



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



2023-0228

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 18697 Bagley Rd., Cleveland, OH
44130, Cuyahoga County

Investigative Activity: Witness Interview – Juan Crespo
Activity Date: April 12, 2023
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Matthew Armstrong #146

Narrative:

On April 12, 2023, at approximately 1307 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) and SA Nick Valente (Valente) met with and interviewed Registered Nurse (RN) Juan Crespo (Crespo). Crespo was a Registered Nurse employed in the Emergency Department at Southwest General Medical Center. He was identified as an individual who had some level of involvement in the October 18, 2022, incident surrounding the death of patient Bryan Bailey (Bailey). At the time of the incident, he was employed as a Paramedic in the Emergency Department. The interview took place at the BCI Richfield office and was audio and video recorded.

Crespo agreed to participate in an interview with BCI Agents. He was not represented by an attorney. Crespo indicated he was providing a statement on his own and he understood he could not be punished by his employer or a regulatory board for declining to provide a statement.

The following is a summary of the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. The information 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 recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Throughout the interview, Crespo provided the following information:

Crespo was employed at Southwest General Medical Center for approximately one and a half years. He had initially worked as a paramedic in the emergency department but had become a registered nurse (RN) and began working in that capacity for the past two months. He completed paramedic school and completed a nursing program at Lorain County Community College in December 2022. When working as a paramedic, he wore black scrub pants and a Southwest General Police Department T-shirt.

During his shift on October 18, 2022, Crespo was working as a medic. He was with RN Robert Tyler Cogar (Cogar) when Cogar received a call indicating staff needed help in Exam Room 3.

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He responded to the room with RN Cogar and while doing so began to hear yelling coming from the room.

When he first arrived at the room, he observed the patient standing up and paramedic Brandon (unknown last name) and nurse Jeff (unknown last name) trying to get the patient into the exam bed. All three of them were standing on the left side of the bed (patient's right side) and the patient was facing the door tensed up and screaming. RN Jeff was behind the patient holding him in a hug around the patient's torso area. Brandon was in front of the patient and pushing him back toward the bed. Crespo went to the right side of the bed (patient's left side) grabbed hold of the patient's left arm and used his body weight to force the patient to the bed.

His goal was to help get the patient on the bed so that the patient was less powerful. Once he forced the patient to the bed, the patient continued trying to get up. He held the patient's left arm and left upper body down to the bed. He told everyone to keep the patient's head, neck, and chest free because he wanted to make sure the patient had an open airway. Crespo said everyone left the head and neck area open and the patient continued yelling and thrashing and was contracting his abdomen trying to sit up. He explained the patient was using all his strength to get up while they held him down. At one point, he noticed the patient had some blood in his mouth but he did not know the cause of it. Crespo did not remember seeing anyone trying to control the patient's head and he never saw anyone with an open hand on his head.

While holding the patient down, the police arrived. He remembered officer [REDACTED] (unknown last name) trying to control the patient's legs by getting on top of the patient and straddling the patient's hips and upper legs. Crespo explained Officer [REDACTED] was not a large person and the straddle position was only "somewhat" effective.

Their goal was to hold the patient down for the patient's own safety. He explained the patient was suicidal and they needed to prevent him from leaving the room and entering another patient room or leaving the hospital and harming himself.

He did not remember other staff members securing the patient in hard restraints. He recalled the patient at one point having a soft restraint on his left arm. He did recall that the restraints needed removed when they began CPR.

While they held the patient down, he heard someone say Geodon (a medication) was in. Moments later, the patient started to slowly calm down and the staff began backing away from the patient. He thought the medication was working and then someone said the patient wasn't

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breathing. He noticed the patient looked “limp” but his arms were still tensed up. Medic Brandon then began CPR and Crespo retrieved a heart monitor. Crespo was present and assisted in providing Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) until the patient was pronounced deceased. Crespo described the patient as a large individual and estimated he was 5’11” – 6’0”. His arms were bigger and he was strong and was able to buck and move a 180-pound police officer in full gear while the officer was straddling him.

Crespo did not know if the patient had an I.V. prior to the incident. During the struggle he heard Officer [REDACTED] say the patient had urinated on him. He did not see anyone strike the patient or the patient strike or kick anyone else.

Crespo explained afterward, all the staff was in shock that the patient had died. He did not believe the patient’s cardiac arrest was the result of anything the staff did wrong. Crespo did not know if Nurse Jeff was present during ACLS protocol. He indicated he did not notice anything unusual about Nurse Jeff.

Crespo indicated he had no previous encounters with the patient. After the incident, he completed a written statement for the Southwest General Police Department. Crespo consented to BCI agents obtaining and reviewing a copy of the statement.

Attachments:

2023-04-12 Interview – Juan Crespo

Reference Items:

Item G – Thumb drive containing video recorded witness interviews