



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



2024-1376

Officer Involved Critical Incident – Interstate 77 Southbound at
Exit 85 , New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Investigative Activity: Information Provided/Obtained, Interview with Witness
Involves: George David Wright (W)
Date of Activity: 05/03/2024
Activity Location: – Interstate 77 southbound at exit 85 , New Philadelphia, OH
44663
Author: SA Charles H. Snyder, #90

Background:

On Friday, May 3, 2024, the Ohio Attorney General's – Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate an officer involved critical incident, involving personnel from the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) and Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) personnel. The incident occurred at Schneider's Crossing, south bound exit #85, of Interstate 77, in Tuscarawas County. Initial information indicated gunshots had been fired, resulting in injury to a subject. Special Agent Supervisor Charles Moran (Moran) made telephone contact with Special Agent Charlie Snyder (Snyder) at approximately 0626 hours, dispatching him to respond.

Action Taken:

Snyder conducted an audibly recorded interview with George David Wright (Wright) on Friday, May 3, 2024, at approximately 0739 hours. The interview was conducted while standing outside of Wright's vehicle, stopped on Interstate #77 southbound exit #85. Wright provided the following information on events witnessed in this matter.

Snyder identified himself to Wright, and the purpose of this contact.

Wright said that he left his employment and was headed to his residence. He said that as he pulled up, he observed a pick-up truck on the berm of the road, with several Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSP) and Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) Deputies and a City of Dover Fire Department ambulance that was parked next to the pick-up truck. Wright indicated that he believed the law enforcement personnel were trying to get a subject out of the pick-up truck, who was not complying.

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Wright said that he saw the door on the pick-up truck start to open slowly, then shut. Wright said that he then saw the door was opened more, and an officer reached over and pulled the door open, then stepped away from the pick-up. Wright said he could not hear the subject in the pick-up truck saying anything to the law enforcement officers, because his windows were rolled up and there was traffic noise.

Wright then observed that an OSP Trooper placed something, believed to be possible stop-sticks, under the pick-up truck on the passenger side. Wright indicated that within a very short time, less than a minute later, Wright heard repeated yelling by the law enforcement personnel for the subject in the truck to show them his hands. Wright then observed law enforcement officers firing gunshots. Wright indicated seeing a law enforcement officer on the berm of the road firing his weapon and saw the rear window of the pick-up truck break, and then he heard more shots.

Wright indicated he panicked and ducked down in his vehicle, unsure if he should drive off. Wright had no idea of the time the shots were fired. Wright estimated being within fifty feet of the actual shooting incident. He believed there may have been six or seven shots fired by law enforcement.

Wright indicated his travel was not blocked, except for the ambulance in front of him. He indicated pulling up close to the scene on the left turn berm area to pass by the ambulance and was instructed to stop there by law enforcement, just prior to the shooting. He advised there were also vehicles behind him in traffic.

Wright was asked and indicated that he had no more relevant information at this time. Snyder provided Wright with Snyder's business card and requested that he should contact him if he should recall anything additional about this incident.

At approximately 0745 hours, the George David Wright interview concluded.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-05-03 – George David Wright – recorded interview – 240503_0342