



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



2023-0557

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 2900 Towne Boulevard,
Middletown, OH 45044 (L)

Investigative Activity: Case Opening, Search Warrant
Involves: Victor L. Lykins (S), Middletown Police Department (O)
Date of Activity: 02/25/2023
Activity Location: Walmart – 2900 Towne Blvd, Middletown, OH 45044, Butler County
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On Saturday, February 25, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was contacted by the Middletown Police Department in Butler County, Ohio, to assist with an Officer-Involved Critical Incident that occurred at the Walmart, located at 2900 Towne Boulevard, Middletown, OH (Warren County).

On February 25, 2023 at approximately 1719 hours, Middletown Police Officer John Hilgendorf initiated a traffic stop for an improper turn on a 2008 Jeep Commander bearing OH license plate# JVA2156. The vehicle pulled into a parking spot in the lot of Walmart. The driver, later identified as Robert Lykins, was found to have a suspended drivers license. A male front passenger in the vehicle, gave false identifying information to Officer Hilgendorf. Middletown Police Officer Austin Renner arrived on scene to assist with the traffic stop. The driver was asked to exit the vehicle and told Officer Hilgendorf the passenger's correct name, Victor Lykins. The officer learned that Victor had active warrants.

Shortly after, a physical altercation began in the passenger seat involving Officer Renner and Victor, who was armed with a black handgun. Officer Hilgendorf approached on the passenger side of the vehicle and fired one round through the rear passenger window, which struck the subject's head. The subject was reported to still be a threat, as Officer Hilgendorf moved towards the front passenger side and fired an additional round, striking the subject in the back. Officers attempted to render aid before Victor was pronounced deceased at the scene.

BCI Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Special Agents Lauren Frazier, Douglas Eveslage, Kenneth Smith, and Sean Zint were assigned to investigate this incident. Additionally, BCI Crime Scene was requested for evidence processing.

BCI Special Agent Douglas Eveslage wrote a search warrant for the vehicle. The search warrant

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was signed by Warren County Judge Donald Oda (see attachment #01). On scene, SA Eveslage observed a handgun near the body of Lykins, a cell phone, blood in the vehicle, and a shattered rear window. BCI Crime Scene Special Agent Chad Holcomb processed the incident location and involved vehicle. BCI Crime Scene Special Agent Sarah Taylor processed the involved officers at the Middletown Police Department.

Middletown Police Chief David Birk provided SA Frazier with a Request for Assistance letter (see attachment #02).

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-02-25 Search Warrant – 2008 Jeep Commander (Warren County)

Attachment # 02: 2023-02-27 Request for Assistance Letter

Exhibit 1

Exhibit 2



February 27, 2023

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations
1560 State Rt 56 SW
London, Ohio 43140

Special Agent Supervisor William Jones,

Please accept this letter as an official request for the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations to assist with the investigation of the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on February 25, 2023. The incident occurred at 2900 Towne Boulevard, Middletown, OH 45044. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely

David Birk
Chief David Birk