



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



2025-0596

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 236 McKinley Ave, Piqua, OH
(Miami County) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Duane West (W)
Date of Activity: 02/21/2025
Activity Location: Piqua Police Department – Business – 100 N. Wayne Street, Piqua, OH 45356
Author: SA David Hornyak, #112

Narrative:

On February 21, 2025, at approximately 2041 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Dave Hornyak and Steve Seitzman interviewed Duane Edward West relative to the officer-involved critical incident that occurred earlier that evening at 236 McKinley Avenue, Piqua, Ohio. The interview took place at the Piqua Police Department. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this individual.

Prior to the interview, the agents learned from the Piqua Police Department (PPD) that Duane West was the father of David West, who was shot and killed during the officer-involved critical incident. PPD also advised that Duane West, who was present for the incident, was not criminally involved and had been brought to the station to be questioned by BCI.

Duane West informed the agents that he was speaking with them voluntarily and then provided the following information:

Earlier in the evening, Duane and his wife, Tammy West, informed their adult son, David West (44 years of age), that they were no longer willing to support him. In response, David knocked Tammy to the ground. Duane said, "He [David] either grabbed her [Tammy], grabbed the chair, or slung her backwards," causing her to hit her head on the floor. Duane went on to say that when David flung Tammy backwards, he did so "real hard...brute strength."

SA Hornyak asked Duane if David had been drinking on the day of the officer-involved critical incident. He answered by saying, "Probably." He further described David as being "just angry." He went on to say, "...he had these eyes I've never seen before...like a serial killer's eyes...you know, just a rage..."

Duane stated that Tammy said aloud that she was going to call the police, which David likely

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overheard. David then went down to the basement, where he had a PepperBall gun with a laser. According to Duane, the PepperBall gun "looks real." He further stated that David had a switchblade knife in the basement. He also described David as "sneaky" and said he did not know what else he had in the basement.

Duane stated his belief that Lieutenant Rodriguez had a prior incident with David where David had assaulted him. Regarding the officer-involved critical incident, Duane said, "I'm not blaming Officer Rodriguez for anything. I know he was doing his job. He told David several times to drop his gun and show his hands..." At one point, Duane heard David tell the officers, "I'm not dropping my gun. I'm not coming up there." He went on to reiterate that he did not fault Lieutenant Rodriguez, as he gave David several warnings to drop it and show him his hands. Duane repeated his belief that the officer was not at fault, saying, "Like I said, the officer wasn't at fault at all. I mean, he..he was doing his job, you know?"

Duane described David as an alcoholic and stated that he claimed to have cirrhosis of the liver. He said David typically drank beer and Four Loko malt beverages. Duane also stated that David's ex-fiancée took their daughter and left approximately four years ago. He stated that David had not seen his daughter since. He described that situation as a contributing factor to David's anger.

Duane opined that David may have been "doing it on purpose," referring to a possible suicide by cop encounter. He based his opinion on the purported terminal illness David had. When asked if David was suicidal, he indicated that David had made suicidal comments in the past. He further stated that David commented on the day of the officer-involved critical incident that he did not want to live.

Duane stated that David's twin brother, Duane Eric West, also resides at the residence; however, he was not home for any portion of the incident.

The interview terminated at approximately 2057 hours.

The interview was recorded on a handheld digital recording device. This report is a summary only. The entire interview can be reviewed on the recording.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-02-21 / Duane West interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.