



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



2022-2085

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 2347 East Waterloo Road, Akron,
Ohio 44312, Summit County

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Justin Knox
Activity Date: 10/5/2022
Activity Location: Margaret Street and Mohawk Trail, Springfield Twp., OH
Authoring Agent: SA Jon Lieber #50

Narrative:

On Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at 1337 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jon Lieber (Lieber) interviewed Justin Knox (Knox), relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on Wednesday, October 5, 2022. The interview took place at the intersection of Margaret Street and Mohawk Trail in Springfield Township, OH. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

It should be noted that prior to the interview with SA Lieber, Knox completed a written statement on behalf of Springfield Township Police Department (STPD). A copy of the written statement has been attached to this report.

Knox is an employee of the Akron Coach Tow Company. Akron Coach is located at 1558 Massillon Rd., Akron, OH. Knox stated that he was called by STPD to remove an abandoned or nuisance car. The location that Knox was told to respond to was the intersection of "Tritt Drive" and "Margaret Road." Knox stated that he arrived at the requested location and met the Chief of Police Jack Simone (Simone) and Springfield Township trustee Kellie Chapman (Chapman). Knox stated that he parked his tow truck on the road and walked up to the area near the vehicle to assess how he was going to remove the car. Knox stated that the car was boxed in with plywood and tarps. Knox stated that they began to remove the wood walls from around the vehicle and pull away the tarps. Knox stated that he has to make sure that there is nothing illegal or anything that shouldn't be in the car before he tows it back to their tow yard. Knox then pulled his truck onto the yard, closer to the vehicle that was to be removed.

Knox stated that as he was removing the tarps, he noticed that the trunk lid wasn't latched. Knox went to open the trunk to ensure that there was nothing illegal in the trunk. As he began to lift the trunk, he heard a "pop" sound. Knox looked up and saw a person standing at the back of the house pointing a gun toward Knox, Simone and Chapman. Knox stated that he immediately got down on the ground, and Simone began to yell for the subject to get back in his house. Knox said that Simone yelled multiple times. Knox then heard another gunshot. He stated that he believes that this second shot also came from the subject. Knox then ran back to his truck.

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Knox said that the subject came around to their left, behind some brush, and opened fire again. Knox said at that time Simone and another officer opened fire on the subject. Knox estimated that the police may have fired five or six shots at the subject. Knox clarified that he can't be sure if all of those shots are from police or if the subject was also firing. Knox said that the subject was struck and fell to the ground. The officers then approached the male and handcuffed him. Knox said that the fire department arrived within minutes and provided medical aid to the subject.

Knox stated that the vehicle that he was called to remove was a Ford LTD Crown Victoria. SA Lieber asked Knox to describe the subject. Knox said, "No, I could not see him, I personally, I could not see him. All I saw was arms stretched out and I saw flashes." SA Lieber asked if when he saw the subject's arms was he able to see skin color. Knox said that the subject is white. SA Lieber asked Knox if he could describe the subject's gun. Knox said that it looked like a silver color long barrel revolver. SA Lieber asked Knox if he could recall specifically any of the commands given by police. Knox said that he heard multiple times, "Get back in the house, get back in the house."

SA Lieber asked Knox if he could see the subject at the time the police fired; Knox stated that he could only see the subject's legs and feet because he was laying in the ground, behind his truck. Knox stated that the subject's legs and knees indicated that he was facing directly toward the officers. Knox said that he saw the subject fall to the ground. Knox recalled seeing that the subject was wearing a red or maroon-colored shirt. SA Lieber asked about how far the subject was from the officers at the time of the shooting. Knox estimated that the distance was about 40 feet.

SA Lieber asked Knox if there was anything that was not asked that he thought would be important for investigators to know. Knox said, "I know the chief showed a great restraint on not wanting to fire you know what I mean and you know I don't think he wanted to shoot him, but."

The interview concluded at approximately 1350 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.

SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
WITNESS STATEMENT

Report# 22-01790

Statement of: Justin Knox

Phone: 

Address: 896 CRESTLINE DR City: AKRON

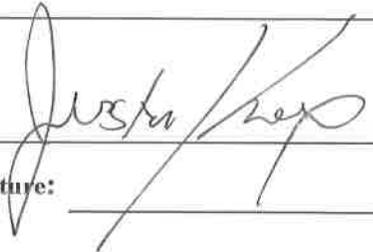
State: OH Zip: 44312

Date of Birth: 9-18-79

Driver's License #: _____

I hereby make the following statement of my own free will and accord. I do so without any duress, and have not been promised anything, nor been threatened in any manner by any member of the Springfield Township Police Department.

I Justin Knox EMPLOYEE OF AKRON COACH
WAS CALLED OUT TO INTERSECTION OF
IRILL DR & MARGARET RD TO REMOVE ABANDONED
VEHICLE OFF PROPERTY ACCOMPANIED BY AN
OFFICER. DURING MY INSPECTION OF REMOVING
THE VEHICLE THE OWNER CAME OUT OF
HIS HOME AND OPENED FIRE WITH A GUN
I TOOK COVER BEHIND MY TRUCK AND
OFFICERS RETURNED FIRE.

Signature: 

Date: 10-5-22

Witness Signature: _____

Witness Name: _____