



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



2021-0584

Officer Involved Critical Incident – Interstate 270 Northbound on
Big Walnut Creek Bridge, Columbus (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Cody Palmer (W)
Date of Activity: 03/05/2021
Author: SA Perry K. Roeser, #114

Narrative:

On March 5, 2021, the Bureau of Criminal Investigations was contacted by the Columbus Police Division (CPD) about an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OCIC) that occurred on Interstate 270 N just south of Interstate 70. CPD officials explained that a vehicle pursuit began with a subject later identified as Andrew Teague with a felony warrant. CPD said the pursuit was canceled due to the non-compliance to stop. CPD stated other law enforcement agencies ultimately spotted the vehicle on the I-270 Outerbelt around Columbus. CPD stated the subject turned around on the interstate and traveled southbound into the northbound traffic on I-270. Law enforcement vehicles pursued Teague until he crashed into oncoming traffic. CPD explained Teague exited his car and shot at police officers. Officers returned gunfire and killed Teague on the roadway. BCI's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) was contacted for the OICI investigation.

At approximately 1800 hours, BCI Special Agent (SA) Perry Roeser arrived at the scene's location to assist with witness interviews. SA Roeser was advised that officers involved with the OICI earlier that day were waiting to be interviewed at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office Substation on the city's south side of town.

At approximately 2326 hours, SA Roeser met with Mifflin Township Police Officer Cody Palmer. SA Roeser first asked Palmer for a voluntary interview and explained that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation into the OICI which had occurred earlier that day. Palmer was told if he wanted an attorney present, the interview would be re-scheduled. Palmer agreed to speak with SA Roeser.

Palmer stated he had been a police officer for the last five years. Palmer said he served four and a half years with the Perry County Sheriff's Department before joining the Mifflin Township Police Department. Palmer said his badge number is #203 and his unit number is #234. Palmer noted his full-time work schedule was Tuesday thru Saturday from 3 pm to 11 pm. Palmer indicated he was still in the same uniform from earlier that day and carried a Glock

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

17 sidearm and a less-lethal force Taser on this duty belt. Palmer stated the only recording devices he possessed was his Body Worn Camera (BWC) system which was being downloaded. See Reference #2.

Palmer stated he was still in the Field Training Officer program with the department and his training officer was Officer Peddicord. Palmer noted he was the driver of the marked Mifflin Township police cruiser that day and Peddicord was the passenger. Palmer explained his patrol vehicle was assigned to zone two that afternoon. Palmer further noted, his patrol vehicle had a Mobile Data Transmitter (MDT) onboard that he signed into at the beginning of his shift. Palmer indicated he had to log in with his driver's license number, badge number, and district to which he was assigned.

SA Roeser asked Palmer how he became involved with the OICI on I-270 earlier that day. Palmer stated they heard over the police radio communication about a felony warrant on a subject and a vehicle pursuit. Palmer said while listening to the radio traffic; they were within their assigned district until the target vehicle headed toward them. Palmer said, admittedly he was unfamiliar with the roadways and direction of travel when they exited Mifflin Township's boundaries.

Palmer said at or near I-70 westbound and Brice Rd., they encountered the target vehicle. Palmer said the target vehicle turned around and started back westbound on I-70 and then exited northbound on I-270. Palmer noted he was following a marked sheriff's cruiser with the target vehicle in front of both. Palmer stated they were only following the target vehicle; no lights or sirens were active. Palmer said the target vehicle pulled over on the roadway side and came to a stop, and both police cruisers came to a halt. Palmer said a couple more police cruisers were now behind him. Palmer then stated the target vehicle did a U-turn on the interstate and headed southbound into the northbound traffic. Palmer said when the target vehicle made the U-turn, a pursuit now ensued with lights and sirens going the wrong direction on the freeway. Palmer said while engaged in the active vehicle pursuit, they were told to terminate the pursuit, which they did.

After they terminated the pursuit, Palmer said they eventually located an emergency turn-around that separated the north and southbound traffic. While at the entrance to the split in the freeway, the target vehicle became involved in a traffic accident with oncoming cars. Palmer said the county sheriff made it back onto the right side of the freeway, but Palmer noted after they witnessed the vehicle(s) crashed, they continued on the northbound side of the highway to render aid. Palmer said when they pulled up to the crash location, he saw the subject of the target vehicle crawl out of the car, raise his arm, and then saw a puff of smoke. Palmer said he knew the subject was shooting at them.

Palmer said both he and Peddicord exited the police cruiser and took cover. Palmer said officers then began a foot chase of the subject southbound on the freeway. Palmer stated he fell on the roadway, and when he regained his footing, he heard gunfire but did not witness who was firing their weapons. Palmer explained when he approached the scene where officers were located, he saw the subject on the ground and a gun near his head. Palmer said he used his foot to push the gun away from the head area. Palmer described the handgun as a black and silver semi-automatic pistol.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Palmer stated he then witnessed Officer Peddicord and a county deputy sheriff begin life-saving measures on the subject. Palmer was asked if he saw any police misconduct during or after the OICI; he said no.

After the OICI concluded, Palmer said he and Peddicord traveled to the sheriff's office substation and waited for investigators' instruction. The Interview ended at approximately 2358 hours.

The Interview between SA Roeser and Palmer was audio-recorded and can be reviewed for additional details. See attachment #1 for a copy of the audio recording.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01:803_0084 OfficerCody Palmer

References:

01 - CD/DVD - DVD Mifflin Township PD BWC Videos