



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



2025-1603
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4482 Hampton Woods
Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43230 (L)

Investigative Activity: Uninvolved Officer Interview
Involves: SWAT Sergeant Jim Morrow
Activity Date: 05/20/2025
Activity Location: CPD SWAT Headquarters
Authoring Agent: SA Eric Runyan

Narrative:

On May 20, 2025 at approximately 0522 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Ryan Scheiderer (SA Scheiderer) and Eric Runyan (SA Runyan) obtained a recorded statement from Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Sergeant Jim Morrow (Sergeant Morrow) regarding the May 19, 2025 fatal shooting incident between CPD officers and Jerry Smith (Smith) that occurred at 4482 Hampton Woods Court in Columbus, Ohio. The contact with Sergeant Morrow took place at the CPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) building. Prior to providing a statement, Sergeant Morrow was notified that BCI was conducting a criminal investigation into the shooting incident, and he confirmed he would provide a voluntary statement. The following is a summation of the statement of Sergeant Morrow and additional details can be found in the attached audio recording.

On May 19, 2025, Sergeant Morrow (Badge #5292 and radio call sign 509) was assigned to CPD SWAT. Sergeant Morrow was off duty at the time of the incident and was notified by "All Call" telephone and text messages from the department to respond directly to the scene. Upon arrival, Sergeant Morrow worked with Sergeant Michael Wilgus (Sergeant Wilgus) to create standardized contingency plans to manage the barricade. Sergeant Morrow positioned himself in the rear of Armored Rescue Vehicle One (ARV-1). Sergeant Morrow knew the Hostage Negotiations Team (HNT) was actively in communication with Smith in attempts to get him to surrender and that there was a female inside the residence with Smith. Sergeant Morrow heard two (2) gunshots from inside the residence and heard something "ruffle" leaves near his location which he believed to be a bullet associated with one of the gunshots. Sergeant Morrow clarified that his view of the incident was extremely limited due to his position behind cover. Sergeant Morrow later heard additional gunshots and was notified by the radio that those gunshots came from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Sergeant Morrow was notified by other officers that the female had exited the

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residence and escorted to safety. Officers utilized a drone from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to check the residence and located Smith unresponsive on the floor. CPD SWAT entered the residence and secured it so that Columbus Fire Department (CFD) Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) medics could tend to Smith, but they determined he was deceased.

Sergeant Morrow confirmed he did not discharge his firearm or Taser during the incident. Sergeant Morrow didn't have any additional information and contact ended at approximately 0530 hours.

References:

None

Attachments:

CPD Sgt. Jim Morrow Audio 5.20.2025

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