



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



2022-1354

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 135 Old National Rd, Lore City
(L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Lt. Matthew Tippie (W)
Date of Activity: 06/25/2022
Activity Location: – 307 Beymer Rd, Lore City, OH 43755, Guernsey County
Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On July 24, 2022, at 0226 hours and July 29, 2022 at 10:10 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) interviewed Barnesville Police Lieutenant Matthew Tippie (Lt. Tippie). The interview took place at the Barnesville Police Department. Lt. Tippie was identified as being a police officer who responded to a vehicle barricade situation which involved the now deceased Joy Graham (Graham). The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

This interview was audio recorded, and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Prior to the interview SA Poole advised Lt. Tippie that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation separate from any internal investigation and that this interview was voluntary. Lt. Tippie verbally confirmed he understood and acknowledged he would like to continue with the interview.

During the first interview Lt. Tippie stopped and wanted to receive advice from the department's representative. After receiving advice Lt. Tippie agreed to meet again for a second interview.

Lt. Tippie stated around 8:30PM he heard over the radio that Officer Daugherty was engaged in a pursuit with a Graham, who had a felony warrant for her arrest. Lt. Tippie explained how he assisted with the pursuit. The pursuit continued for a long period of time in which Lt. Tippie stated he requested the sheriff's office and Ohio State Highway patrol (OSP) to assist.

Lt. Tippie explained that OSP was able to spike Graham's vehicle in which she finally came to a stop in Old Washington, Ohio. Lt. Tippie said he got out and treated the stop as a felony stop,

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which he explained that the officers got out and used their door frames as cover, weapons drawn, and gave verbal commands for Graham to exit the vehicle.

Lt. Tippie stated Graham refused to exit the vehicle yelling statements of, "Nothing is wrong, why are you chasing me, I don't feel safe." A Cambridge K9 Officer Zach Smith (Officer Smith) arrived at scene in which Lt. Tippie stated he used his K9 to approach Graham's vehicle to see if she would exit. As Officer Smith approached Graham's driver side Lt. Tippie stated he yelled, "She has a gun," as he retreated back to cover. Lt. Tippie then stated he requested the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office to respond.

Lt. Tippie explained that Sheriff Jeffery Paden (Sheriff Paden) arrived and took over negotiating with Graham, who still refused to exit the vehicle. When the GCSO Strategic Response Team (SRT) arrived Lt. Tippie stated he changed positions from his driver side to the passenger side.

While the SRT approached Graham's vehicle Lt. Tippie stated he ducked for cover behind the cruiser and wasn't able to see exactly who shot. Lt. Tippie stated he heard the flash grenade go off and heard around four-gun shots.

Lt. Tippie stated he then proceeded to approach Graham's vehicle after the shooting had ceased and he believed it was safe. He then approached Major [REDACTED] who he believed was injured due to the shootout. Lt. Tippie then helped with scene security after the incident.

SA Poole asked Lt. Tippie what weapon he had out during the incident and if he had fired. Lt. Tippie stated, he had his department issued rifle out during the incident and that he never fired.

SA Poole asked if he saw who shot their weapons. Lt. Tippie said, "No."

Lt. Tippie stated he had past experiences with Graham, which included a trespassing encounter that led to her arrest due to Graham assaulting Lt. Tippie. The active warrant was from her not showing up to court from that incident. Lt. Tippie believes that was why Graham kept saying she didn't feel safe.

The interview concluded at 1036 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Lt Matthew Tippie 6-25-22

Attachment # 02: 6.29.22 Lt Tippie Interview 2