



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



2023-2598

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 415 Gregg Street, Washington
Courthouse, OH – Fayette County (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Paramedic Arthur Rigsby (W)
Date of Activity: 10/01/2023
Activity Location: Washington Court House Police Dept. – Business – 130 North
Fayette Street, Washington Court House, OH 43160
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On October 1, 2023, the Washington Court House Police Department requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) involving a use of force incident with a Taser. The involved subject, Timothy West (West), was the passenger in a vehicle, who fled on foot from a traffic stop. During the foot pursuit, West ran onto a concrete patio, then turned and ran toward the officer, and the officer deployed his Taser. West became unresponsive and was ultimately pronounced deceased.

On October 1, 2023, Fayette County Paramedic Arthur Rigsby was interviewed at the Washington Court House Police Department. The interview began at approximately 2344 hours. Paramedic Rigsby was partnered with EMT Jackie Gullette, which was the first squad to arrive on scene and help provide aid to the subject.

Paramedic Rigsby stated that Fayette County EMS received a dispatch to assist a male subject in the area of 400 Gregg Street. He stated that no additional information was provided at this time. Paramedic Rigsby responded directly from their station to the scene, which he estimated took approximately 4 minutes.

While in route, medics were advised that CPR was in progress. When Paramedic Rigsby arrived on scene, he stated that he observed two officers performing CPR on a male subject. He described that the subject was laying on his back, on the ground, in between bushes of a side yard at 415 Gregg Street. Paramedic Rigsby said that the subject was not handcuffed, and he observed blood on his face and dirt on his mouth and nose that required suctioning.

Paramedic Rigsby said that he did an initial assessment and determined that the subject was not breathing, not moving, and did not have a pulse. He said that the subject was "cyanotic" and

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described that his head was purple and blue, which is a sign of low oxygen. Paramedic Rigsby stated that he applied a LUCAS device (CPR intervention) to the subject. He also monitored the subject's electrical activity to his heart, which he described was slow. The subject did not have a pulse, which Paramedic Rigsby stated was "PEA", pulseless electrical activity. Paramedic Rigsby also placed an "IO" (intraosseous) needle in the subject's right leg.

Paramedic Rigsby stated that multiple officers were trying to give him information while on scene. He recalled that officers said that the subject may have fallen and struck his head, so medics wanted to keep him stable during transport. Paramedic Rigsby stated that he checked the subject's pupils and he did not observe signs of head trauma. He said the subject's pupils were fixed and unresponsive, which he advised are more indicative of cardiac arrest or death.

Medics placed the subject on a tarp to move him, when Paramedic Rigsby said that he observed a Taser probe lodged in the skin on the subject's head. The subject was moved from the tarp, to a cot, and transferred to the squad. Fayette County Paramedic Ronnie Zimmerman rode in the squad with Paramedic Arthur Rigsby. The squad was driven by a member of the fire department, to Adena Fayette Medical Center. Upon arrival at the hospital, the subject was taken to "ER critical bed #7" and turned over to hospital staff for patient care. Paramedic Rigsby said that he was in the hallway, when the subject was pronounced deceased by Dr. Smith.

Paramedic Rigsby stated that the subject was unresponsive during the entire incident. The interview concluded at 2357 hours. A copy of the audio recorded interview is attached (attachment #01).

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-10-01 Paramedic Arthur Rigsby Audio Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.