



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



2023-2232

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 5991 S Sunbury Rd, Westerville
OH 43081

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Deputy Brian Croston (W)
Date of Activity: 09/20/2023
Activity Location: Harshman, Wannemacher, Tipton & Lipperman Law Office – 4683
Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220, Franklin County
Author: SA Perry K. Roeser, #114

Narrative:

On September 20, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Perry Roeser and Steve Seitzman interviewed several Franklin County deputy sheriff's as to what their involvement was from the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) from the Blendon Township Police Department (BTPD) from August 24, 2023, that was under BCI investigation. The interviews took place at 4683 Winterset Dr., Columbus, Ohio, the law office of Cathrine Harshman (Harshman). Harshman was in attendance for all the interviews.

Deputy Sheriff Lieutenant Brian Croston's (Croston) interview began at 1556 hours. Croston explained he is the [REDACTED] commander over the uniform patrol division and has been with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for over 29 years. Croston stated he manages approximately 32 officers on his shift.

Croston was asked how he became involved with the BTPD OICI. Croston stated he overheard the radio traffic for an officer needing assistance with a radio tone drop of "44." Croston stated he was in a patrol vehicle on I-270 East when he responded to the Kroger location. Croston said when he arrived on the scene, Blendon Township Chief Belford approached him and requested the Franklin County Sheriff's Office take over and investigate the OICI. Croston said he forwarded the request for assistance up the chain of command within his organization. Croston stated that after the information was relayed, the request for assistance was denied, and Chief Belford was advised to contact BCI for assistance.

Croston stated that Chief Belford then requested the sheriff's office to remain on scene and assist with scene security. Croston explained while at the scene, he made arrangements for the involved person's vehicle to be towed to the sheriff's office sub-station on Hague Road. for holding.

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on
10/02/2023

Croston said the BCI agents asked him to complete a list of deputies who responded to the location and note what they did for follow-up purposes. Croston said he completed the list and turned it over to the BCI agents at the scene.

Croston said at approximately 2330 hours, the following shift supervisor relieved him of duty. Croston stated he did not interview or speak with any witnesses at the scene.

The interview between BCI agents and Croston concluded at 1603 hours, and was audio recorded. See attachment #1 for a copy of the audio recording.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Brian Croston