



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



2024-3775

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1055 East Avenue,
Akron, Ohio 44307, Summit County

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer Steven Loar
Involves: Officer Steven Loar (W)
Activity Date: 12/20/2024
Activity Location: 121 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On Friday, December 20, 2024, at 1314 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (SA Momchilov) and SA John Lieber (SA Liber) interviewed Officer Steven Loar (Officer Loar) who was accompanied by his attorney, Jacob Will, from the Ohio Defense Firm. The interview took place at 121 South Main Street, Akron. Also present was Akron Police Union President Brian Lucey and Akron City Assistant Law Director Christopher Reece.

The interview was audio and video recorded.

Prior to the interview, Officer Loar read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

Officer Loar was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the November 28, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 1055 East Avenue, Akron, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Loar did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

Officer Loar stated that his radio call sign on November 28, 2024, was Car 20. He has been employed by the Akron Police Department for approximately 8 months and does not have any prior law enforcement experience. During the incident, Officer Loar wore his standard police uniform. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. Officer Loar was the passenger in Car 20, which was marked with Akron Police emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated that he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does wear corrective lenses.

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Officer Loar was wearing a body-worn camera at the time of the incident. Officer Loar stated that he has not viewed his body-worn camera footage from the incident and that he was not wearing any other recording devices.

Officer Loar graduated from the Akron Police Department Academy approximately 2 months ago. Officer Loar is currently in field training.

Officer Loar was asked to explain how he became involved in the incident and what he observed.

Officer Loar stated that he and his training officer, Officer Davon Fields (Officer Fields) were sitting stationary in their cruiser, in a church parking lot (Antioch Baptist Church, 670 Vernon Odom Blvd) near the intersection of East Avenue and Vernon Odom Boulevard, working on reports.

Officer Loar stated, "We hadn't been there, but 5 minutes and we heard what sounded like a gunshot. We kind of looked at each other and we were like, maybe it was a firework, we were just kind of like guessing, then we heard a second. So, at that point, Officer Fields grabbed his rifle, I grabbed mine, mine was on the floorboard because we don't have dual locks for our rifles. Officer Fields took off towards the incident. I got out but I came, I actually went back into my door because I realized we hadn't locked them. So, I locked the car door and ran around the car to catch up to Officer Fields, and we came through, there's an opening in the tree line and we could see."

Officer Loar continued, "So, we saw the subject walking up around the school from like, the lower parking lot and we ran up to kind of confront him. Officer Fields got there before I did and he told him, he's like, 'show me your hands' and they locked eyes for maybe 5 seconds and then the subject took off running."

Officer Loar continued, "So, we started to chase. A cruiser was coming down the street but while chasing him, with his right hand, he went to reach into his waistband, for what, I don't know [4:54] but it was, you know, it was assumed he had a firearm because he came from where we heard the shots and he took off running and at that time Officer Fields deployed his weapon and discharged rounds and it kind of gets a little blurry until I get on-line with Officer Fields and we kind of start making verbal commands because we could still see movement. So, we were telling him to get his hands out from under him and then after multiple officers got on-line with us, we backed up to the cruiser that was on East Avenue, I'm not sure which car that was though, we got shields together, so that we could, you know, roll him over, render aid, handle the situation and when we went back down, the subject was rolled over. I thought his gun was in his waistband when we rolled him over just because when I saw

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it on the ground that's just kind of where my brain put it together. Officer Fields checked for his pulse and at that point we were pulled away from the scene and I was put in a cruiser."

At this point in the interview, agents began asking follow-up questions. SA Momchilov stated, "So, you guys are sitting in the car, you guys said you're working on reports, and you heard gunfire." Officer Loar replied, "Yes." SA Momchilov asked, "How many shots did you hear, do you recall?" Officer Loar replied, "We heard one and then we heard a second." Officer Loar later stated that "Maybe 20 seconds" elapsed from the first gunshot to the second gunshot.

SA Momchilov asked, "Could you tell like, the proximity of that shot? Was it off in the distance? Was it close by?" Officer Loar replied, "It was close, it was very close."

