



Ohio House of Representatives
Criminal Justice Committee
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Written Proponent Testimony of House Bill 462 – Swatting.

May 17, 2021

Chairman LaRe, Vice Chairman Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and the entire House Criminal Justice Committee:

I am writing to you and appear before you today in support of House Bill 462.

On Monday, June 21, 2021, at approximately 5 PM, the Delaware County 911 Center received a call from an unknown caller stating he was at an address on Laurel Valley Dr. in Powell, Ohio. He said, "I just shot and killed my mother, and I'm keeping my sister hostage."

The caller confirmed the address with the dispatcher and told the dispatcher his name, which corresponded to a resident. The caller provided his telephone number and confirmed that he had killed his mother and was holding his sister hostage again. The dispatcher asked him how old his sister was, and the caller said 25. The dispatcher asked, "what happened that you shot your mother?" The caller said, "she was annoying," and then hung up the phone. The total time of the call was one minute and 20 seconds.

Powell Police Department officers were dispatched to the scene. The supervisor requested assistance from the Delaware County Sheriff's Office and requested medics from the Liberty Township Fire Department stage nearby in case of any potential injuries.

As information was being verified, a 911 Dispatcher notified officers that the address contained an "alert" referring to a person with mental health history matching the caller's name. As the response to the scene continued, our command staff was notified, leading to the activation of the Delaware Tactical Unit.

After police units arrived on the scene, a mobile command post was established and a perimeter to control access to the area. Communication was established with a resident at the location, who confirmed there was no disturbance. The resident stated he had



Powell Police Department
47 Hall Street | Powell OH 43065-8357 | www.cityofpowell.us
Administration 614-885-5005 | Non-Emergency 614-885-3374



been a victim of two other "swatting" incidents previously while he lived in Genoa Township in Delaware County within the past three years.

Occupants of the home were removed and interviewed one at a time. A total of three adults and an infant were removed from the residence before officers checked the residence and deemed it safe. At this point, mutual aid requests to the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, Delaware Tactical Unit, and the Liberty Township Fire Department were canceled.


Afterward, Powell detectives conducted a lengthy investigation, but the suspect was never identified due to their use of Virtual Private Networks located outside the United States.

Although no one was injured, this cruel prank required emergency response from police, fire, and medical units—the adverse effects spread beyond the immediate victims within our community.

Our residents, the City of Powell Police Department, and I ask you to support House Bill 462. In doing so, you will send a strong message to potential offenders that they will be held accountable for their actions, not only by increased penalties but also by reimbursing communities for the costs incurred during these types of emergency responses that mobilize a large number of resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Stephen L. Hrytzik
Chief of Police