



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



2022-1356

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio
44301

Investigative Activity: Interview with Sergeant Todd Sinsley

Activity Date: August 25, 2022

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 2048 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Chuck Moran interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Sergeant Todd Sinsley (Sinsley), who was accompanied by his attorney, Jason Wells (Wells), from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at 1460 Triplett Boulevard, Akron, Ohio. Fraternal Order of Police Akron Lodge #7 President Clay Cozart was also present during the interview.

The interview was audio recorded.

Sergeant Sinsley was identified as being a police officer who had some level of involvement in the June 27, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 1659 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio. Reportedly, Sergeant Sinsley did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident and arrived on scene after the shooting. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

On June 27, 2022, dispatch records indicate that Sergeant Sinsley was the driver of marked APD cruiser, Car 48. Sergeant Sinsley was not working with a partner. Sergeant Sinsley was wearing his standard APD uniform.

SA Momchilov stated to Sergeant Sinsley that it was his understanding that he responded to a shooting scene on June 27, 2022. Sergeant Sinsley replied, "Yes." SA Momchilov then asked, "What caused you to respond to that scene?"

Sergeant Sinsley advised that he was at the station when he heard "the chase go out." Sergeant Sinsley stated that the chase did not originate in his sector, but shortly after the chase began, Sergeant Sinsley advised there was a "Signal 21 put out." Sergeant Sinsley then stated, "So I went back down to the basement, loaded up and headed out."

SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Sinsley if he is assigned to a specific sector. Sergeant Sinsley advised the night of the incident, he was assigned to Sector 1 (Downtown) and Sector 4 (West Akron). SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Sinsley why he responded to the incident if it did not occur in his sector.

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Sergeant Sinsley responded, "Well, 21's are high risk, it means an officer's been either shot at or needs assistance, so everyone who is working is going to respond to that until we can figure out what is going on and then it will be up to us (supervisors) to then cut (release officers from the scene) people."

SA Momchilov advised that his impression of a Signal 21 is an "all hands on deck situation if someone calls a Signal 21, and you're available you go to that?"

Sergeant Sinsley replied, "Yeah, there's only been a handful of them in my 20 and ½ years, so yeah, they're a pretty big deal." SA Momchilov responded, "Okay, so it's not a typical.."
Sergeant Sinsley replied, "No, you don't hear a 21 very often and when you do it's significant."

SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Sinsley if he observed any portion of the officer-involved shooting. Sergeant Sinsley stated, "I did not, I was at Main and Wilbeth." SA Momchilov then asked Sergeant Sinsley if he heard any portion of the officer-involved shooting. Sergeant Sinsley replied, "I could hear the shots being fired, yes." Attorney Wells asked Sergeant Sinsley if he was still in his cruiser when he heard the shots.

Sergeant Sinsley stated, "Yes, I was, we actually were paralleling it and a lot of guys were doing a lot of good job getting citizen traffic stopped, um, we don't parallel, we don't caravan a chase, we parallel it to try and let oncoming traffic know there's a chase coming through here so we can get them stopped. We don't block the intersections, we let them have, the suspect have a choice of where he wants to go but we stop the vehicle traffic that's about to go crossways through there, we don't wanna get a t-bone, a citizen, that would be terrible."

SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Sinsley if he had an opportunity to look inside the individual's vehicle. Sergeant Sinsley responded, "I did not, I assigned someone to perform security on that vehicle but I never actually made it over there. I was primarily in the parking lot."

SA Moran asked Sergeant Sinsley if he could provide more detail about the shots he heard. Sergeant Sinsley advised that the shots were "rapid fire" and that "there was a lot of them."
Sergeant Sinsley once again advised that he was at Main and Wilbeth when he heard the shots, and that he could tell the direction of the shots were east of him and that he could see some "sparks in the parking lot."

SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Sinsley if he had his body-worn camera activated when he arrived on scene. Sergeant Sinsley replied, "Yes."

Sergeant Sinsley did not complete a typed supplement or report.

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At the end of the interview, SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Sinsley if there is anything he would like to add that wasn't discussed.

Sergeant Sinsley stated, "Once I got to the parking lot and saw that the suspect was down and there were multiple people giving aid to him, we debated with dispatch on the radio whether we were going to load him in a car and go, based on how the Med unit's response time was going to be. So, I asked them to do a AVL check, which is, in our cars we have a little locator and I wanted to know where the Med unit was because that was going to decide whether we were going to throw him in the car, trying to get him to the hospital or if we were going to wait for the med unit. She came back that they were at Brown and Wilbeth, which is right down the street so we stayed there and that's why that cruiser ended up in the parking lot. I don't know if you saw that."

Attorney Wells stated, "So the ambulance was close enough that you felt that was the best way." Sergeant Sinsley replied, "Yeah, we figured the life saving treatment in the ambulance would be better then throwing him in a cruiser. Now if it had been farther away we would of probably taken him ourselves."

SA Momchilov asked Sergeant Sinsley what would have been the purpose of loading the individual in a cruiser. Sergeant Sinsley replied, "Well our med units are overworked and sometimes if the district, or firehouse that's right by where we were is sent to Ellet for instance, we can get him in a car him to A.G.M.C. (Akron General Medical Center) before they can even get to the scene and we have so many, we have two Level 1 Trauma Centers real close, pretty much from wherever you're at, it's quicker to load them and get them there."

Sergeant Sinsley also advised that he collected the involved officers' body cameras after the incident.

*It should be noted that agents purposely did not ask Sergeant Sinsley if he had discussions or conversations with the involved officers. The purpose of this was not to taint investigators with any possible Garrity-related statements or information.

At the end of the interview, Sergeant Sinsley was afforded the opportunity to view his body-worn camera footage. Sergeant Sinsley declined.

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Figure 1



Figure 2

The above images are from Sergeant Sinsley's body-worn camera footage. Based upon Sergeant Sinsley's body-worn camera footage, Sergeant Sinsley's body-worn camera is activated prior to arriving on scene (Figure 1). Sergeant Sinsley is then observed approaching the scene after the shooting had occurred (Figure 2).

Attachments:

The audio recording of the interview is attached to this report

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