



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Bryan K Schwartz (O)
Date of Activity: 12/21/2022
Author: SA Christopher Hamberg, #69

Narrative:

On December 20, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved critical incident (OICI) that occurred on the railroad tracks near Section Street, in La Rue, in Marion County, OH. The OICI occurred when the Marion County SWAT Team (MCST) [which encompasses deputies from the Marion County Sheriff's Office, along with police officers from the Marion Ohio Police Department] came in contact with Travis Hellinger (Hellinger) as the MCST was attempting to execute a search warrant at the Hellinger residence. Hellinger succumbed to his injuries.

On December 21, 2022, BCI Special Agent (SA) Chris Hamberg (Hamberg) interviewed Officer Bryan Schwartz (Schwartz) of the Westerville Police Department. [It should be noted that Schwartz is part of the Delaware County Tactical Unit (DTU) and they assisted on the Marion County Operation that involved the OICI. The interview took place at the Coliseum X laser tag, 100 Dillmont Dr., Columbus, OH; as the DTU had training. The interview was digitally recorded. The audio file is attached to the case file.

The purpose of the interview was to ascertain what Schwartz may have witnessed at the scene of the Marion OICI.

SA Hamberg asked Schwartz to describe how the events unfolded and what he witnessed in regard to the OICI. Schwartz stated he was assigned to the "Bearcat" team and their job duty was to make entry into the pole barn at the Hellinger residence. Schwartz stated he did not witness the shooting incident, and they were advised by radio traffic that Hellinger had made his way to the railroad tracks and was walking backwards on the railroad tracks and was illuminating the area with a flashlight, with the Marion SWAT following Hellinger.

Schwartz had no additional information to share on the incident.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the audio recording. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions or responses. It is suggested that the reader refer to the audio recording in its entirety.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Interview with Brian Schwartz Westerville PD

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.