



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Date of Activity: 12/28/2023
Author: SA Jason A. Snyder, #176

To: Van Wert County Prosecutor's Office

CC: SAS Scott Stranahan

From: SA Jason Snyder

Date: December 28, 2023

Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident- 2001 E. Livingston St. Celina, Oh. 45822

Case Number: 2023-2234

On August 25, 2023, the Celina Police Department (Celina PD) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) in investigating an Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) in the city of Celina in Mercer County, Ohio.

This report is intended to be a synopsis of the investigation into the allegations made by the Celina PD. This report only summarizes the information that Special Agent Jason Snyder (SA Snyder) determined to be most useful in achieving an overall understanding of the facts that occurred in this case. Every fact and detail are not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and video recordings exist and have been attached to this case file which reveals even further details of the case.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

Summary of Process:

The following is a partial list of the investigative activities and/or methods which were

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

employed during the course of this investigation in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this case:

Interviews of the following involved parties:

- o Hannah Pawelski
- o Officer Jacob Little
- o Officer Lance Brunswick
- o Aaron Schott
- o Aaron Beougher
- o Mitch Leugers
- o Brian Davis
- o Nathan Cupp
- o Officer Darrell Etgen
- o Officer Kevin Wynn
- o Officer Daniel Speckman
- o Officer Patrick Cupp
- o Officer Anthony Poppe
- o Officer David Powell
- o Officer Justin Rice

Evidence and/or synopsis is also included of the following:

- o Videos from Celina Police Department
- o Videos from Mercer County Sheriff Office
- o Video from Coldwater Police Department
- o Videos from St. Mary's Police Department

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

- o Statements from officers from Celina Police Department
- o Statements from officers from Cold Water Police Department
- o Statements from officers from St. Mary's Police Department
- o Statements from officers from Mercer County Sheriff's Office
- o Crime Scene photos
- o Lab results of Firearms
- o Employee Records of David Powell
- o Employee Records of Justin Rice
- o Radio Traffic
- o EMS Run Record
- o Celina Police Department Policy and Procedures
- o Subpoena for medical records
- o Search Warrant for Chevy Trailblazer
- o Medical Records
- o Consent to Search Documents

Incident Summary:

On August 25, 2023, the Celina PD sent a request to BCI asking for BCI to investigate an OICI with officers from Celina PD and Corey Andrew (Andrew). The OICI occurred in Mercer County, in the city of Celina.

That morning, Andrew and Hannah Pawelski (Pawelski) entered the parking lot of Eastview Park, located at 220 Bachar Rd., Celina, Oh. 45822. They were in their shared, grey in color, four-door Chevy Trailblazer. They were parked on the north side of the parking lot facing north. They were in the park, after closing time, playing on their phones. At some point, a marijuana cigarette was placed on the dashboard of the Trailblazer near Andrew.

Andrew was in the driver's seat of the Trailblazer. Pawelski was in the passenger seat and their small child was in the back seat, secured in a child safety seat.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

At approximately 0213, Officer (Ofc.) David Powell (Powell) entered Eastview Park. He parked his cruiser near the entrance and walked up to the Trailblazer. Powell did not have his cruiser light activated. He also thought he had activated his issued body worn camera. He did notice later that the camera was not activated at that time.

Ofc. Powell spoke to Andrew and Pawelski. He advised them that they were not allowed to be in the park after 2300. He asked for their identification for his records of the contact. Andrew stated that he did not have identification, and Pawelski provided her information.

Andrew continued to look at his phone, not paying attention to Ofc. Powell. This concerned Ofc. Powell. In Ofc. Powell's experience, during most encounters with law enforcement officers, people acknowledge officers by looking at them or show other body language which is perceived as acknowledging their presence.

Ofc. Powell noticed a marijuana cigarette in plain view, on the dashboard, near Andrew. Ofc. Powell asked Andrew to put down his phone, which Andrew did. Ofc. Powell asked Andrew if he had been smoking marijuana tonight. Andrew stated "yes". Ofc. Powell asked Andrew to hand him over the marijuana cigarette. Andrew stated "no". Due to Andrew's behavior, Ofc. Powell used a calm attitude in an attempt to keep the situation peaceful. During Pawelski's interview, she also stated that Ofc. Powell was calm and not aggressive to Andrew or herself.

Ofc. Powell asked for Andrew to turn over the cigarette to him again. Andrew refused. At that time, Andrew, as Pawelski stated, "freaked out". Andrew put the Trailblazer in drive and moved forward, "spinning tires". Ofc. Powell had his hands on the driver's side window during this interaction, so when the Trailblazer moved forward, Ofc. Powell moved forward with the Trailblazer for a few feet.

While the Trailblazer was "coming around", turned west then east, in the direction of Ofc. Powell, he started to move out of the direction of the Trailblazer's path which was pointing in his direction. Ofc. Powell believed that the Trailblazer started moving at him. Due to the high rate of speed of the Trailblazer, and the direction it was pointing, Ofc. Powell drew his firearm.

