



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: Officer Zachary Smith (W)
Date of Activity: 02/19/2025
Activity Location: Piqua Police Department – Business – 100 N. Wayne Street, Piqua, OH 45356
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On Friday, February 21, 2025, at approximately 2206 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agent Steven Seitzman interviewed Piqua Police Officer Zachary Smith, who was accompanied by his Fraternal Order of Police attorney, Scott A. Rubenstein from Rubenstein & Thurman, LPA. The interview took place in a small conference room inside the Piqua Police Department. The interview was audio recorded.

The details below summarize what the author believed to be the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are not a verbatim account. 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. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed.

Officer Smith was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the officer-involved critical incident that occurred on the same date. He did not discharge his weapon during the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by him.

Officer Smith advised that he was working his usual [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]. He stated he was wearing his department-issued uniform and was clearly identifiable as a police officer.

Officer Smith stated that during his shift, sometime after 1600 hours, he responded to a disturbance at 236 McKinley Avenue. He stated that dispatch added notes to the call that the involved subject, David West, had assaulted his mother. As he was responding to the call, he heard Officer Kimpel broadcast over the police radio that there was a subject with a gun.

Officer Smith stated that when he reached the front porch of the residence, he heard four

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successive gunshots. He went into the residence and met Officer Heath, Officer Kimpel, and Lieutenant Rodriguez, who were all positioned at the basement door. Eventually the officers went downstairs to locate David. It was there that he saw David lying on his back "struggling for life." He saw that David had several gunshot wounds and had labored, agonal breathing. He observed a gunshot wound on David's abdominal area and saw blood coming from underneath him.

Officer Smith ran to his cruiser to grab medical supplies. Once there, he observed Officer Kimpel cutting David's shirt. Once his shirt was removed, the officers applied combat gauze to the wounds. He said David became unresponsive, so Officer Heath initiated CPR. After approximately two minutes of CPR, medics arrived on the scene and took over medical care. After the medics had worked on David for approximately 24 minutes, he was pronounced deceased. Officer Smith stated that he felt police officers and medics did everything possible to save David's life.

Officer Smith stated that he saw what appeared to be a black, semi-automatic pistol on the ground while he was in the basement. He said the pistol had an illuminated laser attached to it. He stated that he later learned that the pistol was actually a paintball or PepperBall gun. He confirmed that he could not tell it was a less-lethal weapon upon his initial observation of it. He further stated that there was nothing about the weapon that would distinguish it as a less-lethal weapon.

Officer Smith stated that he had no prior interactions with David. He said he had dealt with other family members in the past. He said he had knowledge through the police department that David had mental health issues and had resisted arrest on prior incidents. He stated that there was a dispatch caution alert attached to David indicating that he had violent tendencies.

The interview concluded at 2215 hours. The audio recording is attached to this investigative report.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-02-21 Interview of Officer Zachary Smith