



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



2024-2738

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 345 Lincoln Ave.,
Lancaster, OH 43130 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Sean Brentlinger

Involves: Sean Brentlinger

Activity Date: 01/16/2025

Activity Location: 823 Memorial Dr., Lancaster, OH

Authoring Agent: SA Aja Chung, #86

Narrative:

On Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 0953 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Aja Chung (SA Chung) and SA Craig Call (SA Call) interviewed Sean Brentlinger (Brentlinger) regarding an incident that occurred on September 7-8, 2024, at the Fairfield County Jail (FCJ) that involved Chad Evangelista (Evangelista). The interview took place inside SA Chung's vehicle at the activity location listed above. The interview was audio recorded, saved to the case file, and is attached to this report.

During the course of the interview, agents utilized tactics designed to illicit truthful responses and to test the veracity of information provided. As many of the details of the investigation into the incident were publicly available, it was necessary to utilize alternative tactics (beyond the typical methodology of retaining confidential "holdout" information regarding the incident and then comparing/contrasting witness statements with information that could only be known by those with actual knowledge of the incident). These tactics include developing rapport and potentially providing information known to be erroneous. Therefore, misstatements of facts or evidence in the recorded interview by the interviewing agents are intentional and align with the strategy for the overall investigative plan.

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.

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Interview:

Brentlinger confirmed that he was employed with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) for three (3) years before finding another place of employment. Brentlinger said his position at FCSO was a corrections officer (CO), his badge number was CO 49, and his shift hours were 0800 hours – 1600 hours.

Brentlinger said when he came on duty, he first observed Evangelista in a jail cell in the booking area. Brentlinger described Evangelista as being free from any kind of restraints at this time. Brentlinger indicated Evangelista's behavior was abnormal, describing him as saying nonsensical words, playing with toilet water and appeared to be under the influence of drugs. Brentlinger told agents he was also notified by previous shift FCJ personnel that Evangelista had been combative with FCJ workers. Brentlinger confirmed he made multiple attempts to calm Evangelista down however Evangelista ignored his efforts.

Brentlinger indicated he was in the booking area with Corporal (Cpl.) Austin Reeves (Cpl. Reeves) when they heard a "smack." Brentlinger said he walked to Evangelista's cell and observed him on the floor. Brentlinger stated Cpl. Reeves made attempts to wake up/get Evangelista's attention with applying sternum rubs. Brentlinger described Evangelista's breathing as shallow/not normal, and when Evangelista was rolled on his side, he regurgitated water. Brentlinger explained that Cpl. Reeves called for the nurse and CO Samuel Keys (Co Keys) to respond to booking.

Brentlinger said he administered Narcan to Evangelista at the request of the nurse. Brentlinger said the Narcan did not have any effect, and CO Keys and the nurse continued with chest compressions.

Cpl. Reeves advised Brentlinger to retrieve a pistol from the gun locker as Brentlinger would be accompanying medics in the ambulance with transport to the hospital. Brentlinger told agents his role would be to maintain control in the event Evangelista regained consciousness and became combative with medics or hospital staff. Brentlinger stated during the ride to the hospital and at the hospital, he did not observe Evangelista regain consciousness.

Brentlinger stated roughly fifteen (15) minutes after arriving at the hospital, FCSO Sergeant Boring arrived and indicated that Evangelista was given a medical recognition release. Brentlinger returned to FCJ and completed his shift.

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Lastly, Brentlinger advised he had never come in contact with Evangelista prior to the incident and he believed his actions were consistent with his training, and within the department's policy and procedure.

The interview concluded at approximately 1004 hours.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. Sean Brentlinger audio interview

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