The Trailblazer moved forward and turned slightly. It started moving in the direction of Ofc. Rice, who had just arrived at the park to back-up Ofc. Powell. Both officers stated that there were clear areas for the Trailblazer to exit the park, but it did not proceed in those directions.

Ofc. Rice was on foot in the parking lot. It appeared that the Trailblazer "swerved at him". Ofc. Rice stated that the Trailblazer turned in his direction, directly at him. He attempted to evade the Trailblazer by retreating backward. The "dude tried to hit me" Ofc. Rice stated in his interview.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Ofc. Powell feared that Ofc. Rice could be hit by the Trailblazer, so he engaged the Trailblazer with his firearm. Ofc. Rice also engaged the Trailblazer with his weapon. Due to the injury which Ofc. Rice sustained during the incident, Ofc. Rice could not recall all the events at this point, and for several moments after the Trailblazer approached him. Ofc. Rice had received a head injury when he fell to the ground while he was retreating from the Trailblazer's path.

While Ofc. Powell was firing at the Trailblazer, he saw Ofc. Rice "flying through the air" and screaming. Ofc. Powell remembered the soles of Ofc. Rice's shoes being in a vertical position at one point. Ofc. Powell believed that Ofc. Rice was hit by the Trailblazer. During Pawelski's interview, she also thought that Ofc. Rice was hit by the Trailblazer.

Ofc. Powell continued to engage the Trailblazer per his training. The Trailblazer was still moving after it passed Ofc. Rice. He feared that the Trailblazer was going to possibly attempt to come back and harm them both. At this same time, Ofc. Powell heard additional shots. He thought these shots came from Ofc. Rice.

The Trailblazer continued east and came to rest at the entrance of a foot path. Additional officers responded to the area. Ofc. Rice and Ofc. Powell entered their cruisers and drove to the rear of the Trailblazer. They were joined by Ofc. Poppe with Celina PD.

The officers ordered Andrew out of the Trailblazer. Pawelski yelled out that Andrew was shot and unable to leave the Trailblazer. They ordered out Pawelski, to which she complied. When Pawelski was safely with the officers, she advised them that her small child was in the back seat of the Trailblazer. Due to this, it was determined by Ofc. Powell that the child had to be removed from the Trailblazer as soon as possible.

Ofc. Powell and Ofc. Rice moved up to the Trailblazer. Ofc. Powell could see that Andrew was still in the driver seat "slumped over". They opened the back door and removed Pawelski's child. There were no visible injuries to the child at that time. Ofc. Rice took the child back to the cruisers.

Ofc. Powell then moved to Andrew's side of the Trailblazer and checked Andrew. Andrew had shallow breathing and a pulse. At this time, additional responding officers from several agencies started to arrive.

Ofc. Powell could see that Andrew had an injury to his right leg. He could not see any other injuries to Andrew while he was still in the Trailblazer. Officers moved Andrew forward in the seat and then Ofc. Powell could see that Andrew had an injury somewhere on his back. They extracted Andrew from the Trailblazer. Medical attention was rendered to Andrew by Ofc. Powell and other officers.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived and transported Andrew to the hospital.

Due to the injuries he sustained during the incident, Andrew died. Due to Ofc. Rice being injured, he was also transported by EMS and treated.

Andrew received a gunshot wound to both legs and his upper back area. During his autopsy examination, a fired bullet was located in his sternum and recovered by BCI.

There are three (3) potential ballistic incidents to the Trailblazer. All of the potential ballistic incidents were on the driver side of the Trailblazer. Two (2) fired bullets were recovered in the Trailblazer.

In reviewing the video evidence and physical evidence left at the scene and on the Trailblazer, there appears to have been a total of ten (10) shots fired by Ofc. Rice and Ofc. Powell.

Conclusion:

Ofc. Powell contacted Andrew and Pawelski at the park, after normal hours for visitors. He approached the Trailblazer without his overhead light activated. While Ofc. Powell was investigating this incident, Andrew clearly, for unknown reasons, decided to drive away from Ofc. Powell. By doing so, Andrew drove in the direction of Ofc. Rice.

The Trailblazer did move in the direction of Ofc. Rice. This is confirmed by Ofc. Rice and Pawelski who thought that Ofc. Rice was hit by the Trailblazer. This was also confirmed through video evidence.

Both officers engaged the Trailblazer with their firearms. There was no cover for Ofc. Rice to retreat to at the moment the Trailblazer was heading in his direction. Ofc. Rice attempted to avoid the Trailblazer. It was stated that there were clear avenues for the Trailblazer to leave the area without putting officers in danger.

Officers engaged the Trailblazer with their firearms. Andrews died due to the injuries he sustained during the incident.

Contact Information:

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Jason Snyder, 750

N. College Dr. Bowling Green, Oh. 43402, e-mail Jason.Snyder@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone at 419-419-3618.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.