



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



2023-1835  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 114 North Ninth St, Byesville,  
OH (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness  
**Involves:** Jeremiah Wise (S)  
**Date of Activity:** 07/11/2023  
**Activity Location:** – 1410 Elm Street, Cambridge, OH 43725, Guernsey County  
**Author:** SA Craig Call

**Narrative:**

On July 11, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Investigations and Crime Scene Units were requested by the Guernsey County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (shooting) involving members of the Byesville Police Department (BPD), GCSO, and Jeremiah Wise (Wise). It was reported to BCI the incident occurred at Wise's residence, 114 North 9th Street, Byesville, Ohio, and resulted in Wise being shot and transported to a nearby hospital where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

On July 12, 2023, SA Call made phone contact with Janet Wise (Janet), the ex-wife and mother of Wise's children, at phone number [REDACTED] in order to obtain any information Janet may have about the above incident. Janet agreed to meet with SA Call at her residence located at 1410 Elm Street, Cambridge, Ohio, the following day to provide a voluntary statement.

On July 13, 2023, SA Call met with Janet at her above listed residence and obtained an audio recorded statement from her. The entirety of the contact was audio recorded with Janet's mother and three children present during the interview.

The audio recording began at approximately 1214 hours.

Janet explained she and Wise were married for 14 years and have multiple children together, however the two have been living separately for the last several years and officially divorced approximately one year ago. Janet indicated their relationship remained civil throughout their separation and the two continued to split the costs of all things related to the children. Janet said she was recently married another man approximately two months ago and her married name is now Janet Bebout.

Janet said Wise was currently working as a manager at the Love's truck stop in Zanesville and had been there in his current position for approximately one year.

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Janet indicated the last time she saw Wise in person was the date of the incident when Wise dropped their children off at her residence at approximately 1400 hours after staying with Wise for the last few days. Janet later explained she did not speak with Wise at this time, he simply pulled up in front of the residence and let the kids out of the vehicle before leaving the area. Janet said she and Wise did briefly engage in a text message conversation after he dropped the children off about miscellaneous subject material regarding the children, but she had no indication anything was wrong.

Janet explained she noticed she had a missed call from Wise later in the afternoon and when she returned the call Wise answered and instructed her to call the police and tell them to leave his house. Janet further detailed Wise informing her he would "blow his brains out" if the police did not leave. Janet described her response as calling the BPD and informing them of her conversation with Wise. Janet said she was told officers were already at Wise's residence due to another subject calling in requesting a welfare check due to Wise indicating he wanted to harm himself. Janet said she was informed Wise was not under arrest or in any legal trouble and was asked to call Wise back to inform him the police were there for his well-being. Janet said Wise answered her call and responded he believed the police were there to kill or arrest him and hung up the phone. Janet said throughout the incident Wise would intermittently call their children's phone to talk to them. Janet and Wise's 10 year old daughter, Aerielle, walked over to the interview at this time and said she was instructed by Wise to pack up all her things and leave on the date of the incident. Janet said Aerielle told her Wise told Aerielle to do this because she would never see him again.

Janet indicated she believed Wise to be slightly intoxicated during the above referenced conversation, however she described Wise as being coherent and not appearing to be heavily intoxicated.

Janet described the rest of the information she knew about the incident was relayed to her third and fourth hand through Wise's family due to them being present near the scene of the incident. Janet said she was told Wise came out on the front porch with a cell phone in his hand and went back inside residence before coming back out on the front porch with a gun in his hand and was shot by law enforcement in response. Janet said she does not have a good relationship with Wise's family and believes they blame her for Wise's problems.

Janet indicated the only thing she knew of recently troubling Wise was the death of his 13 year old dog "Whipper." Janet described Wise as being very close to the dog and actually having the animal cremated. Janet said Wise picked up the ashes the day before the incident.

Janet did indicate she believed Wise suffered from undiagnosed depression, however he would not agree to seek any professional help.

Janet did have several questions unrelated to the incident which are contained in the recording and not included in the above summation of the interview.

The audio recording ended at approximately 1321 hours.

#### **Attachments:**

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Attachment # 01: Janet Bebout Interview

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