



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 Sergeant Christopher Sterling

Activity Date: September 14, 2022

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 0036 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Chuck Moran interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Sergeant Christopher Sterling (Sterling), who was accompanied by his attorney, Jason Wells, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at 1460 Triplett Boulevard, Akron, Ohio. Fraternal Order of Police Akron Lodge #7 President Clay Cozart was also present during the interview.

The interview was audio recorded.

Sergeant Sterling 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, Sergeant Sterling 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, Sergeant Sterling advised that he was the driver of either marked APD cruiser, Car 41 or 44. Sergeant Sterling advised that he is a "jump car" and was not sure which cruiser he was in that night. Dispatch records indicate that Sergeant Sterling was actually in Car 43 on June 27, 2022. Sergeant Sterling was not working with a partner. Sergeant Sterling was wearing his standard APD uniform.

SA Momchilov stated to Sergeant Sterling that it was his understanding that he responded to an officer-involved shooting on June 27, 2022. Sergeant Sterling replied, "Yes." SA Momchilov then asked, "What caused you to respond to that scene?"

Sergeant Sterling advised he was at the police station on the 5th floor. Sergeant Sterling continued, "Heard the pursuit go out, when I heard the Signal 21 shots fired, at that time I began going down the elevator to get my cruiser to load up. As I was loading in my cruiser I heard officers had shot, um, I then responded to the scene and helped set up perimeter, for the remainder of the incident."

Sergeant Sterling advised that he did not see or hear any portion of the officer-involved shooting.

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SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Sterling if he had an opportunity to look inside the individual's vehicle while on scene. Sergeant Sterling replied, "Not that I recall."

Sergeant Sterling was wearing a body-worn camera and advised that he had not reviewed his body-worn camera footage. However, SA Momchilov was not provided body-worn camera footage for Sergeant Sterling. It is possible that Sergeant Sterling did not have his body-worn camera activated.

SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Sterling what is a Signal 21. Sergeant Sterling replied, "So we have Signal 5, which is emergency traffic but Signal 21 is like the, the end-all, be-all emergency traffic. It's officers are in need of immediate assistance, um, or some type of catastrophic event has happened where pretty much, we're all heading that way to give assistance."

Sergeant Sterling advised that Signal 21s are not a common occurrence and maybe one or two have been called since he has been a sergeant (approximately two years).

Sergeant Sterling completed a typed narrative and that report is attached to this Investigative Report.

*It should be noted that agents purposely did not ask Sergeant Sterling if he had discussions or conversations with the involved officers. The purpose of this was not to taint investigators with any possible Garrity-related statements or information.

Attachments:

The audio recording of the interview is attached to this Investigative Report.

Sergeant Sterling's typed narrative is attached to this Investigative Report.

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AKRON POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUPPLEMENT REPORT

CASE# **2022-00078920**

EVENT	<small>REPORTED DATE/TIME</small> 07/05/2022 05:04	<small>OCCURRED INCIDENT TYPE</small>	
	<small>OCCURRED FROM DATE/TIME</small>	<small>OCCURRED THRU DATE/TIME</small>	<small>LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE</small> tallmadge AVE akron, OH 44310

OFFENSES	STATUTE/DESCRIPTION	COUNTS	ATTEMPT/COMMIT

SUBJECT	<small>JACKET/SUBJECT TYPE</small>		<small>NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE SUFFIX)</small>							
	<small>DOB</small>		<small>AGE or AGE RANGE</small>		<small>ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)</small>					
	<small>RACE</small>			<small>SEX</small>	<small>HEIGHT or RANGE</small>	<small>WEIGHT or RANGE</small>	<small>HAIR</small>	<small>EYE</small>		
	<small>DL NUMBER/STATE</small>			<small>PRIMARY PHONE</small>		<small>PHONE #2</small>		<small>PHONE #3</small>		

SUBJECT	<small>JACKET/SUBJECT TYPE</small>		<small>NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE SUFFIX)</small>							
	<small>DOB</small>		<small>AGE or AGE RANGE</small>		<small>ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)</small>					
	<small>RACE</small>			<small>SEX</small>	<small>HEIGHT or RANGE</small>	<small>WEIGHT or RANGE</small>	<small>HAIR</small>	<small>EYE</small>		
	<small>DL NUMBER/STATE</small>			<small>PRIMARY PHONE</small>		<small>PHONE #2</small>		<small>PHONE #3</small>		

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	<small>DL NUMBER/STATE</small>			<small>PRIMARY PHONE</small>		<small>PHONE #2</small>		<small>PHONE #3</small>		

<small>REPORTING OFFICER</small> 1397 Sterling	<small>DATE</small> 07/05/2022	<small>REVIEWED BY</small>
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AKRON POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUPPLEMENT REPORT

CASE# **2022-00078920**

NARRATIVE

I heard the incident over the radio and began loading up my cruiser. While in the basement the incident ended. I then arrived on scene and helped set up the perimeter of the crime scene and instructed officers to canvass residences in the area for cameras and potential witnesses. I then spoke with officers on scene and directed other officers to specific positions to help with managing the scene. I spoke with one witness who did not see anything and stated his information had already been taking by one of my officers. I then remained on scene managing officers until i was relieved.

REPORTING OFFICER

1397 Sterling

DATE

07/05/2022

REVIEWED BY