



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



2023-0556
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 23897 US Rt 23, Circleville
43113 (L)

Date of Activity: 02/25/2023
Author: SA David Wieging, #122

Narrative:

On February 25, 2023 at approximately 0425 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent David Wieging (SA Wieging) obtained a recorded statement from Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper Benjamin Jenkins (Trooper Jenkins) regarding the February 25, 2023 shooting incident between Pickaway County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) Deputy Alfredo Magana, PCSO Corporal Jon Campbell and Pamela Crosten (Crosten) that occurred in the early-morning hours outside Room 104 of the Rodeway Inn located at 23897 US Route 23, Circleville, Ohio, 43113.

It was reported that the Circleville Police Department (CPD) and the PCSO were dispatched to locate a suicidal female with a gun. When officers and deputies arrived they located the female, who brandished a firearm. Deputy Magana and Corporal Campbell discharged their firearms, striking the female, who was transported to Grant Hospital and later died from her injuries.

Trooper Jenkins related his unit number is 699 and he agreed to speak freely to SA Wieging. He stated his work hours are 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. and his days off, which are about to change, are Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Trooper Jenkins said he covers all of Pickaway County and a few pieces of Fayette, Franklin, and Fairfield Counties. He is assigned to the OSHP Post in Circleville.

Trooper Jenkins explained OSHP Trooper John Moore (Trooper Moore) keyed up on the radio advising he had seen two SO units go by at a high rate of speed. Trooper Jenkins said dispatch was contacted to see if they needed their assistance. Dispatch advised it wasn't necessary, but they would like their assistance, if possible. Troopers Moore and Jenkins both responded. Trooper Jenkins stated there was a little confusion at first, but later learned that there was a female in Room 104 threatening suicide by cop. He said a CPD unit and an SO unit grabbed the room keys and approached the room. At this time, the curtains were closed. The female inside subsequently walked to the window and parted the curtains with a gun and tapped the gun on the window.

Trooper Jenkins believes the SO began to give verbal commands saying "drop the weapon." He said the female in the room closed the curtains briefly and returned to the window with the gun to her head. According to Trooper Jenkins, the door to the room was closed. Verbal

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commands were still being given to drop the gun. She then opened the door with the gun still to her head.

Trooper Jenkins explained he was positioned by the SO cruiser that was parked in front of his patrol vehicle. When the female first opened the curtains to the window of the room, Trooper Jenkins said he went back to his patrol vehicle and grabbed his rifle out of the trunk. He then put his spotlight on her and remained at his vehicle (pointing at the driver side front fender. He mentioned Trooper Moore was at his front driver side wheel and he told him that he was going to move up to the trunk of the SO cruiser.

At some point while the female was standing in the doorway, she fumbled the weapon she was holding to her head. She caught it and put it right back to her heard. Trooper Jenkins shared that the female was pointing the gun at officers, but she was not "punching it out." He added she was haphazardly swinging it around. Trooper stated the female flagged all officers for awhile and commands were still being given for her to drop the weapon. The female stepped out of the room, stood on the sidewalk and "more of the same" continued. At some point the the female stepped off or was about to step off the sidewalk and punched the gun out at which time "shots rang out." Trooper Jenkins stated he did not fire his weapon. He further related he did not think the female fired her weapon. Based on how the deputies were positioned, Trooper Jenkins believed deputies were the one's that fired their weapons. He noticed on the ground both pistol and rifle rounds near the SO cruiser.

To Trooper Jenkins' knowledge, he did not think Trooper Moore fired his weapon. After the firing of weapons, the female dropped, the weapon was secured, and they rendered first aid. Trooper Jenkins stated he and another unknown officer also cleared the room. Information they received later revealed that this female was with two Hispanic males earlier that had a panel van. There was an altercation and she called dispatch threatening suicide by cop.

Trooper Jenkins mentioned he had conversations with officers after the incident, but he did not speak to any witnesses. He volunteered that there was a guy in the guest room next door to Room 104, but he slept through the entire incident. Trooper Jenkins briefly spoke with a guy believed to be videotaping at the scene and had asked him to back up from where they were roping off the area. He pointed to the rear parking lot of Roosters where this guy was parked. He was not sure if it was media or a just passer-by.

Trooper Jenkins shared he was on scene at 1:42 a.m. and the female was taken to Grant Hospital. Trooper Jenkins also shared the female had been identified as Pamela R. Croston.

A copy of the audio-recorded interview with Trooper Jenkins is attached to this report.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Audio Interview with OSHP Trooper Benjamin Jenkins 2.25.2023