Sergeant Heinz to obtain information as to what he observed. The interview was audio-recorded.

The information provided below summarizes key points from the recorded interview and is 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.

Sergeant Heinz advised that he has been a Washington Court House police officer for over 21 years. He has served in a supervisory capacity for approximately two and a half years. He was working his regular evening shift on October 1, 2023. He was wearing his department-issued uniform. He was also wearing a body-worn camera, which was activated during his time at the scene.

Sergeant Heinz advised that shortly after 1800 hours, he recalled that Officer Phillips initiated a traffic stop. After Officer Phillips called out the traffic stop, he radioed that he had a subject running from him. Sergeant Heinz recalled that some of Officer Phillips' radio traffic was

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inaudible, but he understood that he was in pursuit of the subject, later identified as West. He responded with lights and sirens to the scene. He heard Officer Phillips advise that he had discharged his Taser and that the subject was detained.

Sergeant Heinz arrived and spoke with the driver of the vehicle that Officer Phillips initially stopped. The driver identified himself as Jonathan Penn. He said that Officer Gavin Moore arrived a short time later, and he directed Officer Moore to help Officer Phillips. Sergeant Heinz continued to converse with Mr. Penn. Mr. Penn advised him that West offered him money to drive him, which he agreed to. Mr. Penn advised that shortly after picking up West, he was pulled over by the police. Mr. Penn said that West told him to flee, but he declined to do so. Mr. Penn said that West then bailed out of the vehicle, throwing a McDonald's bag in the process. Mr. Penn also pointed out property and a black box inside his vehicle, which he said belonged to West. Sergeant Heinz said the black box likely contained methamphetamine, as he received information from a prior traffic stop involving West indicating that West used the black box to conceal drugs.

While speaking with Mr. Penn, Sergeant Heinz heard over the police radio that West had stopped breathing. He responded to the location of Officer Phillips and Officer Moore. He observed West on the ground. West was handcuffed and on his side. He recalled that the officers were working to take the handcuffs off to begin chest compressions. He also saw injuries to West's forehead. He then began to look for the Taser probes. He located one probe that was still attached to the top of West's head. He did not remove the probe based on its location. He was unable to locate the second probe. He described West as blue in color and not breathing. He performed a sternum rub and did not receive a response. Once EMS arrived, they utilized a LUCAS machine to provide compressions. EMS then transported West to the hospital.

Sergeant Heinz collected items located around West. He specifically remembered collecting a hat, money, cell phones, and two knives. He secured them in his cruiser. He also collected the Taser cartridge and secured it in his cruiser. Regarding the knives, he said Officer Phillips had removed those from West. He said that West had a knife sheath on the side of his belt.

Sergeant Heinz advised that he recognized West when he saw him. He said he routinely checks a computerized list of wanted subjects in Washington Court House, so prior to the incident, he knew that West had an active warrant.

Sergeant Heinz had Officer Phillips removed from the scene. He contacted Officer Phillips' Fraternal Order of Police union representative. He also notified the police administration.

Sergeant Heinz advised that Washington Court House police officers had prior contacts with West. He stated that he would provide offense reports from those incidents.

The items Sergeant Heinz had collected containing evidentiary value were turned over to BCI Crime Scene Unit Special Agent Mathew Austin.

The interview was concluded at 2252 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

Attachments:

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Attachment # 01: 2023-10-01 / Interview with Washington Court House Police Sergeant
Jeffery Heinz

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Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.