



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



2024-1376

Officer Involved Critical Incident – Interstate 77 Southbound at
Exit 85 , New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Bettina Twitty (O)
Date of Activity: 05/06/2024
Activity Location: Bettina Twitty – 1247 Dennison Avenue, Dayton, OH 45410
Author: SA Douglas Eveslage, #66

Narrative:

On Friday, May 3, 2024, at approximately 0630 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by Ohio State Highway Patrol (OHSP) for assistance to conduct an independent investigation surrounding an officer-involved shooting which occurred on Interstate 77 Southbound at Exit ramp 85 in the City of New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. BCI Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and BCI Crime Scene Units responded to assist with the investigations. The shooting incident involved a subject, Kendell Floyd Woodard (Kendell), three OHSP troopers, and one Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) deputy. The incident resulted in the death of Woodard.

On Monday, May 6, 2024, at approximately 0947 hours, Special Agent Douglas Eveslage (SA Eveslage) interviewed Bettina Twitty (Bettina), cousin of Kendell Woodard, at 1247 Dennison Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45410. It should be noted that Bettina considers Kendell her brother and they were raised together as such. Bettina started off by wanting to personally thank the Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper who she spoke with on May 3rd, while trying to assist with deescalating the incident with Kendell. Bettina said that his "compassion over the phone was comforting" for her, and "he did everything he could to try and help him out of their safely." Bettina explains further that she does not hold anybody at fault and she "knows he (Kendell) wanted to die."

Bettina tells SA Eveslage that she was on an open phone call with the Troopers trying to have her talk Kendell into exiting the vehicle. Bettina describes hearing Kendell say "okay okay I'm out I'm out" over the phone, but right after that the phone "muffled and went dead." She said that she called back and talked to a dispatcher; however, they were not able to get her back in touch with the Troopers on scene with Kendell. Bettina explains that the Trooper told her that Kendell unlocked the door and that the Trooper said he was going to be putting the phone down due to the doors being unlocked on Kendell's vehicle, but asked her to stay on the line so she could hear what was going on. She said that shortly there after, the phone "muffled"

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and just hung up.

Bettina said that she first started calling Kendell's cell phone for the Troopers, around ten times, but Kendell would not answer. Bettina said she asked the Trooper to put her on speaker phone so Kendell could hear her talking to him. Bettina said that she could hear the Trooper asking Kendell to open the door and step out of the vehicle multiple times, and Bettina believed that Kendell got out of the vehicle because she heard him say "okay I'm out I'm out."

SA Eveslage asked Bettina why Kendell was in Northeastern Ohio, and Bettina explained that he has a four year old son that lives in Cleveland, Ohio area and she believes that he was trying to see him. Bettina said that she spoke to the four year old son's mother, Melissa LNU, after she found out about the incident involving Kendell. Bettina said that Kendell also has a ten year old daughter that lives in the Dayton, Ohio area and that child's mother is Adairia Kelly.

SA Eveslage asked Bettina for Kendell's cell phone number and she provided 502-716-1118 and said that he has had that cell phone number for over one year but does change his numbers. SA Eveslage asked if Bettina knew the passcode to unlock Kendell's phone or what his phone physically looked like, but she did not know either of those answers. SA Eveslage asked what Kendell's address is and Bettina could only say that his house was on Germantown Street but her brother Rodney Twitty will know that address because he works in the garage in the rear of the Germantown Street property.

SA Eveslage asked if Kendell was active on any social media platforms, and she said he had a TikTok handle of "King72689" and Kendell had a Facebook account but she was not friends with him on Facebook.

SA Eveslage asked if Bettina knew when Kendell left to go to Cleveland, and she stated that she was not sure but his family was looking for him on Tuesday. Bettina said that one of her brother's asked Kendell on Tuesday if he was okay, and Kendell answered "no." She explained that when Kendell was having problems he would usually not admit it and say that he was okay, so when he told her brother that he was not okay, they knew something was really wrong with him. Bettina said that Kendell checked himself into the Saint Elizabeth Hospital on Edwin C. Moses Drive, in Dayton, Ohio, within the last two weeks for mental health issues; however, he only stayed there for two days. She said that Kendell was talking to a mental health hotline, but got frustrated because they only seemed interested in his insurance information.

Bettina said that Tuesday, May 30th, was the last time that anyone from her family saw him and they kept trying to get ahold of him through phone calls but he would not answer. Bettina thought that Kendell probably left to go to the Cleveland area on Wednesday but that was just a guess. SA Eveslage asked if Kendell had mental health issues often or if there was anything that happened recently or around this time of the year. Bettina explained that Kendell would usually have issues or go to jail around May every year and that she thought it was because her mother died in the month of May approximately 12 years ago. Bettina said that over the last year to year and a half, Kendell has not looked good and has been behaving differently and she could tell when she saw him that something was wrong.

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SA Eveslage asked if Kendell lived by himself at the Germantown Street address, and Bettina advised that he lived there with "Nah Nah," a male she described as "African" and whom she has never met but is around Kendell's age.

SA Eveslage revisits a statement Bettina said early about Kendell saying he wanted to die, and Bettina explains that Kendell was acting like "he did not want to be here anymore." Kendell told one of Bettina's brothers that he did not want to live without Bettina's mother anymore. SA Eveslage asked if Kendell ever mentioned how he was going to end his life or if he talked about any plans, but she said he never talked about that with her. Bettina explained that Kendell would not come around her very often and she thought it was because she looked very similar to her mother and thought Kendell had a hard time because of that. She said Kendell would stop by her residence and hang fruit on the front door handle as a gesture to let her know he was thinking of her.

SA Eveslage asked if she knew Kendell to possess or carry a firearm, and she said no, Kendell is not a gun person. Bettina said that she was talking to Melissa LNU who asked if Bettina thought that Kendell really had a gun and if that was the way the officer involved critical incident really happened. Bettina said she told her yes and that you never know when someone is acting that way what they would do or be capable of.

SA Eveslage asked if Kendell always drove Rodney Twitty's truck and Bettina confirmed that Kendell would drive his truck. SA Eveslage asked if Kendell ever used narcotics, and Bettina knew him to use marijuana, but thought he possibly was using other narcotics because how quick his behavior would change.

This interview was concluded at approximately 1019 hours. This is a summary of the interview. See audio recording for further details (Attachment #01).

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-05-06 Bettina Twitty Interview