



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



2022-1354

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 135 Old National Rd, Lore City
(L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Deputy Christopher Daymut (W)
Date of Activity: 06/25/2022
Activity Location: – 135 Old National Rd, Lore City, OH 43755, Guernsey County
Author: SA Ryan D. Scheiderer, #89

Narrative:

On June 25, 2022 at approximately 0231 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Ryan Scheiderer obtained a recorded statement from Guernsey County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) Deputy Christopher 'Gunnar' Daymut (Deputy Daymut) regarding the June 24, 2022, shooting incident involving GCSO deputies and Joy A. Graham (Graham) which resulted in Graham's death. Prior to obtaining a statement, SA Scheiderer explained to Deputy Daymut that he was not required to provide a statement and any statement made to BCI would be considered voluntary. Deputy Daymut agreed to provide a voluntary statement and the contact took place in SA Scheiderer's BCI vehicle. The following is a summation of Deputy Daymut's statement and additional details can be found within the attached audio recording.

Deputy Daymut's badge number is 3016 (Unit 16) and he is assigned to Second Shift Patrol (1500–2300) with Tuesdays and Wednesdays off and is assigned cruiser #16. Deputy Daymut was hired by the sheriff's office in May of 2021, at which time he attended the basic peace officer's academy. On December 16, 2021, Deputy Daymut started his Field Training Officer (FTO) period as a road patrol deputy. On this date, Deputy Daymut was wearing Body Worn Camera (BWC) and his cruiser was equipped with Dash Camera Video (DCV). Deputy Daymut stated his BWC was activated during the incident with Graham, but may have been muted while officers discussed tactical plans. Deputy Daymut was unsure if his BWC remained muted after that, but should have still recorded video.

On June 25, 2022, Deputy Daymut was working his normal shift with GCSO Sergeant [REDACTED] (Sgt. [REDACTED]). At approximately 2100 hours, Deputy Daymut was taking a runaway juvenile complaint when he heard radio traffic that a vehicle pursuit involving Barnesville Police Department (BPD) may be headed into Guernsey County. Sgt. [REDACTED] asked Dispatch why BPD was pursuing the vehicle and it was relayed that the driver, later determined to be Graham, had an active warrant for her arrest for Felonious Assault on a Peace Officer. After clearing

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the runaway juvenile call, Deputy Daymut stayed “central” while Sgt. ██████ headed towards where the pursuit was headed.

Deputy Daymut monitored radio traffic and heard the pursuit had entered Guernsey County and Sgt. ██████ had unsuccessfully deployed stop-sticks on Graham’s vehicle. Sgt. ██████ joined the pursuit and Deputy Daymut positioned himself on State Route 40 (SR-40) and observed several cruisers responding towards the area of the pursuit. Deputy Daymut heard radio traffic that an Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) trooper had successfully deployed stop-sticks on Graham’s vehicle. Eventually Graham stopped her vehicle on State Route 285 (SR-285) near SR-40 and Sgt. ██████ radioed that officers would be conducting a “felony stop” on the vehicle. Deputy Daymut responded to the stop to assist and observed Graham’s mini-van stopped on SR-285 in the village of Old Washington.

When Deputy Daymut arrived on scene of the stop, he observed cruisers and personnel from BPD, OSHP, and a canine (K9) handler from Cambridge Police Department (CPD) out with Sgt. ██████. Officers were speaking with Graham and trying to get her to exit the vehicle and surrender. Graham was not cooperative and refused to exit her vehicle. Eventually, the CPD K9 handler gave several warnings to Graham that he would deploy his partner and she would be bitten if she did not exit the vehicle. The K9 was deployed in attempt to apprehend Graham from the vehicle, but did not target Graham and was recalled. The CPD K9 handler then approached Graham’s vehicle and Graham started rolling up the window. The CPD K9 handler began striking the window with an expandable baton and then announced he saw Graham with a gun. The CPD K9 handler retreated from the vehicle and a perimeter was established. At some point during the incident, GCSO Sheriff Jeffrey Paden (Sheriff Paden) arrived on scene and took over as incident commander.

Deputy Daymut observed Graham was the only occupant of the vehicle and she appeared to be “eating” something during the stand-off, but was told by a trooper that Graham was applying lip balm. Graham was advised she was under arrest for the warrant and pursuit and she needed to surrender, but she continued to refuse to cooperate. Sheriff Paden asked that the GCSO Special Response Team (SRT) be activated and respond to assist due to negotiations not being productive with Graham.

SRT members GCSO Major ██████ (Major ██████ and Detective Brian ██████ (Detective ██████ responded to the scene to assist. A plan was discussed and it was decided that Sheriff Paden would approach Graham’s vehicle on the driver’s side with a shield as a distraction while Deputy Daymut, Sgt. ██████ Detective ██████ and Major ██████ approached Graham’s vehicle on the passenger’s side. Deputy Daymut led the stack with a shield and breached the window of the front passenger’s door with a baton. Someone in the stack deployed a flash-bang into the vehicle and while Deputy Daymut stepped back to allow Detective ██████ access to the vehicle so he could deploy a Taser at Graham. The Taser was not effective on Graham. During this time, Deputy Daymut became disoriented (possibly due to the flash-bang and kind of stumbled to the ground). Deputy Daymut heard someone say “Gun” followed by a gunshot. Deputy Daymut then heard someone say “She’s shooting”. Deputy Daymut regained his footing, dropped his shield, and retrieved his duty pistol and aimed it inside the vehicle at Graham. Deputy Daymut and others issued commands to Graham ordering her to drop the gun and then Deputy Daymut heard additional gunshots.

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Deputy Daymut went to the driver's side of the vehicle and joined Sheriff Paden in attempt to open the driver's side door to remove Graham from the vehicle. Deputy Daymut observed Graham holding a black semi-automatic pistol which he believed to be a Smith and Wesson Shield pistol. Sheriff Paden took custody of Graham's pistol and secured it behind her vehicle. Graham was then removed from the vehicle and fire and emergency medical technicians arrived on scene and started life-preserving measures on Graham. Deputy Daymut escorted the ambulance transporting Graham to Southeastern Ohio Regional Medical Center. Deputy Daymut stood-by at the hospital while Graham was being treated until a doctor approached him and announced Graham's Time of Death as 23:46. Graham then returned to the original scene.

Deputy Daymut denied prior contact with Graham, but stated he did run the registration on Graham's van and observed a warrant attached to the registered owner "Joy". Deputy Daymut denied firing any firearm during the incident. Deputy Daymut stated he was armed with a Smith and Wesson M&P .40 caliber pistol and always loads his magazines with 15 rounds and doesn't top off his magazine after chambering a round. A check of Deputy Daymut's pistol revealed a round in the chamber and 14 rounds in the magazine. Deputy Daymut was uncertain if Graham fired her pistol during the incident. Deputy Daymut denied knowing which deputies fired their firearms during the incident but was aware that Sgt. [REDACTED] Detective [REDACTED] and Major [REDACTED] were armed with AR-15 style rifles. Deputy Daymut denied anyone discussing who fired their firearms with him after the incident. Deputy Daymut denied anyone telling him what to say in his statement to BCI. Deputy Daymut denied providing any life-saving measures to Graham because medics arrived on scene very quickly and took over those duties. Deputy Daymut assisted in taping off the scene after the incident.

Deputy Daymut was unaware if there were any civilian witnesses, but did observe vehicles driving in the area during the incident. Deputy Daymut couldn't provide any additional information regarding the shooting incident.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: GCSO Deputy Christopher Daymut Audio Interview 6.25.2022