



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



2022-2918

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 500 West Hopocan, Barberton, OH
44203

Investigative Activity: Interview of Witnesses
Involves: Charles Nicholas (W), Tommie Nicholas (W)
Activity Date: 12/26/2022
Activity Location: 1306 Benton Street, Barberton, Ohio 44203
Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente

Narrative:

On Monday, December 26, 2022, at 1604 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente and SA Charlie Snyder interviewed Charles Nicholas (C. Nicholas) and his wife, Tommie Nicholas (T. Nicholas). C. Nicholas and T. Nicholas were identified as possible witnesses to the officer-involved shooting in Barberton, Ohio, on December 26, 2022. The interview with C. Nicholas and T. Nicholas was audio recorded and attached to this report.

During the interview, C. Nicholas reported the following:

On December 26, 2022, C. Nicholas and T. Nicholas went to the YMCA in Barberton. C. Nicholas drove the couple. As they were arriving at the YMCA, C. Nicholas observed a man standing nearby, who was staring at him. C. Nicholas thought the man may have been on drugs based on how he was acting. C. Nicholas stated the man followed him on foot, as C. Nicholas drove through the parking lot and parked his car. C. Nicholas said to his wife, in reference to this strange acting man, "There's a fruit cake for ya." The man said something to C. Nicholas; he couldn't make out but believed was close to, "I'm coming back to life soon." C. Nicholas rolled down the window and in an aggressive tone asked, "What did you say?" The man replied, "Oh, I'm not gonna bother with you," and continued walking away.

C. Nicholas exited his car and began removing a walker from the backseat of his car. While doing so, C. Nicholas made a joking comment to a passing Barberton police officer, who was walking by on foot. Once the couple entered the YMCA, C. Nicholas observed a woman come up to the Barberton police officer he had just spoken with. C. Nicholas overheard the woman tell the Barberton police officer that a man outside had just attempted to rob her. The woman described the man to the Barberton police officer. C. Nicholas, having just had a strange interaction with the man being described, interjected that he had just spoken to this man, and the man was now walking southbound just outside the YMCA. The Barberton police officer then quickly exited the YMCA and C. Nicholas believed he did so in an effort to locate the man.

C. Nicholas and T. Nicholas then entered the YMCA and had no further involvement in the matter until noticing through the window an ambulance arriving outside.

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During the interview, T. Nicholas agreed with the recounting of events as relayed by her husband, C. Nicholas, with the exception of some confusion over if the man in question entered the YMCA building through a separate set of doors into the senior center.

Attachments:

1. 2022-12-26: Charles and Tommie Nicholas Interviews