



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



2025-0513
Officer Involved Critical Incident -14000 OH-104
Chillicothe, OH 45601 (L)

Investigative Activity: Witness interview
Involves: Jennifer Hicks
Activity Date: 02/20/2025
Activity Location: 28 N. Paint St., Chillicothe, OH (Ross County Sheriff's Office)
Authoring Agent: SA Aja Chung, #86

Narrative:

On Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 1052 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Aja Chung (SA Chung) and Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Kevin Barbeau (SAS Barbeau) interviewed Jennifer Hicks (Jennifer), regarding the officer-involved critical incident which took place on Monday, February 17, 2025. The interview took place at the above-mentioned activity location. SA Chung received an email from the Radio Room with Jennifer's phone number, and indicated she had information regarding the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by Jennifer Hicks.

Agents asked Jennifer how she knew to contact BCI regarding the incident. Jennifer told agents she was advised by her son, Jason Salley (Salley), who works for a local newspaper, to contact BCI to provide a witness statement. At that moment, Jennifer called Salley and asked if she could provide his phone number so agents could speak with him. Agents were advised to contact the Scioto Guardian's legal team.

Jennifer stated that she and her husband, Phillip Hicks, were on the exit ramp from westbound US 35 onto SR 104, heading towards Pleasant Valley area to stop by her daughter's house. Jennifer described the vehicle she was in as a tan, 2006 Chevrolet Suburban with a lightbar on the roof. Jennifer confirmed that her husband, Phillip, was driving.

Jennifer said she observed a Ross County Sheriff's deputy standing outside of his cruiser, on the left side, and a male subject standing in front of the deputy's cruiser. Jennifer went on saying she saw the deputy "in full stance with his gun aimed at the subject." Jennifer described the male subject as having his hands up, looked over both of his shoulders (side to side), turn around, take 2-3 steps away from the deputy and then drop to the ground. Jennifer said the male was walking away when the deputy shot him. Jennifer explained to agents that she observed the recoil of the gun when

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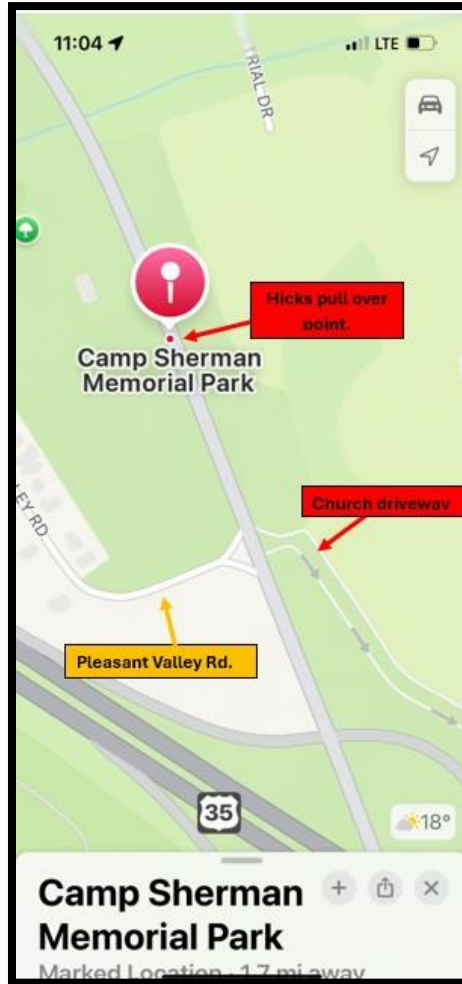


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the deputy shot his weapon. Jennifer went on to say the male fell on his right side and his left leg fell on his right side.

Jennifer indicated the male subject was wearing a camouflage jacket or hooded sweatshirt.

It was at that point, Jennifer indicated, Phillip Hicks pulled over in the median of SR 104 in case he needed to turn around and help the deputy. SA Chung pulled up the map on her phone and asked Jennifer to drop a pin to mark the area where her vehicle stopped in the median.



(Screen shot with pin marking where Hicks pulled over on SR 104)

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The interview concluded at approximately 1114 hours.

SA Chung reviewed ODOT footage and did observe an older model tan Chevrolet Suburban driving on northbound SR 104. SA Chung did not observe the vehicle to pull over and stop in the center median at any point in the footage as described by Jennifer. The second police cruiser to arrive to the scene was observed to pass the incident location, driving northbound on SR 104. At the point the second police cruiser turned around to head back southbound, that U-turn was not captured as it was beyond the view of the camera.

The interview was audio recorded, was saved to the case file and is attached to this report. Please refer to the audio recording to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Note: This report only summarizes information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation, and does not purport to contain all the questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was authored in a manner to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information obtained during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual question sequence.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. Jennifer Hicks interview
2. Screenshot: Hicks pull over point.

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