



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



2023-0290
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1818 Jisco West Rd, Jackson,
OH 45640 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Probation Wesley Skaggs (W)
Date of Activity: 02/08/2023
Activity Location: Jackson County Sheriff's Office – Business – 350 Portsmouth
Street, Suite102, Jackson, OH 45640, Jackson County
Author: SA Craig Call

Narrative:

On January 31, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Investigations and Crime Scene Units were requested by Jackson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) Sheriff Ted Frazier to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (shooting) between members of the JCSO and William Beach (Beach). BCI was informed the incident occurred at 1818 Jisco West Road in Jackson County, Ohio, and resulted in Beach being fatally shot by JCSO Lieutenant [REDACTED] (Lt. [REDACTED]).

During the initial stages of the investigation, agents were informed there were two probation officers present during the incident in addition to law enforcement. The probation officers were identified as Jackson County Municipal Court Chief Probation Officer Wesley Skaggs (Chief Skaggs) and Probation Officer Christina Edwards (Officer Edwards).

On February 8, 2023, Special Agent Craig Call (SA Call) and Special Agent Jim Mulford (SA Mulford) met with Chief Skaggs at the JCSO in reference to obtaining a witness statement for the above reference incident. Officer Edwards had prepared a signed written witness statement and provided it to SA Call prior to giving a verbal statement. SA Call thoroughly reviewed the statement prior to the interview. The statement contains the language "I Wesley Skaggs DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT THE BELOW MENTION NARRATIVE IS TRUE" and is signed by Chief Skaggs.

This report is a summation of the interview. An audio copy of the interview along with the signed written witness statement have been added to the case file and should be referenced for specific quotes.

The audio recording device was initiated at approximately 1050 hours.

Chief Skaggs has been in his current position since 2016 and has been a probation officer with

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the Jackson County Municipal Court since 2009.

Chief Skaggs recorded audio statement is consistent with his signed written witness statement and the follow up questions Chief Skaggs answered were also consistent with his written statement.

Chief Skaggs wrote as a part of his statement describing when the actual shooting took place, "After some time, the decision was made to breach the building. Lt. [REDACTED] Dep Spangler and Dep Smith breached the door, began ordering Beach to drop the weapon and a single shot was fired. Once deputies removed the weapons and had Beach under control, I went in the building to help removed items, to make a path for paramedics to access Beach while Dep Smith and Lt [REDACTED] provided medical attention. Beach was loaded onto a stretcher and placed in an ambulance."

After some follow up questions, Chief Skaggs described the three deputies approaching as Lt. [REDACTED] with a ballistic shield, Deputy Smith with a breaching ram, and then Deputy Spangler. Chief Skaggs observed Deputy Smith breach the front door and Lt. [REDACTED] position himself with the ballistic shield in front of the door and begin giving loud verbal commands. Chief Skaggs described hearing a gunshot and seeing muzzle flash shortly after the breach, but could not tell who fired. Chief Skaggs described his physical position during the time of the shot as the middle of the roadway directly in line with the front door of the residence.

Chief Skaggs did not have any additional information to add to this incident.

The audio recording was discontinued at approximately 1116 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Chief Probation Officer Skaggs Statement

Attachment # 02: 2023-2-8 Interview with Chief Probation Officer Wesley Skaggs

Jackson County Municipal Court
Mark T. Musick, Judge
Probation Department

295 Broadway Street * Suite 101

Telephone: (740) 288-2175

Jackson, Ohio 45640

Facsimile: (740) 288-2156

Wesley Skaggs, Chief Probation Officer

January 31, 2023

RE: OFFICER SWORN STATEMENT

I Wesley Skaggs DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR OR AFFIRM THAT THE BELOW MENTION NARRATIVE IS TRUE

On 01/31/2022 I received a call from Deputy Leif Smith of the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, who informed me that they were at 1734 Jisco West Rd, attempting to make contact with probationer, William E Beach. Smith stated that Beach was suspected of trespassing on a neighboring property, possibly attempting to enter an occupied structure and had recently fled the property when confronted by the property owner. Dep Smith advised that Shawn Norman, the owner of the residence where Beach was located, advised Dep Smith that Beach was living in the building on Norman's property. Dep Smith advised that they were able to follow footprints from the neighboring residence to the building on Norman's property. I advised Smith that I would be en route to the residence. On our way to the residence, Dep Smith called and advised that Beach was on an ankle monitor and that Herb McGuire had confirmed that Beach was at the residence the night of 1/30/2022 and was at the neighboring property earlier in the day.

Probation Officer Edwards and I arrived at the residence and made contact with Dep Smith, Lt [REDACTED] and Deputy Reynolds. I knocked on the door of the building, addressed 1818, where it had been confirmed Beach was living, identified myself as a probation officer and ordered Beach to open the door. After performing this sequence several times with no response,

I made the decision to enter the building. Dep Smith attempted to open the door with a card but could not move the latch. I handed Lt [REDACTED] a knife and he was able to unlatch the door but the door would not open as it was barricaded. Lt [REDACTED] then opened the window next to the door. [REDACTED] advised he saw Beach with a hatchet raised above his head and advised everyone to clear the porch and back up. Once off the porch I grabbed a long PVC pipe, used it to move the window curtain and saw Beach with a raised hatchet in one hand and a handgun in the other. I advised Beach had a gun and [REDACTED] ordered everyone to find cover.

Once behind cover we began ordering Beach to drop the weapons and step outside. Beach responded that if he were to come outside, he would not drop the weapons. Beach then stated that he would not come outside and would rather burn the building down while still inside. I attempted to talk and reason with Beach, informing him if he would step outside unarmed, he would not be charged with serious crimes and that no one would be hurt. Beach stated that he thought we wanted to shoot him and that he wanted us to shoot him. Beach stated that it was his intent to kill a deputy and for a deputy to then kill him. Throughout my exchange with Beach, he seemed irrational and seemed to be talking either to another person or himself. I saw Beach through the window on several occasions, including once when he reached out the window and placed a pill bottle outside. I asked beach what the pill bottle was for and he advised that he had taken all of the pills 40 minutes prior in an attempt to overdose. Several other units responded to scene, including Sheriff Frazier and Chief Deputy Conley, who called for a negotiator from the Highway Patrol. A search warrant was also obtained for the residence.

When the negotiator arrived, they made contact with Beach and attempted to talk him out of the building. After some time, the decision was made to breach the building. LT [REDACTED], Dep Spangler and Dep Smith breached the door, began ordering Beach to drop the weapon and a single shot was fired. Once Deputies removed the weapons and had Beach under control, I went in the building to help removed items, to make a path for paramedics to access Beach while Dep

Smith and Lt [REDACTED] provided medical attention. Beach was loaded onto a stretcher and placed in an ambulance. PO Edwards and I cleared the scene shortly thereafter. -END REPORT-



Wes Skaggs, Chief Probation Officer