



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



2024-3564

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 5050 Eastpointe Drive,  
Medina, Ohio 44256, Medina County

**Investigative Activity:** Uninvolved Officer Interview  
**Involves:** Officer Joel Eckstine  
**Activity Date:** 12/20/2024  
**Activity Location:** 6665 Wadsworth Road, Montville Township, OH  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Jesse Bynum

**Narrative:**

On Friday, December 20, 2024, at 1151 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jesse Bynum (SA Bynum) and SA Nick Valente (SA Valente) interviewed Montville Township Police Department (MTPD) Officer Joel Eckstine (Eckstine). The interview took place at Montville Township Police Department at 6665 Wadsworth Road, Montville Township, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Officer Eckstine read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

Officer Eckstine was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the November 11, 2024, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of Arby's at 5081 Eastpointe Drive, Medina Township, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Eckstine did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

Officer Eckstine stated his radio call sign on November 11, 2024, was 1618. He has been employed by the MTPD for about 10 years. He has been a police officer for a total of 20 years. During the incident, Officer Eckstine wore his standard SWAT uniform. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove MTPD unit #3, marked with MTPD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses.

When asked about the method of how Officer Eckstine learned of the incident, he stated that he viewed the amber alert on his wife's phone and then used the mobile application "Field Ops" and saw the details of the incident. Officer Eckstine described it as a truck on 71 with guys setting up spikes. Then he began monitoring radio traffic

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and started getting dressed and prepared and as he was pulling out of his driveway, Captain Conwell activated SWAT.

Officer Eckstine was asked to describe what he saw and what he did during the incident, and he stated that while he was driving, he was focused on the location of Charles Alexander to determine where he should deploy as a sniper. Officer Eckstine said he was thinking about the fact that he was going to have to shoot through glass without injuring the girl due to shot deviation.

Officer Eckstine wanted to go to high ground, so he entered the exit ramp from Route 18 and blacked out his vehicle. Ofc Eckstine said "I saw a black SUV, which I thought was a Medina Township cruiser. I went past it. I probably went past it, not sure how far, maybe 50 yards. I don't know. And jumped out. As I jumped out, I saw somebody climbing up the back of the car and getting on there. And then I ran down, and I could see a rifle and all I could see was m lock slots of the hand guard." Ofc Eckstine asked [REDACTED] if his rifle was an AR and [REDACTED] responded that it was a .308 and that he was [REDACTED] requested a light on the car as it was dark out. Officer Eckstine moved his cruiser and then assisted [REDACTED] by obtaining the distance to Charles Alexander. Officer Eckstine used a range finder and was able to determine it was 69 yards away.

Officer Eckstine said that [REDACTED] came down from the top of the Durango and grabbed "barrier rounds" and went back up. Officer Eckstine said that when he used his binoculars, he was able to realize that the driver's side window was broken and would not be the factor he had previously thought. Officer Eckstine used his radio to tell the other SWAT members to have the assault team prepared. Officer Eckstine said he saw the back of Charles' head, and when his head went back, [REDACTED] made the shot. Officer Eckstine stated he was fearful for Oaklynn's safety because Charles had fired two rounds already. While he didn't know what or who Charles was shooting at, Officer Eckstine feared for the safety of other closer officers and people in Bob Evans and Arby's.

The interview concluded at approximately 1215 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

**References:**

None

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**Attachments:**

1. 2024-12-20 - Criminal Investigation Notification Eckstine
2. 2024-12-20\_1152\_Interview\_Joel\_Eckstine

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**Criminal Investigation Notification**

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

JOEL ECKSTINE

Printed Name of Interviewee

12/20/2024 1150  
Date / Time

 #1418

Signature of Interviewee

\_\_\_\_\_  
BCI Agent (Printed)

Jesse Bynum  
BCI Agent (Signature)