



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



2024-2738

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 345 Lincoln Ave.,
Lancaster, OH 43130 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Corrections Officer Samuel Keys

Involves: CO Samuel Keys

Activity Date: 01/07/2025

Activity Location: 345 Lincoln Ave., Lancaster, OH

Authoring Agent: SA Aja Chung, #86

Narrative:

On Tuesday, January 07, 2025, at 1437 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Aja Chung (SA Chung) and SA James Gore (SA Gore) interviewed Fairfield County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) Corrections Officer (CO) Samuel Keys (CO Keys), who was accompanied by his attorney, Joe Hegedus, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the activity location listed above. The interview was audio recorded, saved electronically to the case file and is attached to this report.

CO Keys was identified as being a corrections officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the use of force incident that involved Chad Evangelista (Evangelista) which occurred at the Fairfield County Jail (FCJ) on September 7-8, 2024. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by CO Keys.

CO Keys, badge number CO 29, was assigned to first shift with the hours of 0800 hours to 1600 hours. CO Keys advised he has since resigned from FCSO and has since been hired as a CO with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

CO Keys indicated when he came in for his shift, he had no information regarding Evangelista. CO Keys advised he was conducting his normal duties in CPOD, where male inmates are housed. Sean Brentlinger asked CO Keys to respond to booking.

When CO Keys got to booking, he observed Evangelista on the floor inside a cell and CO Brentlinger trying to get Evangelista's attention. CO Keys described CO Brentlinger's actions as shaking him and applying a sternum rub. CO Keys said Evangelista appeared to be unconscious, heard Evangelista cough and then observed water coming from Evangelista's mouth.

CO Keys stated a medic was called and he began chest compressions. CO Keys indicated chest compressions were administered between the nurse and himself until

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the medic arrived. Prior to the medic arriving, CO Keys confirmed Narcan was administered to Evangelista.

CO Keys advised he had no information on Evangelista at the beginning of his shift and, to the best of his recollection, had no contact with Evangelista prior to September 8, 2024.

The interview concluded at approximately 1445 hours.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. CO Samuel Keys interview

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