



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



2024-1837
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 223 Durling Dr.,
Wadsworth, Ohio 44281

Investigative Activity: Involved Officer Interview - [REDACTED]
Involves: WPD [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 07/10/2024
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher #187

Narrative:

On Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 1451 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Armstrong (Armstrong), SA Allison Fletcher (Fletcher), and SA Justin Rotili (Rotili) interviewed Wadsworth Police Department (WPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, George Gerken, from the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association. The interview took place at BCI Richfield, located at 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286. The interview was video and audio recorded. The video recording was stored in the BCI SIU Case File as Reference Item O. The audio recording was attached to this report.

[REDACTED] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form. It was attached to this report.

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 interview. 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 recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Sergeant Kyle Haas
Radio Channel Utilized: WPD Main Channel	Mobile Data Terminal: Present; Not Used
Cruiser Description: Black and white Ford Explorer SUV, marked with "Wadsworth"	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Solo

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Police”, overhead lights, sirens, push pumper, and vehicle number on all four sides.	
Assignment: Patrol	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Operational, But Not Used	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized
Shift Day of Incident: 0600 hours – 1600 hours then returned at 1700 hours – approx. 2100 hours due to a parade in Wadsworth.	Duty Status: Normal Shift then Special Duty Detail
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: The 1700-2100 hours shift 6/18/24 – same date as incident
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Approx. 7 hours	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: 22 Years	Length at Current Agency: 22 Years
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Dark navy-blue pants and short-sleeve shirt, patches on both sleeves, name tag, badge, gun belt, and radio	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Department issued firearm, handcuffs, 2 magazines, taser, flashlight
Ballistic Vest: Concealed Armor	Body Worn Camera: Not Present
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: CIT, FBI basic hostage negotiation school, Medina County SWAT team (since 2004), hostage rescue, barricaded subject, taught basic SWAT school, monthly training with SWAT, de-escalation, former taser instructor, active shooter response training.	OPOTC Certification: University of Akron Police Academy
Military Experience/Training: [REDACTED]	Use-of-Force Training: Teaches case law related to UOF, use-of-force report writing, conducts use-of-force investigations at WPD

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Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Rock River lower receiver/ Bravo Company upper receiver	Model: AR-15 Patrol Rifle
Caliber/Gauge: 5.56 mm	Serial: Unknown
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Rear cargo area of cruiser
Magazine Capacity: 25	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 25
Extra Magazines: 1	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 25
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Backup
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Unknown	Number of Rounds Fired: 2-4
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Qualify yearly, twice a year for SWAT. Unknown date	Type of Holster, if any: N/A

Narrative:

After obtaining the preliminary and demographic information, [REDACTED] provided the following information related to the incident on June 18, 2024:

At approximately 2050 hours, [REDACTED] was on station with multiple officers from the WPD preparing to end their shift at 2100 hours. He stated that there was a parade earlier on that date in the city, and all officers of the WPD had been required to work. [REDACTED] was scheduled on that date to work his normal shift from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] he was then required to return at 1700 hours to work the parade detail, which was scheduled to conclude just before 2100 hours.

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Just past 2100 hours, an "all tones" went out over the main radio channel for WPD, requiring all available police units to respond to 223 Durling drive. Dispatch advised that there was a man with a gun who had made threats and was possibly intoxicated. Responding units were provided updated locations of the subject. The last location provided by dispatch was that the subject was sitting in a chair in the backyard. Dispatch further advised that WPD had previously been to that residence for a prior incident. [REDACTED] did not state what that previous incident was. He also did not recall any additional information or updates provided by dispatch, nor was he familiar with the residence or its occupants.

While en route to the location, [REDACTED] said all officers were given an order by a WPD Sergeant to stage their vehicles on Broad Street, which runs perpendicular to Durling Drive. [REDACTED] was one of the first vehicles to arrive at Broad Street. He exited his vehicle, retrieved his patrol rifle and began approaching the residence on foot. He recalled seeing WPD [REDACTED] and another officer, whose name he could not remember, began to approach him on the east side of the road of Durling Drive.

As they made their approach, [REDACTED] observed two female subjects at 213 Durling Drive. The females appeared to be looking down the side yard of 223 Durling Drive (unknown names or identities). [REDACTED] made contact with the females, who said that the subject was in the rear yard of 223 Durling Drive. They also said there was a second male in the rear yard of 213 Durling Drive, who was not a threat. [REDACTED] stated that when he observed that second male in the rear yard of 213 Durling Drive, he appeared to be pleading with someone. [REDACTED] believed the male was pleading with the subject in question, later identified as Shannon Sloan.

Sloan then stepped out from the rear of 223 Durling Drive. [REDACTED] believed Sloan saw him and the other officers on scene because Sloan quickly retreated behind the house. [REDACTED] also believed Sloan had a gun based upon the information provided by dispatch and the witnesses on scene. However, he did not see one at that time.

[REDACTED] began to approach the northeast corner of 223 Durling Drive. Based upon the male neighbor's body language, who was still in the backyard of 213 Durling drive, [REDACTED] believed Sloan was still in the backyard of 223 Durling Drive.

[REDACTED] stated that as he approached the northeast corner of the residence, [REDACTED] traveled across the front yard of the residence. [REDACTED] believed Officer Seiler and [REDACTED] were following behind him but was unsure

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of their exact locations. Simultaneously, [REDACTED] was ordering the male in the backyard of 213 Durling Drive to get to a safe location.

