



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



2022-2085

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 2347 East Waterloo Road, Akron,
 Ohio 44312, Summit County

Investigative Activity: Records Received; Documents Reviewed; News Articles;
 News Videos
 Involves: Josh McCracken (O), 19 News Cleveland (O)
 Activity Date: 10/21/2022
 Activity Location: Website
 Authoring Agent: SA Charles Moran #67

Narrative:

On Friday, October 21, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chuck Moran (Moran) obtained news articles and news videos from the 19 News website (cleveland19.com). The news articles and videos were about the incident and officer-involved shooting that occurred on October 5, 2022. SA Moran reviewed the news articles and news videos and noted the following:

News Article_Cleveland19_2022-10-07

This news article was published on October 7, 2022. SA Moran created a PDF document of the news article.

The article indicated that the subject, Jeremy McCracken, filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against Springfield Township two months before the incident. The lawsuit claimed that his Fourth Amendment right was being violated. A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit.

The article reported that Jeremy McCracken's twin brother, Josh McCracken, said their family has been harassed by Springfield Township for years over zoning violations. Josh McCracken stated, "He was someone with strong convictions and I think he got to the point where he was going to stand up for himself." Josh McCracken claimed that Jeremy McCracken's car was in good shape, but sat in the family's yard for years. Josh McCracken stated, "It seems like an injustice, and I don't know that I'm confident we'd get any recourse or anything, but just to get his story out there why this happened. This is something that shouldn't have happened." Josh McCracken also stated, "He was really upset about that because it's just one of those things in life that's not fair to do that and then they wanted to take his car. It was the only car he owned. They pretty much took everything he had."



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News Video_ Cleveland19_Springfield Township man killed in officer-involved shooting filed federal civil lawsuit 2 months prior_2022-10-07

This news video was embedded with the above described news article. SA Moran created a recording of the news video using the screen record function.

The news video showed a phone call between the reporter and Josh McCracken. During the phone call, Josh McCracken stated, "He was someone with strong convictions and I think he got to the point where he was going to stand up for himself." Josh McCracken stated, "He just wanted to be left alone was all it was, you know, they just wouldn't."

The news video showed an image of the federal civil rights lawsuit document. It was in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division. The case number was 5:22CV01413 and it was dismissed by Judge Benita Pearson on August 31, 2022.

Josh McCracken stated, "That was probably a last-ditch effort to try to save our home we grew up in 'cause that was about all he could do." Josh McCracken also stated, "He was really upset about that because it's just one of those things in life that's not fair to do that and then they wanted to take his car. It was the only car he owned. Pretty much took everything he had."

News Article_ Cleveland19_2022-10-10

This news article was published on October 10, 2022. SA Moran created a PDF document of the news article.

The article reported that Josh McCracken said his family has dealt with zoning violations from Springfield Township for years. He admitted that Jeremy McCracken's actions toward the police were not justified. Josh McCracken stated, "Knowing him, I don't think he was trying to hurt them; he was trying to run them off. I wouldn't justify shooting at someone over taking a car." Josh McCracken also stated, "I never thought he'd do something like that. He's never done anything violent in his life, so totally out of character for him." Josh McCracken stated, "The individual officers I don't blame, they're working in self-defense. I'm not really optimistic that there will be any justice in it. It's just one of those things that happens, that's why I moved out of the township five years ago, so we'll just see."

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The article mentioned a “fence” and a “cover” that Jeremy McCracken placed around the car in the yard to conceal it before the incident. Josh McCracken claimed that the fence was torn down on the day of the incident and the car was towed.

News Video_Cleveland19_Springfield Township man killed by police shouldn't have caused shootout, brother says_2022-10-10

This news video was embedded with the above described news article. SA Moran created a recording of the news video using the screen record function.

The news reporter spoke with Josh McCracken in-person. Josh McCracken stated, “It’s just absurd. Somebody is dead over a car.” The reporter asked, “Do you think his actions were justifiable over a zoning violation?” Josh McCracken responded, “I wouldn’t say so. No. I mean, I don’t think, knowing him, that he was actually trying to hurt them. He was trying to run them off. Um, I wouldn’t justify shooting at somebody for taking a car.”