SA Momchilov stated, "I believe you said, Fields gets out and you go back to the car to lock it." Officer Loar interjected and stated, "Like as I get out of the door, I just lean back to lock it." SA Momchilov stated, "Okay, Fields is ahead of you." Officer Loar replied, "Yes." SA Momchilov then asked, "About how far?"

Officer Loar replied, "Probably 5 to 10 steps the entire way. Because, the way the car was parked, he was able to get out and run straight and I had to run around the car." SA Momchilov stated, "Okay, we're not talking a great distance." Officer Loar replied, "No, we're talking, I, I could have reached out, jumped and grabbed his shoulder."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Loar when they initially observed the individual if it was near the area of the gunfire. Officer Loar replied, "Yes, exactly where we heard it from is where we saw him walking." SA Momchilov asked Officer Loar if they observed any other individuals in that area. Officer Loar replied, "Nobody else was in the vicinity."

SA Momchilov asked, "Would it be fair to assume that you believed he was the one who fired the shots?" Officer Loar replied, "Yes, and that is why we were trying to stop him, to talk to him before anything took off. We were going, that's why Fields asked for him to show us his hands, that way we could try cuff him and investigate the situation."

SA Momchilov stated, "You said as you guys were running, he reaches down to his waistband, could you expound on that a little bit." Officer Loar replied, "So, as we were running his arms were out and then he reached in and that's when Officer Fields discharged his weapon. Because we did not know if he was reaching for his weapon or not. I know a cruiser was coming down the street, he could have been trying to shoot the cruiser or, you know, if he was able to get to his weapon we had nowhere to go."

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SA Momchilov asked, "Did you actually see him reach." Officer Loar replied, "Yes, I did." SA Momchilov then asked Officer Loar why he did not fire his weapon. Officer Loar stated, "In our rifle training, you do not fire if you are not on-line and I, 5 steps behind Officer Fields, so if he had started to discharge his weapon and Officer Fields jumped in front of me I could have shot and killed him. So, that is the only reason I did not fire my weapon that night." SA Momchilov asked, "So, would it be fair to say that if you were in line you would have fired your weapon?" Officer Loar replied, "Yes, yes sir."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Loar if he knew how many shots Officer Fields fired. Officer Loar stated he believed he heard between 3 to 6 shots.

SA Momchilov stated, "You made a comment that things got blurry." Officer Loar explained, "Yeah, it's just the high stress of the situation. Like, I remember hearing the shots and I don't remember how he fell."

SA Momchilov asked if they waited for additional units to arrive on scene before approaching the individual (after the shooting). Officer Loar replied, "We waited to get shields and in that respect is, he was lying on his right hand and, I mean, I did not, we didn't want to take a chance of rolling him over and then potentially being shot ourselves. So, we got riot shields together to go down and roll him over and render aid."

SA Momchilov replied, "Is that something you guys are trained on or did you attend training where you use the shields. Officer Loar replied, "In the academy, they mention that's a tactic you can take but at the same time it's just kind of common knowledge and Officer Fields is very tactically sound in that aspect."

SA Momchilov asked Officer Loar if he spoke with Officer Fields or any other individuals about what occurred. Officer Loar replied, "No."

At the end of the interview, Officer Loar was afforded the opportunity to view his body-worn camera footage. After Officer Loar viewed his body-worn camera footage, he was asked if he wished to add or amend anything.

Officer Loar stated, "I was further away from Officer Fields then I thought I was. That is the only thing that I really noticed." SA Momchilov asked Officer Loar, "How much farther were you off." Officer Loar replied, "I was probably 20-25 steps behind him, but I know I was still able to see the subject reach, from where I was."



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The interview was audio and video recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The video recording was placed into the item section of the physical case file, labeled as Item F. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

Item F: Officer Steven Loar's video interview

Attachments:

1. Ofc. Steven Loar II interview
2. Ofc. Steven Loar II interview 2
3. Criminal Invest. Notification-Loar

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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).

Steven Stewart-Lair II #1650
Printed Name of Interviewee

12-20-24 12:17
Date / Time

Steven Stewart-Lair II #1650
Signature of Interviewee

Jon Liebu
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA J. Liebu #750
BCI Agent (Signature)