



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



2024-1015

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 100 Block 8th Street, N.E. New
Philadelphia, Ohio 44663 Tuscarawas, County

Investigative Activity: Information Provided/Obtained, Interview with Witness
Involves: Willow Marie Law (W)
Date of Activity: 04/03/2024
Activity Location: Bair, Goodie and Associates – 153 North Broadway Avenue, New
Philadelphia, OH 44663
Author: SA Charles H. Snyder, #90

Narrative:

Background:

On Sunday, March 31, 2024, at 2221 hours, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was dispatched through the Who's Responding notification system to an officer-involved shooting at 834 East High Street and Tell Avenue SE, in New Philadelphia (Tuscarawas County) Ohio. Personnel from the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) were indicated as involved. Initial reporting indicated at least one citizen and one law enforcement officer were injured and enroute to hospital(s) for treatment. BCI Special Agent Charlie Snyder (Snyder) was dispatched to assist the on-call team at 2224 hours.

Action Taken:

On Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at approximately 1428 hours, Snyder met with and conducted an audible recorded in-person interview with possible witness Willow Marie Law (Law), at her place of employment (Bair, Goodie and Associates, 153 North Broadway Avenue, New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663 – telephone: [REDACTED]). Law is the parent of Zachary Law, who had previously been interviewed. Law provided her personal identification and contact information and agreed to participate in the interview.

Law advised she had been at her residence on Sunday, March 31, 2024, since 1600 hours. She indicated being in bed and asleep, when she was awakened by a loud noise she believed sounded like a house explosion. Law indicated that while in her pajamas and carrying her cellphone, she exited her residence by the front door and began calling "9-1-1". Law advised

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it was at this time she then observed that a person ran in her direction and discovered he was the subject involved in this incident.

Law advised that her son Zachary Law then came out of the house after her and observed that the subject ran into the back yard. Law said that another next-door neighbor (Austin Hartline), a person her son knew, also had come out of his residence and Zachary Law and he began following the running subject and eventually cornered him in the back alley.

Zachary Law subsequently advised his mother that the subject had pulled his hoodie sweatshirt off and reached into his waistband, as if he was armed with a firearm, at which time the pursuers backed away a short distance.

A TCSO deputy then drove up and stopped his vehicle, placed it in park and within a very short time, Law observed that the subject ran up to the deputy's vehicle, trying to get inside it. The deputy then ordered the subject to get out of his vehicle several times and then issued warnings that he would shoot the subject if he did not get out of his vehicle.

Zachary Law then went back towards Law and warned his mother to "duck - because he is going to shoot" and telling other neighbors there to take cover.

Law advised that the subject and deputy struggled inside the vehicle, then she heard "pow-pow-pow" and the TCSO vehicle sped off with the subject in the driver's seat, then turned right onto East High Avenue.

Law discovered the deputy was at that time lying on the road. Law advised Zachary Law to move to assist the deputy, along with other neighbors. They discovered the deputy was bleeding. Zachary Law then asked others for towels to help with the deputy's bleeding and did what they could to assist him, until the next law enforcement officer arrived on the scene.

Law said that the deputy confirmed he had shot the subject in the neck at close range, and he had also shot his finger off and possibly shot himself in the foot.

Law was asked and indicated that the subject had entered the TCSO vehicle by opening the passenger side door at first and that she believed the subject attempted to shove the deputy out of the vehicle. She believed that the subject pushed the deputy out of the vehicle, causing him to land on his back in the road, at which time the subject drove off. Law indicated that she initially believed, because of her point of view, that the subject may have run over the deputy with the TCSO vehicle when he drove off.

Law confirmed she was on the left-driver's side of the TCSO vehicle during this incident. She also indicated that she heard loud voices but heard the deputy plainly and at least five separate times told the subject to get out of the vehicle, then warned several more times that if the subject did not get out of the vehicle, the deputy would shoot him. This warning was then followed shortly by the gunshots being fired.

Law indicated she did not know if the subject had a firearm. Law advised she was unable to see what was going on inside the vehicle during the struggle, but she could hear it. She described the subject as wearing all black clothing with a black hoodie sweatshirt with the

hoodie up.

Law advised that the deputy was concerned and asked Zachary Law to check on the people in the house to make sure they had not been struck by gunfire.

Snyder asked Law if there was any other pertinent information she may be aware of that was not covered in the interview. Law said that she did not believe so but also offered that the situation was very chaotic.

Snyder provided Law with his business card. Snyder asked Law if she speaks to a neighbor, who had not been interviewed about this matter, to refer that person(s) to him. Law agreed to do so.

At approximately 1440 hours, the Law interview concluded.

Note: This report summarizes information deemed by the author of the most relevance to the investigation and does not contain all questions and answers from the interview. This report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-04-03 – Willow Law – Interview 240403_0328