



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



2024-1015
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 100 Block 8th Street, N.E. New
Philadelphia, Ohio 44663 Tuscarawas, County

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Deputy Stephanie Donley (W)
Date of Activity: 05/15/2024
Activity Location: Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office – 2295 Reiser Avenue SE, New
Philadelphia, OH 44663
Author: SA John P. Tingley, #154

Narrative:

On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at approximately 1803 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (Tingley) interviewed Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) Deputy Stephanie Donley (Donley). The interview took place at the TCSO which is located at 2295 Reiser Avenue SE, New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Deputy Donley was identified as being a law enforcement officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the March 31, 2024, officer-involved critical incident which occurred in the area of the 100 Block of 8th Avenue NE, New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. Reportedly, Deputy Donley did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

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 elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions nor is it a word-for-word translation of either the questions or answers. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

The interview began with SA Tingley presenting Deputy Donley with the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form which Deputy Donley read, stated that she understood, and signed.

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Demographic Information

Name: Stephanie Donley	Radio Call Sign/Badge Number: 7938
Years of LE Service at TCSO: 3 + Years	Total Years of LE Service: 3 + Years
Uniform Worn on Date of Incident: BSSA. Black shirt with Sheriff's Shoulder Patches and Metallic Sheriff's Badge	Vest Worn: Yes. Concealed
Body Worn Camera: Yes. Activated for part of the incident	Other Audio or Video Recording Devices: No
Watched Any Video From the Incident: No	Weather and Lighting Conditions: Dark. Some lighting from street lights. Overcast but dry

Deputy Donley advised that she was sitting in TCSO dispatch when dispatch received a call of a vehicle versus house vehicle crash. Normal TCSO procedures are for TCSO units near the scene of a major event to respond.

Deputy Donley then left the TCSO and began responding to the general area of the automobile crash. As Deputy Donley was traveling eastbound on East High Street, she observed flashing lights (from a cruiser lightbar) in the distance. However, she could not initially see if the lights were stationary or moving.

As Deputy Donley got closer, she observed that the flashing lights were moving. Deputy Donley then heard radio traffic advising: "He has my cruiser". Deputy Donley believed at this time that the subject had taken [REDACTED]'s cruiser.

Deputy Donley then began pursuing the stolen cruiser. After a short period of time, and after the stolen cruiser had traveled a short distance, the stolen cruiser crashed into a parked vehicle with the stolen cruiser continuing on and almost striking a residence.

Deputy Donley stopped her cruiser and exited. However, she could not see into the stolen vehicle as all the airbags had deployed. Deputy Donley then began covering the stolen vehicle while waiting for other law enforcement units to arrive.

A short time later, multiple New Philadelphia Police Department (NPPD) units and Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) units arrived at the scene where the stolen cruiser had crashed.

Deputy Donley then approached the stolen cruiser and, once the driver's door was opened, she observed the subject (later identified as Matthew Flynn) leaning over the center console of the cruiser into the passenger seat. Flynn was then removed from the stolen cruiser but was unresponsive. Law Enforcement units on the scene began first aid and CPR on Flynn while waiting for an ambulance.

Emergency Medical Services personnel then arrived and took over the treatment of Flynn. Deputy Donley and other law enforcement personnel then secured the scene of the crash.

SA Tingley asked Deputy Donley where she first observed the stolen cruiser. Deputy Donley advised that she first observed the stolen cruiser on East High Street but did not see where

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the stolen cruiser pulled out from.

SA Tingley asked Deputy Donley if she had heard radio traffic from [REDACTED] advising of shots fired. Deputy Donley stated "Yes". She also heard radio traffic from [REDACTED] stating, "Get out of my car".

SA Tingley asked Deputy Donley if she had watched any video from any source of the incident. Deputy Donley replied "No".

SA Tingley asked Deputy Donley what the weather and lighting conditions were on the date of the incident. Deputy Donley advised that it was dark but that the rain did not start until after the incident had occurred.

SA Tingley then asked Deputy Donley if she was the only law enforcement officer chasing the stolen cruiser. Deputy Donley said "Yes".

The interview then concluded at approximately 1813 hours.

This interview was audio recorded. The audio recordings and the signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form are attached to this report. Please review the attachment and audio recordings for further details.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-1015 INTERVIEW TCSO DEP DONLEY

Attachment # 02: 2024-1015 TCSO DEP DONLEY CRIMINAL NOTIFICATION FORM

References:

No references.



Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

Dep. S. Drake
Printed Name of Interviewee

5/15/24 1802
Date / Time

[Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

SA JOHN TINGLEY
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)