



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



2024-1513
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 6382 Georges Creek Drive,
Columbus, OH 43110 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Camara E Gates (W)
Date of Activity: 05/16/2024
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On May 16, 2024, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to respond to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) at 6382 Georges Creek Drive in Columbus, OH. It was initially reported shots were fired by an officer from the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) while responding to a domestic disturbance involving an individual reported to be in possession of a firearm at this location, and an involved individual identified as Rafael Warfield (Warfield) was pronounced deceased on scene.

On May 16, 2024 at approximately 0720 hours, BCI Special Agent Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) and CPD Detective Anthony Johnson (Det. Johnson) interviewed Camara Gates (Gates) as a potential witness to the OICI involving CPD and Warfield. Gates indicated she understood the nature of the interview and agreed to answer questions regarding the incident.

This interview was audio recorded and a copy of the recording was saved electronically within the case file. Please refer to the recording for specific quotes. The following is a summation of the interview.

Gates explained she had been with Warfield and his niece, Erykah King (King), the previous evening. Gates denied knowing Warfield's name, and only identified him as her friend King's uncle. Gates explained they went to a bar to celebrate Warfield's birthday and to a residence in Independence Village before returning to Georges Creek Apartments where King lives. Gates estimated they arrived at Georges Creek Apartments sometime between 0100 hours and 0300 hours.

Gates reported Warfield fell asleep in the car on the way to King's apartment and indicated Warfield was intoxicated enough that she and King had to help him into King's apartment and lay him down on a couch in the living room. Gates said she and King went upstairs to King's bedroom and left Warfield downstairs in the living room.

Gates claimed Warfield suddenly became agitated and she could hear him shouting from

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on
05/29/2024

downstairs. Gates initially stated Warfield was "making threats" but did not specifically describe Warfield's comments and only stated Warfield was saying, "I'll do this and I'll do that, because I don't care about this and I don't care about that." Gates described the things Warfield was saying as drunk rambling. Gates denied Warfield making any threats to physically harm her or King, and denied Warfield made comments about harming himself. "He just started tweaking out," Gates stated in regards to Warfield. Gates said Warfield was being "aggressive with his words" and getting progressively louder, and she could hear Warfield banging and breaking things downstairs. Gates denied Warfield ever came upstairs. Gates explained she and King had tried to deescalate the situation with Warfield but were unsuccessful.

Gates reported King called 911 because they were becoming afraid of Warfield's behavior and they told the 911 operator, "We don't feel safe." Gates believed King had locked Warfield out of the house and could hear him banging on the door. Gates recalled she and King were hiding in the closet when they heard gunshots, King was still on the phone with 911. Gates said the gunshots sounded like they came from outside of the apartment building, and said she herself only heard one or two shots. Gates also reported hearing a "very loud bang" but was unsure if it was a gunshot or something else such as glass breaking.

Several minutes after she heard gunshots, Gates and King came downstairs and heard a "White voice" which she believed to be police. Gates and King were instructed to come out of the apartment with their hands up. Gates did not see where Warfield was when she exited the front door of the apartment.

Gates denied knowing if Warfield had a firearm or any other kind of weapon in his possession or in the apartment. Gates denied Warfield making threats to shoot someone. Gates said Warfield had never behaved in a way which made her feel unsafe or threatened prior to the night of the OICI. Gates was asked how frequently she has been around Warfield, to which she replied, "Not that often, I just started coming around like two months ago."

Interview concluded at approximately 0745 hours.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-05-16 – Camara Gates Interview Audio #1

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