Once [REDACTED] reached the corner of the house, he "peeked" around the corner and observed feet and a leg of somebody sitting. He also realized he did not have his body-worn camera with him.

[REDACTED] radioed "99 traffic" to dispatch, which he explained means emergency traffic only on the radio. He also said that he was speaking with Sloan.

[REDACTED] indicated that Sloan seemed agitated by his body language. He stated Sloan had a tense jaw and would not make eye contact with him. [REDACTED] said he lowered his rifle in an effort to deescalate the situation and to let Sloan know he was "not there to hurt him."

Sloan did not move his body or turn to face [REDACTED]. He remained facing in a northwest direction, towards the backyard of 213 Durling Drive. [REDACTED] stated that, based on his training and experience, the fact that Sloan did not change his body language or have a reaction to his commands or attempt at conversation was unnerving.

[REDACTED] then observed a black pistol sitting on Sloan's right thigh. He also observed a large beer can in Sloan's left hand. [REDACTED] stated Sloan finally responded to him and stated something to the effect of [47:58] "look I respect you guys, but I'm not going to take any of your shit."

[REDACTED] said he acknowledged the presence of the handgun on Sloan's thigh and provided commands to Sloan for him to put it down. [REDACTED] stated Sloan did not comply. That concerned [REDACTED] because he was unsure of the location of the other male at that time. [REDACTED] also did not know who else might be in the area and what the locations of the other officers were.

Sloan then looked over his left shoulder. [REDACTED] believed Sloan possibly saw [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and believed that could either help or hinder the situation.

[REDACTED] then stated,

[49:55] He [Sloan] made one of those gestures again about how pissed off he was, uh, by tensing up, and he brought his hands up, and I remember him like, it was like uh, it's like when people draw when they, when they just rush to the gun, he rushed to the gun, but then he stopped for a second, and that's when I

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was yelling out I was like no don't, don't do that and he grabbed it and just brought it up and he didn't bring it up to, he didn't bring it up high enough to point it at anybody else, I wasn't going to allow him to, and um, that's when I uh I engaged him with the patrol rifle.

After firing, [REDACTED] stated he yelled "cease fire" and observed Sloan fall to the ground. Sloan's gun fell towards his feet. [REDACTED] then went around the corner of the residence towards Sloan and observed [REDACTED] on the roof of the residence.

[REDACTED] and Officer Sieler then detained Sloan with handcuffs and checked Sloan for weapons. [REDACTED] cleared the gun Sloan had been holding, which he described as a black Glock 22 pistol with a magazine inserted, and a round in the chamber. The gun was lying approximately two feet from Sloan's feet.

Handcuffs were removed from Sloan and first aid was then provided to Sloan by multiple officers on scene.

[REDACTED] estimated he was approximately 30-40 feet away from Sloan at the time he fired his patrol rifle. [REDACTED] aimed at Sloan's left pectoral and stopped shooting after he felt the threat was neutralized (i.e. when Sloan fell to the ground).

[REDACTED] described the manner in which Sloan grabbed his firearm, [56:57] "I've never seen anybody on a call do that... it was so purposeful how he slapped his hand onto the gun."

When asked if he feared for his safety, [REDACTED] stated that he did. He went on to say, [1:02:39] "it scared me, it, it was probably one of the biggest shocks I've had in law enforcement. Because I did not expect it, I didn't think he would move like that to that gun, the only thing I was thinking [unintelligible] is that he is going to hurt one of us". [REDACTED] then stated, [01:03:07] "I didn't have the luxury to figure out where the gun was going to be pointed when he brought it up, and I was scared it was going to be me or Seiler. Uh, I knew he had identified at least one other officer, just the way he had looked over his shoulder." [REDACTED] stated the reason he fired his weapon at that time was because of the quick motion made by Sloan grabbing and raising his firearm.

[REDACTED] stated that he was also concerned for the safety of the neighbors because he was uncertain of their whereabouts. [REDACTED] was also concerned about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] because he could no longer see them.

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██████████ reviewed Officer Seiler's and ██████████'s BWC footage. ██████████ stated he reviewed the incident itself one time on each camera and post-incident footage two to three more times. He also watched a YouTube video that consisted of a mashup of Officer Seiler's and ██████████'s BWC footage. He stated that he watched this video approximately two times. ██████████ stated he felt his recollection of the incident was accurate to what he observed on the BWC.

██████████ believed his actions were consistent with his training and he did not believe he had any other option than to fire his patrol rifle. ██████████ did not know the subject and did not have any prior encounters with him.

██████████ said he had experienced similar calls in the past. He had experienced incidents where subjects have threatened self-harm or barricaded themselves in a location. He stated that in the past these incidents have all been handled peacefully. He believed most subjects were seeking help. During those previous incidents, he and other officers were able to provide the needed help.

██████████ said he did not discuss the incident with any other officers, and no one asked him to lie or had otherwise tried to influence his statement. ██████████

██████████ was not required to take a drug test after the incident and, as of the date of the interview, he had not completed any reports. ██████████ indicated if he was later required to complete reports related to the incident, BCI agents could obtain and review them.

The interview concluded at approximately 1558 hours.

References:

Reference Item O - WPD Officer Interviews

Attachments:

1. 2024-07-10 Interview Involved Officer ██████████
2. 2024-07-10 Criminal Investigation Notification - ██████████

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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

[Redacted Name] _____
Printed Name of Interviewee

7/10/24 1448
Date / Time

[Redacted Signature] _____

SA Allison Fletcher
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA Allison Fletcher
BCI Agent (Signature)