



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – Travis Hellinger (V)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Jacob Johnson (O)
Date of Activity: 12/21/2022
Activity Location: Marion County Sheriff's Office – Business – 100 Executive Drive,
Marion, OH 43302, Marion County
Author: SA Tiffany Vollmer, #49

Narrative:

On 12/21/2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Tiffany Vollmer (Vollmer) interviewed Marion County Sheriff Deputy Jacob Johnson (Johnson) at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, 100 Executive Drive, Marion, Ohio. The interview was digitally recorded and a copy of the audio recording is attached to this investigative report. A copy of the audio recording has also been placed in this case file. The following is a summary of the interview:

Johnson was identified as being a deputy who had some level of involvement in the 12/20/2022, officer-involved shooting, which occurred in the area of the railroad tracks near the intersection of School Street and Section Street in Larue, Ohio. Reportedly, Johnson did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this deputy.

Johnson advised he has been employed by the sheriff's office for approximately a year and is assigned as a road deputy. On the day the critical incident took place involving Travis Hellinger (Hellinger), Johnson was assigned as part of the arrest team for the search warrant being executed at Hellinger's residence, 256 Swain Street, La Rue, Marion County, Ohio. Johnson said the search warrant team approached the property and set up perimeter control. The team also consisted of sniper, drone, cyber and recon assignments. According to Johnson, search warrant team members were briefed that a confidential informant said Hellinger would be involved in a shooting with law enforcement if law enforcement ever "tried to do anything." Team members were also

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briefed beforehand that Hellinger had firearms and a plate carrier.

Johnson heard the drone team say Hellinger was outside and that he was running away from the property. Then Johnson heard someone say on the radio Hellinger was not being compliant. Three out of six team members and the K9 unit, where Johnson was set up, left to go assist the team who were already engaged with Hellinger. At this time, Johnson looked north of the property towards the railroad tracks and saw Hellinger holding a light in his hand. Johnson was unsure if it was a gun with a light or a flashlight but was told by another member, "Thomas," that it was a flashlight. Johnson heard a team member yelling several times, "You're under arrest," and then heard someone, Johnson thought was Hellinger, ask, for what? Johnson thought he heard a team member say, "for trespassing," and heard someone say Hellinger had a gun and a plate carrier.

Johnson held his position at the search warrant location. He could hear yelling by the railroad tracks but could not see what was going on. Johnson heard approximately 10 shots and heard someone get on the radio and say shots fired. Johnson never left his post until it was decided the search warrant would continue to be served.

Johnson was not directly involved in the officer-involved shooting. At the time of the interview, he had no further information but provided his phone number should questions arise.

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

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Jacob Johnson