



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



2024-3258

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1273 Rosedale Drive, Dayton,  
OH (Montgomery Co.) (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer

**Involves:** Sergeant Jeffery Spires (W)

**Date of Activity:** 11/04/2024

**Activity Location:** Doll, Jansen & Ford – 111 West First Street, Suite 1100, Dayton, OH 45402

**Author:** SA Steven Seitzman

**Narrative:**

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, the Dayton Police Department requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation in investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on the same date on Access Road near Rosedale Drive in the city of Dayton.

On Monday, November 04, 2024 at approximately 1600 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Richard Ward interviewed Dayton police Sergeant Jeffery Spires, who was accompanied by his Fraternal Order of Police attorney, Joshua Engel. Sergeant Spires was identified as an officer who witnessed or had some level of involvement in the OICI. The interview took place in a conference room at the law office of Doll, Jansen & Ford, located at 111 West First Street, Suite 1100, Dayton, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

The details below summarize what the author believed to be the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are not a verbatim account. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed.

Sergeant Spires confirmed that he did not discharge his weapon during the OICI. He stated that he prepared a typed statement prior to the interview. He reviewed the statement and verified it was his. He then signed the statement and read it into the record.

Sergeant Spires wrote the following regarding the critical moments of the OICI:

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

*"I arrived at the scene. I was informed about comments on the call about the suspect wanting to have a shootout with the police. I then spoke to two individuals who appeared to be the suspect's parents. I learned that the suspect had severe mental issues and may not be taking his medications. I learned that he had a history of violent behavior, including allegedly setting fire to a house recently and was having some disputes related to his children.*

*I went up to a car where [REDACTED] and others were speaking to the suspect in an effort to diffuse the situation. I holstered my weapon. I observed the suspect sitting in his car holding a shotgun. He was pointing the shotgun in the air; I could see his hands near the trigger.*

*[REDACTED] continued to speak to the suspect. I made a few statements, as well. The suspect was given verbal commands to drop the weapon and leave his vehicle.*

*The suspect exited his vehicle and pointed his shotgun in my direction. I believed that I was in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm and the only means of escape from danger was the use of deadly force by other officers. I did not believe that I could safely withdraw from the location and adequately protect myself, other officers, or other possibly innocent persons in the area. I hit the ground while other officers fired at the suspect. I believed that I had a clear line of sight on the suspect.*

*After the shooting stopped, I started to supervise the scene. I observed a shotgun near the suspect. The suspect was searched and I not aware of any other weapons being found. Other officers began life saving measures and a medic was called to the scene. The suspect was transported to a hospital. "*

SA Seitzman asked Sergeant Spires if he recalled any of the conversation he had with Taylor Coleman Anthony Cotton's parents. He said he remembered them saying that Cotton suffered from schizophrenia and took the highest possible dose of Seroquel. He also recalled them saying that Cotton had been diagnosed with schizophrenia for at least five years; however, he likely suffered from the illness for longer.

SA Seitzman asked Sergeant Spires if he heard Cotton say anything during the incident. He stated that he did not but clarified that it was difficult to hear due to the distance. He said he saw Cotton's body movements but never heard him say anything.

Sergeant Spires said he took cover behind a blue car parked on Rosedale Drive. He was with [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Officer K. Urekar, and Officer Kloos. He said he was kneeling down and looking over the top of the car. He saw Cotton exit his car, shoulder the rifle, and point it in his direction. He said he felt that he needed to get behind cover at that point. He said he did not have his firearm out, as he was helping with negotiation efforts. He felt that Cotton was going to start shooting at the officers.

SA Seitzman asked Sergeant Spires if he knew who fired at Cotton based on his own personal observations. He answered that he did not.

The interview was concluded at 1608 hours. Sergeant Spires' typed statement and the audio recording of the interview are attached below.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2024-11-04 Interview of Dayton Sergeant Jeffery Spires

Attachment # 02: Typed Statement of Sergeant Jeffery Spires

# **Exhibit 1**

**Included as a separate file.**

## **Exhibit 2**

## **STATEMENT OF JEFF SPIRES**

**OCTOBER 25, 2024**

I am a Sergeant with the Dayton Police Department. I have been employed as a law enforcement officer since 1998. I have been employed by Dayton since 1998. Prior to working for Dayton Police Department, I worked in military law enforcement. I graduated from the Dayton Police Academy in 1998.

I am currently assigned as a Patrol Administrative Sergeant. I have been a sergeant for about eight years.

I am providing this statement voluntarily. I have prepared the statement to the best of my recollection. I have had the opportunity to review available videos of the incident. It is possible that a future review of additional materials might refresh my recollection in the future.

I am familiar with the Dayton police department policies and procedures on use of force. I most recently completed my firearm qualifications for handgun in Spring 2024.

On the morning October 19, 2024, I worked an overtime shift from 0700 to 1200. My prior shift was my normal 0700 to 1500 on Friday. I was wearing my uniform and operating my patrol car during my shift.

While on duty, I carry my Glock 17 9mm pistol along with 3 magazines containing 17 rounds each. One magazine is contained in the firearm, 2 are carried on my belt. My firearm had 18 rounds (1 in the weapon and 17 in the magazine).

I became aware of the incident at approximately 0845 on October 19, 2024. The weather that morning was clear and crisp.

I was speaking to another Sergeant and became aware that officers were responding to a potentially problematic call. I heard a "99 call," which indicates a request for assistance from an officer in distress.

I was a few blocks away so I proceed to the scene. On my way, I learned that this was a county-wide call and there had been a request for all on-duty SWAT and hostage negotiators. I have training and experience with hostage negotiation from local and FBI trainings and have served on the "hostage team" for about ten years.



I arrived at the scene. I was informed about comments on the call about the suspect wanting to have a shootout with the police. I then spoke to two individuals who appeared to be the suspect's parents. I learned that the suspect had severe mental issues and may not be taking his medications. I learned that he had a history of violent behavior, including allegedly setting fire to a house recently and was having some disputes related to his children.

I went up to a car where [REDACTED] and others were speaking to the suspect in an effort to diffuse the situation. I holstered my weapon. I observed the suspect sitting in his car holding a shotgun. He was pointing the shotgun in the air; I could see his hands near the trigger.

[REDACTED] continued to speak to the suspect. I made a few statements, as well. The suspect was given verbal commands to drop the weapon and leave his vehicle.

The suspect exited his vehicle and pointed his shotgun in my direction. I believed that I was in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm and the only means of escape from danger was the use of deadly force by other officers. I did not believe that I could safely withdraw from the location and adequately protect myself, other officers, or other possibly innocent persons in the area. I hit the ground while other officers fired at the suspect. I believed that I had a clear line of sight on the suspect.

After the shooting stopped, I started to supervise the scene. I observed a shotgun near the suspect. The suspect was searched and I not aware of any other weapons being found. Other officers began life saving measures and a medic was called to the scene. The suspect was transported to a hospital.

I remained on the scene for a period of time. I left my vehicle at the scene. I, along with other officers at the scene, was transported to the Safety Building. I remained in my uniform until an evidence tech from BCI arrived. BCI photographed me. I did not receive any injuries as a result of this incident.



11-4-24