



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



2020-3388

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1062 Oberlin Drive, Columbus, Ohio

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Adam Coy (S)
Date of Activity: 12/22/2020
Activity Location: – 1062 Oberlin Drive, Columbus, OH 43221, Franklin County
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Tuesday, December 22, 2020, at 0748 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations Special Agent Richard Ward met with Columbus Police Officer Benjamin Branford who had responded to 1062 Oberlin Drive on the report of shots fired report on this day. Agent Ward interviewed Branford inside his vehicle in the 1000 block of Oberlin Drive reference Officer Branford's involvement in this case. The interview with Branford was audio recorded and is attached below.

Officer Branford is assigned to the Patrol Division, Zone 4 (four), and [REDACTED] Branford stated he was completing a report on High Street and heard the call "shots fired" aired over the radio. Agent Ward asked if he was aware of the initial call on Oberlin and Branford stated he was not.

When he arrived, Officer Branford stated he observed Officer Zach McPherson putting up crime scene tape and was directed to the incident location [1062 Oberlin Drive]. Branford stated when he walked up to the location he observed Officer Coy and another officer that he did not remember. Branford described Coy as vomiting, but didn't see any vomit. Branford stated he asked where the scene was and someone pointed up the driveway/garage. Branford stated he observed Officer Barsotti who advised him Hill was still moving and needed handcuffed. Branford stated he assisted Barsotti handcuff Hill by rolling Hill from his back to his stomach, handcuffed, then rolled Hill back over to his back. Agent Ward asked Branford if he observed a gun and Branford stated he did not, but only patted down Hill's front pockets and was able to observed Hill's bare stomach from his waist upward.

Agent Ward asked Officer Branford if Hill had worn a coat and he stated Hill was wearing what appeared to be a "very thick" knit sweater. Agent Ward asked Branford if he observed anything on the ground near Hill and he stated he observed a pack of cigarettes near the threshold of the garage and driveway and a large cellular telephone. Branford stated when the

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

medics arrived the handcuffed were removed from Hill, which Branford rolled up the handcuffs in gloves and left them at the scene. Branford stated the handcuffed belonged to Officer Detweiler

Agent Ward asked Branford if Hill appeared alive and he stated he didn't believe so because of sounds Hill's body was making. Branford stated he had no know knowledge of the circumstance and was told by Sergeant Albers to perform CPR on Hill, prior to the medic's arrival on scene. Once the medics arrived, Branford stated he was asked by the medics how long he had performing CPR, which he relied approximately 1 to 2 minutes. Branford stated the medics informed another Columbus Police Officer to assume CPR and relief Branford. Agent Ward asked Branford prior to the medic's arrival, had another Columbus Police Officer assist him with first aid and Branford stated no that other officer were assigned tasks being directed by Sergeant Albers. Branford stated Sergeant Ward was also on scene.

Agent Ward concluded the interview with officer Branford at 0758 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01:Officer Ben Branford Audio Interview

References:

P00020-1022729 – USB Thumbdrive CPD BWC and Requested Docs