



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



2022-1726

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 15266 Gilchrist Rd., Mt.
Vernon (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Deputy Mason Gilbert (W)
Date of Activity: 09/01/2022
Activity Location: Knox County Sheriffs Office – Business – 11540 Upper Gilchrist
Road, Mt Vernon, OH 43050, Knox County
Author: SA John P. Tingley, #154

Narrative:

On September 1, 2022, at approximately 1107 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (Tingley.) and SA Joe Goudy (Goudy) interviewed Deputy (Dep.) Mason Gilbert (Gilbert) of the Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) who was accompanied by Douglas Behringer, attorney, from the Fraternal Order of Police/Ohio Labor Council. The interview took place at the Knox County Sheriff's Office which is located at 11540 Upper Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Dep. Gilbert was identified as being a law enforcement officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the August 20, 2022, Officer-Involved Critical Incident which occurred in the area of 15266 Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Knox County, Ohio. Reportedly, Dep. Gilbert did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information obtained during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions nor is it a word for word translation of the questions or answers. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

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Prior to the interview, SA Tingley advised Dep. Gilbert that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation and that this interview was voluntary. Dep. Gilbert verbally confirmed he understood and acknowledged he would like to continue with the interview.

The interview then began at approximately 1107 hours.

Dep. Gilbert stated his radio call sign on August 20, 2022 was 4230. During the incident, Dep. Gilbert wore his standard green tactical uniform with KCSO patches on each shoulder. He also wore an outer carrier tactical ballistic vest upon which he carried spare magazines and his radio. Dep. Gilbert stated that he does not wear corrective lenses or have any other physical disabilities or issues. His normal shift is 0800 to 1600 hours Wednesday through Sunday with Monday and Tuesday's off. When asked, Dep. Gilbert stated that he was not wearing a body camera. He further advised that throughout the incident he was monitoring the XSO42 radio channel. Dep. Gilbert was then asked to describe his knowledge of the Officer-Involved Critical Incident.

Dep. Gilbert advised that he received a SWAT call-out around midnight of August 20, 2022. He responded to the funeral home that was being used as a staging area on Coshocton Road. While waiting there he heard the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) helicopter advise that they were taking fire from individuals on the Wilhelm property. After a few hours, he was directed to go to the KCSO to get further instructions and his assignment. Upon arriving at KCSO, Dep. Gilbert was assigned to accompany the OSHP Tactical team in their BearCat armored vehicle.

Dep. Gilbert continued by stating that the OSHP BearCat traveled to a location near the intersection of Berry Road and Vincent Road, which is south of the Wilhelm property located at 15266 Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, Ohio. While in the aforementioned area on August 20, 2022, Dep. Gilbert advised that he heard a vehicle frequently running around the Wilhelm property at different times throughout the early morning hours.

Dep. Gilbert stated that at some point he heard radio traffic that the Wilhelm brothers (Randy and Bradley) had left their mother's house at 15266 Gilchrist Road, Mt. Vernon, and traveled to Randy Wilhelm's house which is located at 15159 Monroe Mills Road, Mt. Vernon. He advised that there were other tactical teams in BearCats at the Monroe Mills address and after a period of time he heard gunshots and calls across the radio of "Shots fired".

The OSHP BearCat had by this time begun moving to the pole barns which are located south of the mother's house on Gilchrist Road but which are still on the Wilhelm's property. However, after the reports of shots fired, the BearCat backed out of the driveway leading to the pole barns and began traveling towards Randy Wilhelm's house on Monroe Mills Road.

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Dep. Gilbert advised that he then heard radio reports that Randy and Bradley Wilhelm were in a Razor (side by side ATV) and were heading back towards their mother's house. The OSHP BearCat , which had traveled away from the Gilchrist Road address, turned and began heading back to the mother's house. He then heard that a shooting had occurred and that the Razor was no longer moving. The OSHP BearCat was then told to go to the scene where the Razor was stopped and box in the Razor to keep it from any further movement. The OSHP BearCat got to the area where the Razor was stopped and the tactical Team got out and approached the Razor. As part of the tactical team, the Tactical Emergency Medical Services (TEMS) officers approached and physically checked both Randy and Bradley Wilhelm. The TEMS officers determined at this time that both Randy and Bradly Wilhelm were deceased. The tactical team then re-entered the BearCat which cleared the area.

SA Tingley asked if Dep. Gilbert had seen or heard the shooting by the other tactical team. Dep. Gilbert replied that he had not heard or seen anything.

SA Tingley then asked where the OSHP BearCat was when the Wilhelm brothers were heading back to their mother's house on Gilbert Road. Dep. Gilbert advised the OSHP BearCat was somewhere on Gilbert Road heading back to the pole barns on the Wilhelm property.

SA Goudy then asked Dep. Gilbert to describe what he meant by "boxing in" the Razor. Dep. Gilbert replied that the BearCat came around the detached garage and then moved forward and bumped the Razor on the rear of the Razor's frame.

The interview then concluded at approximately 1116 hours.

This interview was audio recorded and is attached to this case file. Please review the audio recording for further details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2022-1726 KCSO DEPUTY GILBERT INTERVIEW