



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



2024-1376
Officer Involved Critical Incident – Interstate 77 Southbound at
Exit 85 , New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Firefighter/EMT Nick Stelzer (W)
Date of Activity: 05/14/2024
Activity Location: Dover Fire Department Station #2 – 200 Dublin Drive, Dover, OH 44622
Author: SA John P. Tingley, #154

Narrative:

On Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at approximately 1310 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (Tingley) interviewed Dover Fire Department (DFD) Firefighter/EMT Nick Stelzer (Stelzer). Stelzer was identified as a DFD Emergency Medical Services (EMS) medic who responded to the officer-involved critical incident at Interstate 77 Southbound at the Exit 85 Off-Ramp on May 3, 2024.

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 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.

After obtaining Firefighter Stelzer's general information, SA Tingley asked Firefighter Stelzer to describe his involvement in the incident.

Firefighter Stelzer advised that the DFD EMS Unit was dispatched to assist the OSHP at Exit 85 off of IR 77. However, limited information was given by Dispatch as to the nature of the call.

The DFD EMS Unit arrived at the scene and pulled up near a vehicle where Kendall Woodard (Woodard) was seated in the driver's seat of the vehicle.

From his perspective in the back of the DFD EMS Unit, Firefighter Stelzer observed an Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper speaking with Woodard while two (2) other OSHP Troopers stood behind a cruiser. Once the DFD EMS Unit had stopped, DFD Lieutenant Wells exited the unit and spoke with the Trooper who was talking with Woodard.

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Firefighter Stelzer and Firefighter Miceli, who were driving the DFD EMS Unit, exited the EMS Unit and Firefighter Stelzer observed that Woodard was not exiting his vehicle and did not want anyone getting close to his vehicle. If anyone got too close, Woodward would say to get back. Firefighter Stelzer also observed that Woodward was rocking back and forth and refused to answer any questions.

After an undetermined amount of time, the DFD EMS Unit was asked to move and block the off-ramp. The DFD EMS Unit moved and began blocking traffic and remained there for about two (2) hours as law enforcement personnel tried to coax Woodward out of his vehicle.

Eventually, an OSHP Trooper motioned for the DFD EMS Unit to move forward. The DFD EMS Unit moved forward and stopped almost parallel to Woodward's vehicle. The DFD EMS crew, however, stayed in the EMS Unit and continued to assist in blocking traffic.

Firefighter Stelzer then observed Woodward open his driver's door slightly. However, when Woodward continued to refuse to exit, an Officer opened Woodward's driver's door. Firefighter Stelzer then lost sight of Woodward.

Shortly thereafter, Firefighter Stelzer hears law enforcement officers as they shouted for Woodward to put his hands up. Firefighter Stelzer then heard a law enforcement officer yell "Gun, Gun, Gun". Firefighter Stelzer then heard gunfire. When the gunfire started, Firefighter Stelzer moved away from the window and did not see anything else.

Lieutenant Wells then had the DFD EMS Unit back up to a safer location. From that position, Firefighter Stelzer observed law enforcement officers approach Woodward's vehicle and remove and handcuff Woodward who was placed onto his stomach. Firefighter Woodward then watched the law enforcement personnel begin first aid on Woodward.

The DFD EMS Unit then moved forward and parked near Woodward's vehicle. The DFD EMS crew grabbed their medical equipment bag and heart monitor and approached Woodward. Firefighter Stelzer then observed that Woodward had a bullet wound to the back of his head and another bullet wound to the back of his left shoulder.

Once the DFD EMS crew reached Woodward, Woodward was rolled over and it was apparent that he was not breathing. A heart monitor was placed on Woodward and a check was made for a pulse on Woodward, which was not found. There were also no heart or lung sounds and the DFD EMS Unit personnel determined that Woodward's injuries were incompatible with life and stopped treatment.

The interview was then concluded at approximately 1320 hours.

This interview was audio recorded and is attached to this report.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2024-1376 Interview DFD FF Stelzer

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References:

No references.

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