



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



2022-1356

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio  
44301

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer Orlando Romine

Activity Date: September 28, 2022

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

**Narrative:**

On Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 1320 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Chuck Moran (Moran) interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Officer Orlando Romine (Romine), who was accompanied by his attorney, Jason Wells, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the law offices of Malarcik, Pierce, Munyer, & Will. Fraternal Order of Police Akron Lodge #7 President Clay Cozart was also present during the interview.

The interview was audio recorded.

Officer Romine was identified as being a police officer who had some level of involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 1659 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Romine did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident and arrived on scene after the shooting. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

On June 27, 2022, Officer Romine stated he was the driver of marked APD cruiser Car 12 and his partner, Officer Bowers, was the passenger. However, during Officer Bowers' interview with Ohio BCI Agents, Officer Bowers stated he was the driver of Car 12 and that Officer Romine was the passenger. SA Momchilov reviewed Officer Bowers and Officer Romine's body-worn camera footage, and it appears that both Officer Bowers and Officer Romine activated their body-worn camera after they were already on scene. At this point, it cannot be determined which officer was the driver and which officer was the passenger of Car 12. Officer Romine was wearing his standard APD uniform.

Prior to the interview, SA Momchilov was advised that Officer Romine had typed a supplemental report that documented his involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting. Officer Romine wished to read the narrative out loud and then he would answer any follow-up questions, if needed.

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Officer Romine's typed narrative reads:

**NARRATIVE**

Officer Bowers #1552 and I Officer Romine 1479 were working in district 12. We were dropping a prisoner off to SCJ when we heard the radio traffic I heard a traffic stop turned into emergency radio traffic. The vehicle took off, and a gunshot was heard coming from the vehicle. We attempted to block traffic in the general area of the suspect. We blocked Arlington St. and Johnston St. We heard the vehicle was moving into district 6 and we block traffic at Johnston St and Brown St.

We then heard that shots were fired. We drove directly to Wilbeth Rd. and Dallas St. On scene, Officer Bowers and I moved cruisers so the Med units could enter the scene. After the vehicles were moved, I was order to canvas the area. I spoke with residence at 16,20,25,30,32,49,38,58,60, Palmetto. I also spoke with passerby who lived at 14 Dartmore, 22 Clinton, and 1747 Thurmont. Most residents did not see anything or did not answer the door.

The resident at 60 Palmetto Ave, Christina Westover, stated that she heard fireworks then heard shots. I was later directed to go back into service and answer the waiting calls throughout the city.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Romine what specifically caused him to respond to the scene/pursuit. Officer Romine explained, "Well, when it's emergency traffic and, and it turned into, sounded like a Signal 21, which is, you know, officer needs help. I definitely wanted to respond to that area."

SA Momchilov stated to Officer Romine that he mentioned in his narrative, "The vehicle took off, and a gunshot was heard coming from the vehicle." SA Momchilov asked Officer Romine if he actually heard that gunshot or if that information was broadcasted over the radio. Officer Romine advised that information was "broadcasted over the air." SA Momchilov also stated, "And you also mentioned, we heard the shots were fired, we heard that shots were fired." SA Momchilov asked Officer Romine if he heard that being broadcasted on the air as well. Officer Romine responded, "Over the air. Over the air as well."

Officer Romine advised that he did not see or actually hear any portion of the shooting.

SA Momchilov asked Officer Romine if he had conversation with any of the involved officers. Officer Romine replied, "No."

Officer Romine advised that he was wearing a body-worn camera. SA Momchilov asked Officer Romine if he had reviewed any of his body-worn camera footage. Officer Romine responded, "Not that I recall but I have saw stuff in the media but I don't recall looking at it myself."

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SA Moran asked Officer Romine if he got close enough to the vehicle the individual was driving to look inside of it. Officer Romine replied, "I don't recall, I mean, I could of but, you know, it was just a lot going on." Officer Romine did advise that he did not perform any detailed search of that vehicle.

At the end of the interview, Officer Romine was afforded the opportunity to view his body-worn camera footage. Officer Romine declined.



Figure 1



Figure 2

*The above images are from Officer Romine's body-worn camera footage. Based upon Officer Romine's body-worn camera footage, it appears that Officer Romine is on scene when he activates his body-worn camera (Figure 1). Officer Romine is observed speaking with citizens who may have been potential witnesses (Figure 2).*

**Attachments:**

The audio recording of the interview is attached to this Investigative Report.

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