

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



2022-1115

Officer Involved Critical Incident - SR 339 near mile marker 3, Belpre (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer

Involves: Deputy (S), Devon Lee Taylor (S)

Date of Activity: 05/27/2022

Activity Location: Washington County Sheriffs Office – Business – 205 Putnam Street,

Marietta, OH 45750, Washington County

Author: SA Shane R. Hanshaw, #102

Narrative:

On Friday, May 27, 2022, at 0957 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Shane Hanshaw (Hanshaw) interviewed Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) Deputy Ashly Wallace (Wallace) relative to the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred on Thursday, May 19, 2022. The interview took place at the Washington County Sheriff's Office located at 309 4th Street in Marietta, Ohio. Also present during the interview was Union Representative Mike Dickerson. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information regarding the activities that occurred on State Route 339 in Washington County. Prior to conducting the interview, SA Hanshaw advised Deputy Wallace that the investigation was a criminal investigation. The interview was audio recorded.

Deputy Wallace was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 19, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of State Route 339 in Washington County, Ohio. Reportedly, Deputy Wallace did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident, and did not arrive until after the OICI had occurred.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information obtained during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

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At the onset of the interview SA Hanshaw identified himself as a BCI Special Agent and began by asking some preliminary questions. Deputy Wallace stated her radio call sign on May 19, 2022, was 1808. She has been employed by the Washington County Sheriff's Office for about 3 years. She has been a police officer for a total of 3 years. During the incident, Deputy Wallace wore her standard police uniform consisting of black Tactical Dress Uniform (TDU). She also wore a duty belt consisting of an ASP baton, handcuffs, tourniquet, duty firearm, magazines, and radio. She drove WCSO cruiser #8478, a 2021 Ford Explorer, marked with WCSO emblems and working emergency lights and siren. Deputy Wallace was not wearing a body camera, nor is her vehicle outfitted with a vehicle camera.

Deputy Wallace considered herself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. She stated she was not under the influence of any substance that would impair her memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. She does not wear corrective lenses. Deputy Wallace has never been involved in an OICI and has no prior disciplines for excessive force.

On the date of the incident, Deputy Wallace said she heard a radio transmission indicating that Deputy was in a vehicle pursuit. Deputy Wallace said she thought Deputy said he was in pursuit of a vehicle with no tail lights. Deputy Wallace stated she traveled toward the direction of the vehicle pursuit. While traveling to the pursuit, Deputy Wallace said Deputy stated the vehicle had crashed. Deputy Wallace said she thought Deputy said they shot at me so I shot back. Deputy Wallace said it sounded like Deputy stook his last breath, but later realized it was due to his adrenaline. Deputy Wallace stated she checked on Deputy way of radio and Deputy responded back indicating that an off-duty Athens police officer was with him. Deputy Wallace stated she continued to the scene arriving at approximately 0445 hours.

Upon arrival, Deputy Wallace stated the critical incident had already occurred. Deputy Wallace stated she positioned herself in an area to avoid any crossfire while she maintained a visual contact with the pursued vehicle. Deputy Wallace stated while observing the vehicle, she heard Deputy and Sergeant McConnell giving verbal commands to the driver of the vehicle. Deputy Wallace said at some point she heard Deputy sak the driver to give some sort of clue that he was ok because they could give him medical attention if needed. Deputy said that it was hard to see into the vehicle because the side air bags were down.

Deputy Wallace said that after a period of time with no movement inside the vehicle, additional officers arrived and approached the vehicle. By this time, Deputy Wallace said Deputy had already been moved away from the scene. Deputy Wallace said when additional units arrived, they approached the vehicle while she stayed positioned at the "A" frame of Deputy seems vehicle. Deputy Wallace said she did not approach the vehicle at anytime during the incident.

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When asked, Deputy Wallace stated she did not fire her duty weapon, deploy any less lethal weapon, or contact the vehicle.

At approximately 1023 hours, SA Hanshaw concluded the interview with Deputy Wallace.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Interview with Deputy A Wallace

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