



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



2023-0290
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1818 Jisco West Rd, Jackson,
OH 45640 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Mellisa Graham (W)
Date of Activity: 01/31/2023
Activity Location: – 1818 Jisco West Road, Jackson, OH 45640, Jackson County
Author: SA Andrew Russell

Narrative:

On Tuesday, January 31, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Andrew Russell (SA Russell) interviewed Mellisa Graham (Graham), relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on Tuesday, January 31, 2023. The interview took place near to 1818 Jisco West Road, Jackson, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual. The interview began at 16:50 hours.

Graham stated she resides at 1818 Jisco West Road, Jackson, Ohio, with her boyfriend, Shawn Norman (Norman). Graham added Norman brought William Beach (Beach), who is an old friend, over to the residence as they had not seen each other for a while and as Beach was supposed to go to prison soon. Graham advised Norman and Beach worked on the cabins and painted. Graham added they all ate and went to bed; Beach was going to sleep in the one room cabin next to hers.

Graham advised she was woken up by deputies advising there was a fugitive in the area and asked if they knew Beach. Graham advised he was their friend and staying in the cabin next door and then "all hell broke loose" with lots of officers arriving and then deputies yelling and taking up positions of cover behind vehicles. Graham added, after awhile she and Norman were asked to leave the area for their safety as Beach had an axe and a gun. Graham stated earlier in the day she never saw Beach with any weapons but that in the cabin/shed he was staying in there was an axe and several airsoft/BB guns that Norman collected. Graham stated the airsoft guns are very realistic looking. Graham added a deputy told her Beach had broken into a neighbor's truck and had been confronted by the homeowner at gunpoint, and that is why deputies responded to the area. Graham added this incident became a five-hour standoff after

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Beach barricaded himself in the cabin/shed.

Graham stated she heard the gunshot fired by officers but did not see the actual incident, but believes the officers rammed the door open and then shot Beach.

The interview was audio recorded and ended at 17:00. The recording is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2023-01-31 Mellisa Graham Interview