



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



2023-0290  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1818 Jisco West Rd, Jackson,  
OH 45640 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** Officer Probation Christina Edwards (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 02/08/2023  
**Activity Location:** Jackson County Sheriff's Office – Business – 350 Portsmouth  
Street, Suite102, Jackson, OH 45640, Jackson County  
**Author:** SA Craig Call

**Narrative:**

On January 31, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Investigations and Crime Scene Units were requested by Jackson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) Sheriff Ted Frazier to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (shooting) between members of the JCSO and William Beach (Beach). BCI was informed the incident occurred at 1818 Jisco West Road in Jackson County, Ohio, and resulted in Beach being fatally shot by JCSO Lieutenant [REDACTED] (Lt. [REDACTED]).

During the initial stages of the investigation, agents were informed there were two probation officers present during the incident in addition to law enforcement. The probation officers were identified as Jackson County Municipal Court Chief Probation Officer Wesley Skaggs (Chief Skaggs) and Probation Officer Christina Edwards (Officer Edwards).

On February 8, 2023, Special Agent Craig Call (SA Call) and Special Agent Jim Mulford (SA Mulford) met with Officer Edwards at the JCSO in reference to obtaining a witness statement for the above reference incident. Officer Edwards had prepared a signed written witness statement and provided it to SA Call prior to giving a verbal statement. SA Call thoroughly reviewed the statement prior to the interview. The statement contains the language "I Christina Edwards DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT THE BELOW MENTION NARRATIVE IS TRUE" and is signed by Officer Edwards.

This report is a summation of the interview. An audio copy of the interview along with the signed written witness statement have been added to the case file and should be referenced for specific quotes.

The audio recording device was initiated at approximately 1013 hours.

Officer Edwards has been with the Jackson County Municipal Court as a probation officer since

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2008 and has no additional work history relevant to her current position.

Officer Edwards's recorded audio statement is consistent with her signed written witness statement and the follow up questions Officer Edwards answered were also consistent with her written statement.

Officer Edwards said she and Chief Skaggs became involved in the above referenced incident due to the JCSO requesting assistance with Beach at 1818 Jisco West Road. Officer Edwards explained Beach was currently on probation with her office, but could not recall what the specific offense was. Officer Edwards described arriving to the address at approximately 1100 hours and observing JCSO Lt. [REDACTED] Lt. [REDACTED] Deputy Leif Smith (Deputy Smith), and Deputy Jesse Reynolds (Deputy Reynolds) trying to persuade Beach to come out of the residence. Officer Edwards indicated these negotiations went on for several hours and throughout the time period Beach was confirmed to be armed with an axe and a handgun by visual observations by Chief Skaggs and Beach's own admissions. During the continued negotiations, Officer Edwards observed JCSO Sheriff Ted Frazier (Sheriff Frazier) and Chief Deputy Scott Conley (Chief Conley) respond to the incident as well as negotiators from the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Officer Edwards said she could hear Beach yelling at officers during the negotiations, but could not hear much of the dialogue due to her physical location.

Officer Edwards observed Lt. [REDACTED] Deputy Smith, and Deputy Spangler move up to the front porch with a ballistic shield. Officer Edwards was not a part of any discussions the officers had prior to this action and did not know what their plan was. Officer Edwards described hearing a gunshot as officers made entry into the residence, but could not tell who fired the shot or where it came from. Officer Edwards described hearing what sounded like a physical altercation inside the residence, but was unable to actually witness anything. Officer Edwards ultimately learned Lt. [REDACTED] fired the shot, but could not remember who informed her. Officer Edwards observed EMS arrive and transport Beach from the scene.

Officer Edwards said she has had several previous contacts with Beach and his ex-wife, Christina Beach, over the years due to them being on probation. Officer Edwards described the issues with Beach during those encounters as being drug related and never escalated to anything violent. Officer Edwards indicated she has not had any recent dealings with Beach, prior to the January 31, 2022, incident.

Officer Edwards was armed with her issued Glock 17 handgun and did have it out of the holster during the incident, however she never fired.

Officer Edwards did not have any additional information to add to her involvement in this incident.

The audio recording was discontinued at approximately 1039 hours.

#### **Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2023-2-8 Interview with Probation Officer Christina Edwards

Attachment # 02: Probation Officer Edwards Statement

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**Jackson County Municipal Court**  
**Mark T. Musick, Judge**  
**Probation Department**

295 Broadway Street \* Suite 101

Telephone: (740) 288-2175

Jackson, Ohio 45640

Facsimile: (740) 288-2156

Wesley Skaggs, Chief Probation Officer

January 31, 2023

*RE: OFFICER SWORN STATEMENT*

I Christina Edwards DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT THE BELOW MENTION NARRATIVE IS TRUE

On 01/31/2023 at approximately 11:00 am Chief Probation Officer Wes Skaggs stated we were going to Jisco West Road to check on William Beach. The Sheriff's office had called Officer Skaggs and stated they were at a residence that Beach was at and that he was refusing to open the door for them. We arrived at 1818 Jisco West Road where Lt. [REDACTED], Deputy Smith, and Reynolds were on scene. We tried knocking on the door and announced Probation Dept and Sheriff's Office to get Beach to come out, he did not respond. I could hear movement inside the residence. We were going to enter the residence at that point. The door was locked. [REDACTED] stated the property owner said they could use a card to open the door. While attempting to do so [REDACTED] stated he could see Beach and that he had an ax in his hand. [REDACTED] ordered Beach to drop the weapon and open the door. Officer Skaggs attempted to look inside the window of the residence and stated that Beach had a hatchet in one hand and a gun in the other. At that time, we moved back and took cover. [REDACTED] had one of the deputies to tell the property owners to exit their residence as they were so close. They came out of their residence and moved down the road to be out of harms way. [REDACTED] made several verbal attempts to get Beach to come out with his hands up. Beach did not. I asked [REDACTED] if he minded if I try to talk him out of the residence. I then tried

talking to Beach, told him to drop the weapons and come out slowly with his hands up. Beach did not. Officer Skaggs attempted to get Beach to come out also. Beach still refused. It sounded like Beach was talking to someone else inside the residence. Skaggs asked Beach if anyone else was in there with him. I couldn't hear much of what Beach was saying most of the time. Chief Conley then arrived on scene and stated they were going to get a negotiator to come in. Sheriff Frazier arrived along with several other units. The negotiator arrived and attempted to get Beach to come out. Beach still refused. [REDACTED] and Smith were able to get a phone from the negotiator into the residence through the open window. Beach refused to answer the phone. After some time the deputies decided to breach the residence. I heard a shot fired and moved closer in case assistance was needed. As I got closer the deputies were administering aid to Beach and Sheriff Frazier was calling EMS to the scene. Medics arrived on scene, Beach was placed on a stretcher and into the ambulance. After making sure no further assistance was needed Officer Skaggs and I left the scene.

.-END REPORT-



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Probation Officer