



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



2025-1603  
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4482 Hampton Woods  
Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43230 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Uninvolved Officer Interview  
**Involves:** Officer Steve Shope  
**Activity Date:** 05/20/2025  
**Activity Location:** CPD SWAT Headquarters  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Brady Curry

**Narrative:**

On May 20, 2025, at approximately 0438 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Brady Curry (SA Curry) obtained a recorded statement from Columbus Division of Police (CPD) SWAT Officer Steve Shope (Officer Shope) regarding the May 19, 2025, fatal shooting incident between CPD officers and Jerry Smith (Smith) that occurred at 4482 Hampton Woods Court in Columbus, Ohio. The contact with Officer Shope took place at the CPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) building. Prior to providing a statement, Officer Shope was notified that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation into the shooting incident, and he confirmed he would provide a voluntary statement. The following is a summation of the statement of Officer Shope and additional details can be found in the attached audio recording.

Officer Shope (Badge #1458 and radio #531) overheard radio traffic that there was a barricade situation. Officer Shope received a SWAT all-call notification to respond to the scene.

Once on scene, Officer Shope had a less lethal gun and a bunker/shield. Those items were shortly passed off to another officer. Officer Shope was then assigned to one of the armored vehicle turrets (Bearcat #1), where Officer Shope remained for the duration of the incident.

Officer Shope stated that Smith opened the door multiple times, coming to the door and then slamming the door. Officer Shope observed the gun in Smith's hands multiple times. Officer Shope could only see Smith's arm with the gun in Smith's hand. Officer Shope advised the angle he had from the turret and the front door was difficult to see Smith while standing in the doorway, a tree limb also obstructed Officer Shope's view. Officer Shope stated that Smith fired the gun two (2) times. One (1) shot was believed to hit an armored vehicle and the other possibly went between the armored vehicles. Officer Shope stated the shots were through the door and through a window.

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Officer Shope could not fully understand what Smith was yelling but could hear the yelling throughout the incident.

Officer Shope stated right before Smith was shot, Officer Shope observed Smith open the door and raise the handgun. Officer Shope could still only see Smith from the elbow down to his hand, with the gun in his hand. Officer Shope stated, "as soon as he raised it (gun) that's when they ended up firing on him." Officer Shope heard two shots, both were almost simultaneous. Officer Shope advised he observed Smith's hand fly back. The drone team deployed, and the residence was cleared by other SWAT officers.

Officer Shope had his Body Worn Camera (BWC) and helmet camera activated. The cameras were turned into the command post.

The interview concluded at approximately 0456 hours

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

**References:**

**Attachments:**

SWAT Officer Steve Shope Interview

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