



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



2025-0559
Officer Involved Critical Incident - [REDACTED] Miami
Township, Ohio (Montgomery Co.) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: [REDACTED]
Date of Activity: 02/28/2025
Activity Location: Miami Twp. (Miamisburg) Police Department – Business – 2660
Lyons Road, Miamisburg, OH 45342
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On Friday, February 28, 2025, at approximately 1215 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Richard Ward interviewed Miami Township Police [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney Joseph Hegedus and union representative Sergeant Raymond Swallen. The interview took place in a conference room inside the Miami Township Police Department. The interview was audio recorded.

The details below summarize what the author believed to be the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are 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.

[REDACTED] was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the February 19, 2025, officer-involved critical incident that occurred at [REDACTED], Miami Township, Montgomery County, Ohio. Reportedly [REDACTED] did not discharge a firearm during the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] advised that he has been a Miami Township police officer for [REDACTED] years. He advised that he was working his usual shift, which was [REDACTED] hours. He stated that he was wearing his department-issued uniform, which included an exterior ballistic vest. He stated that his uniform made him clearly identifiable as a police officer.

During his shift on February 19, 2025, he stated that he responded to a domestic disturbance on [REDACTED]. He stated that the information he had received was that a subject was actively threatening family members with a knife. He stated that the involved subject, later

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identified as Jayden C. Stephenson, was someone he had never met before.

██████████ stated that he arrived and observed ██████████ standing at the front door of the residence. He stated that he could also see emotional family members in the front yard. He retrieved a less-lethal shotgun and loaded it with six beanbag rounds. He stated the shotgun had orange markings, which identified it as a less-lethal weapon. As he approached the residence, one of the family members indicated to him that Jayden suffered from mental health issues. He responded to her and told her he had a less-lethal shotgun. He then joined ██████████. He stated that a medic had been called to stage in the area given the situation.

██████████ looked inside the residence and saw Jayden sitting on a barstool holding a large knife. He stated that Jayden was refusing commands to drop the knife. He stated that the knife looked like an "old-style fixed blade." He identified the knife as an object capable of causing serious physical harm or death.

██████████ stated that Jayden appeared agitated and aggressive. He stated that Jayden refused several commands from ██████████ to drop the knife. He recalled ██████████ telling Jayden that force would be used if he did not comply. He recalled Jayden responding at one point by saying, "One of you may find out." He stated that he understood Jayden's comment as a threat that he would "get at least one of us [police officer]."

██████████ recalled developing a plan with ██████████. He planned to deploy the less-lethal shotgun if Jayden stood up from the barstool. He said that his intent at this point during the situation was to arrest Jayden for domestic violence and attempted felonious assault. He stated that Jayden then stood up, at which point he discharged a less-lethal beanbag round from the shotgun. At the same time, ██████████ discharged his TASER. He said, "He [Jayden] ran, you know, towards us a couple of steps, but kind of like laterally at an angle towards the stairwell." He could not recall how many less-lethal rounds he fired, but he believed they struck Jayden. He explained that the rounds had no effect on Jayden. He said Jayden then ran up the stairs.

██████████ reported that the officers ascended the stairs and regrouped. He maintained less-lethal coverage with the beanbag shotgun. He recalled officers providing additional commands at the door but received no response. ██████████ kicked the door open and provided more commands. He remembered observing Jayden's legs protruding from a bathroom on the left side of the room. Officers provided additional commands but again received no response. ██████████ approached Jayden with his duty weapon. ██████████ who had his TASER out, followed ██████████ moved up with them.

██████████ positioned himself on the bed to gain a better view of Jayden. He observed Jayden holding the knife in his right hand and noted that Jayden was directly looking at him while smiling. Despite multiple officers' commands to drop the knife, Jayden firmly clutched it. He recalled ██████████ deploying the TASER, but Jayden was able to "fight it." He said, "He [Jayden] raised his arm up and jumped up quick and started coming towards me with his, you know, and I just started firing with the beanbag gun, trying to incapacitate him." At the same time, ██████████ attempted to retreat but fell onto the bed. He said, "The last thing I remember is him coming at me, gunfire, falling, kind of at the same time, and him

falling...going to my left."

SA Seitzman inquired about the proximity of Jayden to [REDACTED] during the final moments of the incident. [REDACTED] stated that as he was firing the less-lethal shotgun, Jayden locked eyes with him and came within five or six feet of him.

SA Seitzman asked [REDACTED] if he could have retreated to a position of cover or concealment. He answered in the negative, stating that it was an open bedroom.

SA Seitzman asked [REDACTED] if he recalled who fired their weapons. He stated that he did not observe who fired, and he had no independent recollection of hearing gunshots. He said he saw blood and formed the opinion that Jayden was shot. He stated that he saw Jayden lying on the ground bleeding. He observed the knife still in Jayden's hand, so he kicked it out of his hand to prevent him from using it.

[REDACTED] said he instructed officers to begin life-saving efforts. He located a shirt and provided it to [REDACTED] to use to hold pressure on the wounds. He stated that he did not provide medical aid, but from what he saw, it appeared that the officers did everything they could to save Jayden's life. He stated that the medics entered the room after several minutes.

[REDACTED] stated that he learned that [REDACTED] had fired, but he did not recall who the information came from. He removed [REDACTED] from the scene and took him to the backyard of the residence. He stated that he later took photographs of [REDACTED]. He recalled that Detective Ethan Bens collected the officers' duty belts and weapons.

SA Ward inquired if [REDACTED] was certified to use the less-lethal shotgun. He answered that he was and further elaborated that all officers are certified to use it.

SA Ward asked [REDACTED] if he believed the officers who used deadly force acted within policy. He answered in the affirmative and stated that he believed Jayden was going to kill him. SA Seitzman inquired why he did not use lethal force. He stated that he had the less-lethal shotgun in his hand and did not have time to switch to another option. He further clarified that he knew another officer had lethal cover.

SA Seitzman asked [REDACTED] if he had viewed body-worn camera footage prior to the interview. He stated that he had viewed it; however, it did not change his opinion or recollection of the critical portion of the incident.

The interview was concluded at 1237 hours. The audio recording is attached to this investigative report.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-02-28 Interview of [REDACTED]

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Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.