



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



2021-0888
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 500 South Cleveland Ave.,
Westerville, Ohio 43081 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Security Philip Blackburn (W)
Date of Activity: 04/12/2021
Activity Location: Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital – Business – 500 S. Cleveland Ave., Westerville, OH 43081, Franklin County
Author: SA Perry K. Roeser, #114

Narrative:

On April 12, 2021, the Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Perry Roeser was contacted by BCI Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Kevin Barbeau and asked if he could assist with an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI). The location was Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital, 500 S. Cleveland St., Columbus, Ohio. SAS Barbeau explained that several non-involved officers were on the scene and needed to be interviewed. SA Roeser told SAS Barbeau he would assist with the OICI.

SA Roeser arrived on the scene at approximately 1730 hours, and learned the Columbus Police Department (CPD) and hospital security officers discharged their firearms at a suspect in the emergency room (ER) area. The suspect did not survive the injuries after the encounter with law enforcement.

SA Roeser and SAS Barbeau traveled to a hospital conference room where several non-involved hospital safety security officers were located which needed to be interviewed. Before the interviews, SA Roeser learned the hospital employs uniformed Safety & Security Officers armed with Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm pistols. The armed security officers' job requirement was completing a twenty-hour private security course at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA). The armed security officers are not peace officers and do not have the authority to make an arrest.

At approximately 1925 hours, SA Roeser contacted Security Officer Philip Blackburn. After SA Roeser correctly identified himself, he explained to Blackburn his interview was voluntary and if he wanted an attorney present, the interview would be rescheduled. Blackburn agreed to speak with SA Roeser.

The investigator recorded the interview with Blackburn. The details listed below summarized

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the portions of the recorded interview with Blackburn and were not taken verbatim unless noted by quotations.

Blackburn stated he has been employed with Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital for two years as an Armed Safety and Security Officer. Blackburn said he worked first shift (0600 hours to 1430 hours), Friday through Tuesday, and had Wednesdays and Thursdays off. Blackburn stated he was current with his OPOTA Private Security certification.

Blackburn was asked how he became involved with the OICI. Blackburn explained he was in the locker room changing clothes at the end of his shift when he heard over the in-house portable radio from Officer Stanley Miller "assistance needed in ER #9." Blackburn stated he thought the call for help came out at around 1420 hours. Blackburn explained he knew when the call came out, CPD was with the patient in ER #9 based on his knowledge of the shift's activities.

Blackburn further explained while he was on his regular duties throughout the day, he passed ER #9 at approximately 0900 hours and witnessed the suspect in the room. Blackburn said as he and Officer ██████ passed the room; the suspect was sitting in the bed and gave both security officers "a look."

Blackburn explained he changed back into his uniform and headed to the ER when he heard an audible fire alarm sound. Blackburn stated when he arrived in the ER; he saw several officers near ER #9 shouting commands to "drop the gun" and "show your hands." Blackburn stayed back from the threat area when he heard a taser deployed. Blackburn said he did not witness the taser deployment. Blackburn said soon after, he heard a "pop" and then saw multiple officers discharge their firearms. Blackburn specifically saw Officer ██████████ and CPD officers fire their weapons.

Blackburn explained after the shooting, he re-holstered his weapon and assisted with escorting his co-workers back to their office area. Blackburn said he never went into or saw the suspect in ER #9 after the OICI.

Blackburn said after he returned to the office area, he awaited law enforcement instructions. Blackburn was asked if he had anything else he could offer to the investigation and he said no. The interview concluded at approximately 1942 hours.

The interview between SA Roeser and Blackburn can be reviewed for further details. See attachment #1.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01:803_0104 Philip Blackburn