The reporter stated that Josh McCracken told her about a “long history of trouble with the township for zoning violations on their properties.” The news video mentioned the federal civil rights lawsuit that was recently dismissed.

The reporter asked, “Did you expect him to have that kind of response?” Josh McCracken responded, “No. No, I never thought he’d do something like that. He’s never done anything violent in his life so it was totally out of character for him.” Josh McCracken stated, “The individual officers I don’t blame and they’re, you know, they’re working in self-defense. I’m not really optimistic that uh, there will be any justice in it. That’s just one of those things that happens. That’s why I moved out of the township five years ago um, so, you know, we’ll just see.”

Reference Items:

The news videos were copied to a DVD-R and were submitted to the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item G.

Attachments:

The news articles were attached to this report.

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Springfield Township man killed by police shouldn't have caused shootout, brother says

"I never thought he'd do something like that," Josh McCracken said. "He's never done anything violent in his life, so totally out of character for him."



By [Caitlin McCarthy](#) and [Alec Sapolin](#)
Published: Oct. 10, 2022 at 4:27 PM EDT



SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP, Ohio (WOIO) - Family members of the Springfield Township man killed by police last week said the situation should never have escalated to the shootout that ultimately claimed their loved one's life.

[38-year-old Jeremy McCracken was killed last Wednesday when he started shooting at police](#)



x



According to a township trustee, officers were following up on a zoning law violation for his car.

Josh said his family has dealt with zoning violations from the township for years. However, he admitted his brother's actions toward the police were not justified.

"Knowing him, I don't think he was trying to hurt them; he was trying to run them off," McCracken said. "I wouldn't justify shooting at someone for taking a car."

Shortly before the deadly shootout, Jeremy put a cover on his car and built a wooden fence around it to conceal it.



He was hoping if it was out of sight, the township wouldn't be able to remove it.

On the day of the tragic follow-up, Josh said the township tore the fence down and towed the car out.

McCracken said his brother's response was completely out of character.

"I never thought he'd do something like that," Josh said. "He's never done anything violent in his life, so totally out of character for him."

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Josh hoped the situation would never end as it did for his brother.

"The individual officers I don't blame, they were working in self-defense," Josh said. "I'm not really optimistic that there will be any justice in it. It's just one of those things that happens, that's why I moved out of the township five years ago, so we'll just see."

19 News has continued to reach out to Springfield Township zoning for a copy of the report filed over the car.

This is a developing story. Return to 19 News for updates.

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Springfield Township man killed in officer-involved shooting filed federal civil lawsuit 2 months prior

"He was someone with strong convictions and I think he got to the point where he was going to stand up for himself," Josh McCracken said.



By [Caitlin McCarthy](#)

Published: Oct. 7, 2022 at 5:24 AM EDT



CLEVELAND, Ohio (WOIO) - A Springfield Township man who died following an officer-shooting on Wednesday filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the township two months before.

The Summit County Medical Examiner identified the victim as 38-year-old Jeremy McCracken. He died from a gunshot wound to his torso.

According to a township trustee, officers were doing a routine follow up on the zoning violation for the car in McCracken's yard.

McCracken started shooting at them, so the officers returned fire.

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McCracken claimed in the federal lawsuit the township was violating his Fourth Amendment right. The township issued him a zoning violation for his home being in disrepair.

A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit.

McCracken's twin brother Josh McCracken said their family has been harassed by the township for years over zoning violations.

"He was someone with strong convictions and I think he got to the point where he was going to stand up for himself," McCracken said.

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McCracken said his brother's car was in good shape, but it sat in the family's yard for years.

The trustee 19 News spoke with said the township has taken an initiative to clean up neighborhoods with inoperable or junk cars on their properties. The trustee said several properties in McCracken's neighborhood have received zoning violations.

"It seems like an injustice, and I don't know that I'm confident we'd get any recourse or anything, but just to get his story out there why this happened," McCracken said. "This is something that shouldn't have happened."

This shooting leaves McCracken's family with more questions than answers.

Was his family being singled out by the township for what was on their property?

"He was really upset about that because it's just one of those things in life that's not fair to do that and then they wanted to take his car," McCracken said. "It was the only car he owned. They pretty much took everything he had."

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