



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



2024-3954

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 3487 Belmont Avenue,  
Youngstown, Ohio, 44505

**Investigative Activity:** Witness Officer Interview  
**Involves:** Officer Brandon Rice (W)  
**Activity Date:** 12/17/2024  
**Activity Location:** Liberty Township Police Department  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Allison Fletcher

**Narrative:**

On Monday, December 16, 2024, at 1951 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) and SA William Conn (Conn) interviewed Liberty Township Police Department (LTPD) Officer Brandon Rice (Rice). The interview took place at the LTPD located at 1315 Churchill Hubbard Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44505. The interview was audio and video recorded.

Officer Rice was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the December 16, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 3487 Belmont Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio, 44505, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Rice did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

Officer Rice stated his radio call sign on December 16, 2024, was 931 which was the same as his badge number. He has been employed by the LTPD for about one and a half years and he has been a police officer for a total of twenty-one and a half years. During the incident, Officer Rice wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove LTPD unit #10, a Ford Explorer, marked with LTPD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

On the date of the incident, Officer Rice was working a security side job at Premier Bank which was located at 3500 Belmont Avenue in Youngstown, Ohio. Premier Bank was located just a short distance down the road from where the shooting incident later occurred.

While at the bank, Officer Rice received a notification on his personal phone for a Flock

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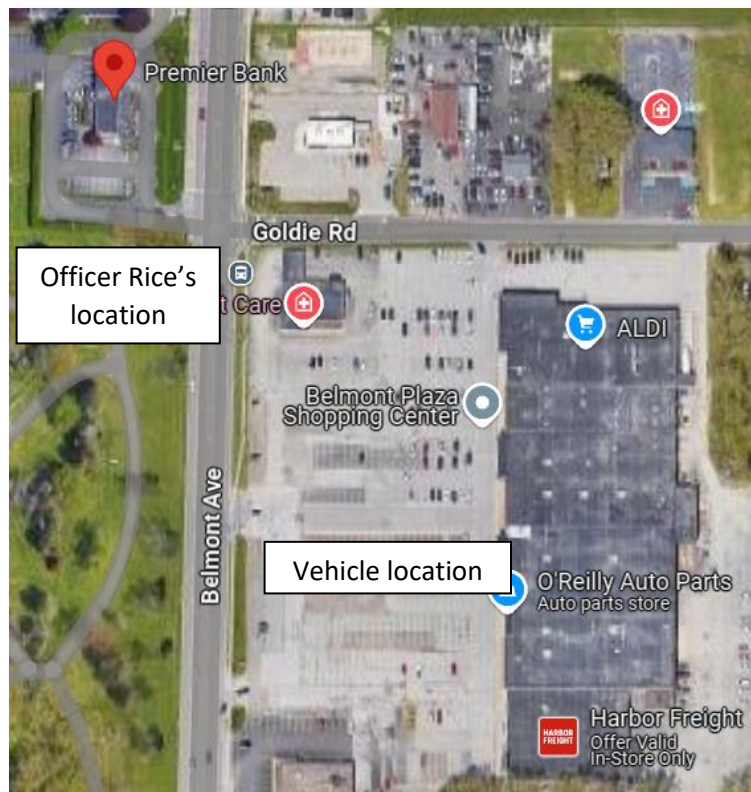
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Camera hit on a stolen license plate. The notification indicated the vehicle was northbound on Belmont Avenue travelling towards Officer Rice's location. Officer Rice began looking out the front window of the bank and observed a white Jeep Grand Cherokee that matched the description of the Flock Camera hit. The vehicle was parked facing south in the parking lot of Harbor Freight and it was unknown if there were any occupants in the vehicle. Officer Rice got into his marked police cruiser and parked his vehicle in the Premier Bank drive through. From there, Officer Rice sat and observed the vehicle until additional officers arrived in the area.



A detective from LTPD was driving an unmarked police vehicle. He drove by the vehicle in the question and confirmed it was the vehicle from the Flock Camera hit. He also indicated the vehicle was occupied by two subjects.

Officer Rice drove his police cruiser over to the vehicle location as additional officers arrived on scene. Officers positioned their vehicles surrounding the Jeep Grand Cherokee. This was done in an effort to prevent the subject from fleeing the scene.

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One unmarked LTPD vehicle and one marked LTPD police cruiser were parked to the front of the stolen vehicle and one unmarked and three marked LTPD police cruisers were parked to the rear.

Officer Rice positioned his cruiser at the rear of the subject's vehicle. Positioned on his left was [REDACTED] in his marked police cruiser. Other officers also began exiting their police vehicles and verbal commands were given to the subject to show his hands and exit the vehicle.

Multiple verbal commands were given, and the subject did not respond or comply. Officer Rice was still unable to observe any of the occupants inside the vehicle.

The subject then accelerated the vehicle in reverse and struck an unmarked police vehicle. The subject then quickly accelerated the vehicle forward. Officer Rice then heard three gunshots that sounded like "pop...pop, pop."

The stolen vehicle then accelerated forward and struck the front window of Harbor Freight. Officers approached the vehicle, and a female exited the passenger side. Upon her exit, she stated something to the effect that "you guys shot him." The female was then detained for further investigation.

Officer Rice, [REDACTED], and a detective then used a shield to approach the passenger side of the vehicle to make contact with the subject/driver. The driver was found unresponsive. Officer Rice requested medical personnel to respond, and officers began rendering aid to the subject.

When the vehicle accelerated forward, Officer Rice was concerned an officer was standing in front of the vehicle. Due to this, he feared for the safety of the other officers on scene. Officer Rice also feared for his own safety due to the nature of the incident.

Officer Rice believed from the moment he received the Flock Camera hit to the time the shooting incident occurred was approximately 3-5 minutes. He then stated from the time officers "boxed in" the subject/stolen vehicle until the time of the shooting incident was approximately 15 seconds.

At the time of the shooting incident, Officer Rice recalled the weather being possibly rainy, but it was still daylight.

The interview concluded at approximately 2009 hours.

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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:**

Reference Item B – Officer Interviews – Evidence.com

**Attachments:**

1. 2024-12-16 Audio Recorded Witness Officer Interview - Brandon Rice

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