



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



2023-2232

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 5991 S Sunbury Rd, Westerville  
OH 43081

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness  
**Involves:** Ken Bliss (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 08/24/2023  
**Activity Location:** Kroger – 5991 South Sunbury Road, Westerville, OH 43081,  
Franklin County  
**Author:** SA Jonathan Scale, #169

**Narrative:**

On Thursday, August 24, 2023 at approximately 2015 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Jon Scale (SA Scale) interviewed Ken Bliss (Bliss), relative to the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which took place earlier that day. BCI was requested to investigate an OICI, which involved Blendon Township Police Department (BTPD) officers and an individual later identified as Ta'kiya Young (Young). The interview took place in the parking lot of Kroger, located at 5991 South Sunbury Road, Westerville, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

The interview was audio recorded. A copy of the recording is attached to this report and a copy was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the attached audio for complete details. The following is a summation of Bliss's interview:

Before interviewing Bliss, Franklin County Deputy Clausung #1501, gave SA Scale a written witness statement that was filled out by Bliss. Please see attached written statement for more details.

Bliss said he had just pulled into the Kroger parking lot and had parked in one of the handicap spots in front of the store. Bliss said that directly behind his vehicle he saw two (2) police officers attempting to get a female out of her car. He believes the black car which was involved in the incident was also parked in a handicap spot. The car was facing southbound and he believed to only see one individual in the vehicle.

Bliss said he observed an officer trying to open the black car's driver side door and then saw one officer standing in front of the vehicle. Bliss said the driver was not complying with the officer's commands and she was not getting out of the vehicle. He then heard the vehicle accelerate towards the officer standing in front of the vehicle. Bliss then heard a gunshot, but

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said he did not see the officer fire his weapon.

Bliss explained that the vehicle proceeded through the parking lot as both officers chased it on foot. The vehicle then crashed into the Kroger building and bounced off the wall. It continued rolling southbound and continued along the wall until it came to a stop by the pharmacy. Bliss said at that point he saw the officers in front of the vehicle. Bliss said he then heard multiple shots, but did not know which officer was firing. Bliss said the two officers then pulled the driver out of the car and began providing medical aid and CPR until medics arrived.

Bliss said he had taken a couple of pictures and videos from his cell phone. One of the photos shows his [Bliss's] silver SUV parked in the parking lot and the other picture shows an officer rendering aid to the individual on the ground. Both videos show officers rendering aid and CPR. (See attached photos and Videos)

The interview with Bliss concluded at approximately 2027 hours.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment # 01: 2023-08-24 Ken Bliss interview audio (witness)
- Attachment # 02: Ken Bliss written witness statement 8.24.2023
- Attachment # 03: Ken Bliss witness picture of his vehicle in parking lot
- Attachment # 04: Ken Bliss witness picture of officer rendering aid
- Attachment # 05: Ken Bliss witness video 1
- Attachment # 06: Ken Bliss witness video 2

# FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Name Ken Bliss DOB/ 12-13-49 SSN [REDACTED] Date 8-24-23  
Phone [REDACTED] s 1299 Wallasey City Westerly State OH Zip 43081

I, Ken Bliss do hereby make the following statement to Officer \_\_\_\_\_ who has identified himself as Deputy Sheriff of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. I make this statement of my own free will and accord, concerning an incident that occurred on the 24th day of Aug, 2023. This incident occurred at KROGER PARKING LOT which is located in Franklin County, Ohio.

I pulled into the handicap parking space and I saw two officers trying to get a driver to open her door as I exited my car. One of the officers stepped to the front of the car and the driver accelerated at the officer at which time I heard a shot. At this time I was on the sidewalk and the car came wrecklessly onto the sidewalk with the officers chasing on foot. The car hit the wall and again the driver didn't listen to their commands to get out and again the car went towards them and I heard multiple shots fired. The officers immediately removed the driver and started medical help/CPR until medics arrived.

I, have read the above statement consisting of 1 pages. I attest that this is a true and accurate account of the events which took place on 8-24-23. This statement was given by me freely and voluntarily, without fear, threat or promise of reward.

Witness:

Signature

Ken Bliss

Date

8-24-23

Officer:

Signature

Jaw Scola BCI

Date

8-24-23



