



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



2022-1356

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio  
44301

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer John Bowers

Activity Date: October 6, 2022

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Charles Moran #67

**Narrative:**

On Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 1337 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chuck Moran (Moran) interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Officer John Bowers (Bowers), who was accompanied by his attorney, Jason Wells, from the Fraternal Order of Police.

The interview was audio recorded.

Officer Bowers was identified as being a police officer who had some level of involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 1659 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Bowers did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident and arrived on scene after the shooting. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

On June 27, 2022, Officer Bowers was the driver of marked APD cruiser Car 12, and his partner, Officer Romine, was the passenger. However, during Officer Romine's interview with Ohio BCI Agents, Officer Romine stated he was the driver of Car 12 and that Officer Bowers was the passenger. SA Momchilov reviewed Officer Bowers and Officer Romine's body-worn camera footage and it appears that both Officer Bowers and Officer Romine activate their body-worn camera after they were already on scene. At this point, it cannot be determined which officer was the driver and which officer was the passenger of Car 12. Officer Bowers was wearing his standard APD uniform.

Prior to the interview, SA Moran was advised that Officer Bowers had typed a supplemental report that documented his involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting. Officer Bowers wished to read the narrative out loud, and then he would answer any follow-up questions, if needed.

Officer Bowers' typed narrative reads:

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**NARRATIVE**

\*\*\*\*Action taken\*\*\*\*

I, Ofc. Bowers #1552, was working Car 12. We arrived at Wilbeth/Dallas providing backup to Car █. Once on scene I and other officers began to move different cruisers to the side of the street on Wilbeth to make a pathway for EMS to get through. Once Med7 arrived on scene, Ofc. Hall #1530 and I guided EMS to the parking lot of Bridgestone where the incident occurred. As I approached the scene I witnessed multiple officers providing first aid to the suspect. Once Med 7 stopped I helped Ofc. White #1426 pull the gurney out of the ambulance and stage it near the suspect. I then stood by while Officers and paramedics continued to provide medical treatment. Myself and multiple other officers began to mark the ground where we found shell casings. I then went back to Wilbeth/Dallas and directed traffic away from the scene with Ofc. Luke #1497 until we were advised that we could clear from the scene.

Officer Bowers said he had his body-worn camera activated, and that he has not watched the footage from his body-worn camera.

SA Moran asked Officer Bowers how he marked cartridge cases at the scene. Officer Bowers said he initially tried using pieces of paper, but it was too windy and they blew away.

Officer Bowers did not see nor hear any portion of the officer-involved shooting.

SA Moran asked Officer Bowers what caused him to respond to this incident. Officer Bowers explained that he and his partner heard a “Signal 5” radioed, and then he heard officers radio that the “suspect’s vehicle had fired a shot during the chase.” Officer Bowers said that due to that radio traffic, the situation warranted a response from all officers that could respond.

Officer Bowers said he did not go near the subject’s vehicle.

SA Moran asked Officer Bowers if he noticed anything about the subject when he was near him, as other officers rendered medical aid. Officer Bowers said he guided EMS to the area, and he saw the subject “was wearing something on his head” and “had dark clothing on.”

Officer Bowers did not have anything else to add that he believed was important for the investigation.

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Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

*The above images are from Officer Bowers' body-worn camera footage. Based upon Officer Bowers' body-worn camera footage, Officer Bowers is initially observed outside of his cruiser (Figure 1). Officer Bowers is then observed moving several Akron Police cruisers (Figure 2). It then appears that Officer Bowers is directing EMS to the scene (Figure 3). Officer Bowers is then observed approaching the scene (Figure 4).*

**Attachments:**

The audio recording of this interview is attached to this report.

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