



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



2022-2876

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 256 N. Swain, LaRue, Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Date of Activity: 01/12/2023
Author: SA Tiffany Vollmer, #49

Narrative:

On January 12, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Tiffany Vollmer (SA Vollmer) interviewed Paramedic Firefighter Bethany Taylor (Taylor), EMT Firefighter Shawn Cress (Cress) and EMT Firefighter Cameron Thrasher (Thrasher), of the Scioto Valley Fire District, relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on 12/20/2022. The interview was conducted at Scioto Valley Fire District, 100 N. Front Street, LaRue, Ohio.

The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by these individuals regarding their response to the incident scene. The following is a summary of the interview which was digitally recorded and attached to the case file.

Bethany Taylor: Taylor advised she has been with Scioto Valley for approximately 4.5 years and is a firefighter/paramedic. On the day of the incident, at approximately 0515 hours, dispatch called the fire station and explained there was an active search warrant being conducted and they were requested to be on standby. Approximately 20 minutes later, Taylor and her partner, Thrasher, were notified they needed to be at Section and Railroad Street, however, were not told it was for a shooting victim.

Upon arrival, Taylor advised officers were frantically waving them down and it was then she realized someone was shot. She was told there were guns laying around and to be careful where she stepped. Taylor advised CPR was already in progress by an officer at the scene. Taylor radioed for more manpower. A heart monitor was applied to the patient, which showed he still had a pulse. Taylor said she asked for the officers to help a couple times, but received no help, with the exception of one officer. Taylor said she had her partner stop what he was doing and come help her. Then, another medic arrived and officers helped get the patient into the ambulance, while CPR continued.

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Once in the back of the ambulance, medics were able to get a shockable rhythm, but then went back into asystole. Officer Williams rode in the ambulance while the procedures of airway and medication continued. The patient was delivered to the hospital.

Taylor said the patient was non-responsive upon her arrival. She told SA Vollmer she thought the officers on scene wanted her to pronounce the patient deceased and she questioned them about it. SA Vollmer asked if the officers said they wanted her to pronounce the patient deceased and she said no, it was their body language that implied it.

SA Vollmer asked Taylor to clarify what she meant in her report that there was no pulse present, but there was a "pulse of 42." Taylor advised, according to the monitor, there was still some type of activity and potential for a pulse. Taylor said she saw the patient had bullet wounds, but half of them were found after she had left the hospital room.

Taylor did not have any additional information to add and the interview concluded.

Shawn Cress: Cress advised he has been an EMT for ten years. On the incident day, he was at home when he was notified by phone to be in a standby mode for a call out. According to Cress, it was not made clear what the call was regarding because he did not hear the radio traffic. Some time later, he was notified that manpower was needed and he responded to the area in his personal vehicle.

When Cress arrived, he was instructed by Taylor to grab gloves. As he approached the scene, he could see a male lying on his back on the railroad tracks. Cress was warned there were guns in the area of the tracks and saw a gun by the patient's right foot. The patient was strapped to the auto-pulse machine, which administered auto-compressions. Cress helped secure the patient onto the backboard along with the assistance of officers at the scene.

Cress said he was not given any details when he arrived and was unaware during transport in the ambulance that the patient was shot. Cress said medical treatment continued on the patient until arrival at the hospital. The patient was then turned over to the hospital.

Cress said the patient was not responsive the whole time Cress was involved in his care. Cress did witness an injury to the patient's shin, but did not know the extent of the patient's injuries. Cress described the patient as lifeless and said there was a lot of blood in the back of the ambulance upon transport.

Cress did not have any additional information to add and the interview concluded.

Cameron Thrasher: Thrasher has been an EMT since 2020. On the incident day,

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Thrasher was notified by Taylor they were being put on standby because of a search warrant. Approximately 20 minutes later, they were notified to come to the scene. Thrasher drove "lights and sirens" all the way there. Upon arrival, officers were flagging them down and Thrasher could see there was an officer doing chest compressions on the patient.

Thrasher grabbed equipment and applied it to the patient. The monitor showed a heart rhythm of 42, but it was not "organized" and the patient was non-responsive. An officer told the medics they needed a backboard to get the patient going to the hospital. The auto-compression machine was applied while the patient was put on the backboard. Thrasher advised he only had one shockable rhythm on the way to the hospital and that was when they first got into the ambulance. The patient was transported to the hospital while life saving measures were taken. Once there, medics handed over medical care to the hospital staff.

Thrasher said he saw two wounds on the patient's abdomen and one on his lower right leg. Thrasher saw blood in other areas of the patient's clothing, but did not see the actual wounds. Thrasher said the officers did not make any admissions, "off-color or negative" comments, but just wanted the medics to get the patient to the hospital to give the patient the "best opportunity."

Thrasher did not have any additional information to add and the interview concluded.

A copy of the audio recording has been placed in this case file. Please see the attachment for further details.

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 audio recording. 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 or responses. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the audio recording.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: Shawn Cress
- Attachment # 02: Cameron Thrasher
- Attachment # 03: Bethany Taylor

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