



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



2023-2598

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 415 Gregg Street, Washington
Courthouse, OH – Fayette County (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Gavin Moore (W)
Date of Activity: 10/01/2023
Activity Location: Washington Court House Police Dept. – Business – 130 North
Fayette Street, Washington Court House, OH 43160
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On October 1, 2023, at approximately 1847 hours, the Washington Court House Police Department requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred after the involved subject, Timothy D. West (West), fled on foot from a traffic stop and was subdued by the pursuing officer, Officer Trevor Phillips, with a Taser energy weapon. After the Taser deployment, West became unresponsive and was later pronounced deceased.

Officer Gavin Moore was at the scene when BCI Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Lauren Frazier arrived. He advised the BCI agents that he arrived at the scene shortly after the use of force incident. At 2117 hours, SA Seitzman and SA Frazier interviewed Officer Moore to obtain information as to what he observed. The interview was audio-recorded.

The information provided below summarizes key points from the recorded interview and is not a verbatim account. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed.

Officer Moore stated that he has been a Washington Court House police officer for a little over a year. He said he was working his normal afternoon road patrol shift on October 1, 2023. He was wearing his department-issued police uniform during the shift. He was also wearing a body-worn camera, which was activated during his time at the scene.

Regarding the OICI, Officer Moore advised the following:

Officer Moore was on the opposite side of town when Officer Phillips initiated a traffic stop on Gregg Street at approximately 1800 hours. He heard a commotion on the radio and was not sure of the nature of the situation. He then heard Sergeant Jeffery Heinz say, "Foot pursuit" over

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the police radio. He then responded with lights and sirens to the scene.

Upon arrival, Officer Moore parked at the location of the traffic stop. Sergeant Heinz pointed him in the direction of where Officer Phillips had West detained. He observed that West was handcuffed and in a prone position. He said that Officer Phillips was collecting items that came from West. He did not believe he had a conversation with Officer Phillips as to what transpired, but he did observe evidence that Officer Moore had discharged his Taser. When asked what West's condition was at the time, he said that West was not moving. He recalled that he did not believe West was breathing, so he checked for a pulse. He was uncertain if he could detect a pulse; however, he said West's face and mouth were turning to a "very dark blue, purplish" color. He advised that he and Officer Phillips turned West over and began chest compressions. They also called for an ambulance to respond to the scene as quickly as possible.

Officer Moore estimated that it took approximately two to three minutes for the ambulance to arrive after he determined West was not breathing. Once the paramedics arrived, the officers were instructed to cut West's shirt off. The paramedics then utilized the LUCAS machine to perform chest compressions. He estimated that paramedics worked on West at the scene for approximately 20 minutes.

While paramedics were working on West, Officer Moore returned to the vehicle Officer Phillips had initially stopped. He spoke with the driver of the vehicle, Jonathan Penn. Mr. Penn told him that he knew West from a mutual friend but had only met him approximately three weeks ago. Mr. Penn said West contacted him prior to the OICI and asked for a ride from the Washington Court House Walmart to the village of Bloomingburg. Mr. Penn told him that Officer Phillips pulled them over as they were on their way to Bloomingburg. Mr. Penn then told him that West had instructed him to flee from the officer, which he declined to do, so West fled from the vehicle. Mr. Penn identified property belonging to West, which Officer Moore collected. Some of the property included two bookbags, a suspected glass methamphetamine pipe, and a small bag of suspected methamphetamine.

SA Seitzman asked Officer Moore if he recognized West. He answered in the affirmative. Once the officers began chest compressions, he asked Officer Phillips if it was West, which Officer Phillips confirmed it was. Officer Moore said he had a traffic stop involving West a couple of weeks prior to the OICI. During the traffic stop, West was found to have warrants for his arrest. West also threw drugs from the vehicle prior to stopping, which was captured on cruiser camera video. West also possessed drug paraphernalia. He was arrested without issue during that incident.

Officer Moore advised that he was aware that West had active warrants. He said that he regularly checks a list containing subjects with active warrants within Washington Court House. He recalled that West was on the list. He was unaware if West had any cautionary indicators attached to his warrant entry.

The interview was concluded at 2132 hours. The audio recording is attached below.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-10-01 / Interview with Washington Court House Police Officer Gavin

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Moore

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Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.