

**Investigative Report** 

2022-2918

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 500 West Hopocan, Barberton, OH 44203



**Investigative Activity:** Death Notification; Interview of Other Person

**Involves:** Pamela Stratford (O), BCI (O)

**Activity Date:** 12/26/2022

**Activity Location:** Pamela Stratford's Residence –

1846 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

**Authoring Agent:** SA Charles Moran #67

### Narrative:

On Monday, December 26, 2022, at 1313 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chuck Moran (Moran) went to 1846 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, in an attempt to locate and interview Pamela Stratford (Stratford), the mother of the subject involved in the incident, Zachary Zoran (Zoran). The interview was partially audio recorded. As SA Moran parked on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SA Moran saw a gold-colored Chrysler minivan backing out of the garage at the residence. SA Moran approached the minivan and spoke with Stratford.

Stratford asked, "Did you find Zachary?" Stratford said the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department (CFPD) went to an address on Nathan Street in Akron, but could not locate Zoran. SA Moran provided Stratford with a business card. Stratford told SA Moran that she was "worried" because she initially thought SA Moran was a friend of Zoran's.

SA Moran told Stratford that Zoran was involved in an incident in Barberton. Stratford said Zoran told her that he bought a gun and he wanted to "see blood shed" on her. SA Moran told Stratford that Zoran had a knife when he encountered the police and he was shot and killed by the police. Stratford became upset and said (05:50), "I always thought this was going to be a suicide-by-cop and you know what? The thing is, he would have killed many people." Stratford said, if Zoran died, he would be "out of his addiction" and "out of his misery." Stratford said Zoran needed help but did not want it. She said she did not "blame the police" and "had a feeling he was going to end up like this." SA Todd Clark (Clark) arrived at the residence.

Stratford invited SA Moran and SA Clark inside the residence. Zoran's 11-year-old son, Gabriel Zoran (Gabriel), was inside the residence. Stratford told Gabriel about Zoran being deceased. Stratford told agents that Zoran was "really sick" and she knew "he would have hurt a lot of people." Stratford said, "That's what drugs do." Stratford said she had "legal custody" of Gabriel.



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SA Moran explained BCI's role in the investigation. Stratford said (12:40) that Zoran had "mental illness." She said she did not know what he was officially diagnosed with, but she believed Zoran was paranoid schizophrenic. Stratford said Zoran also used "meth." SA Moran asked Stratford where Zoran had been treated for mental health issues in the past. Stratford said Zoran went to St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, and the "court" mandated Zoran to obtain treatment.

Stratford stated (15:23), "You know, my family thinks I'm terrible because I called the police. I called because I didn't want killed. And then he even threatened I guess, about his son to somebody privately I guess." Stratford said she contacted the CFPD on December 25, 2022. Stratford said Gabriel called Zoran and asked when he was coming over. Zoran told Gabriel, "Bitch, I told you over Facebook." Stratford said she suspected Zoran was using drugs and/or alcohol over the past few weeks because he had been acting "strange."

Stratford asked Zoran why he would talk to his son that way. Zoran began to threaten Stratford and told her that he would kill her. Stratford began receiving numerous threatening messages via Facebook and Facebook Messenger. Stratford said the CFPD had copies of all of the messages. Stratford showed SA Moran the Facebook Messenger messages from Zoran on her tablet. SA Moran took multiple photographs of the messages. SA Moran also recorded a short video of the voice messages that Zoran sent to Stratford.

SA Moran noted that the Facebook Messenger messages from Zoran to Stratford began on December 25, 2022, at 0614 hours. SA Moran photographed Zoran's Facebook profile picture and account information. SA Moran reviewed the messages and noted:

- The messages from Zoran seemed to be focused on Gabriel.
- Zoran threatened to go to Stratford's house and "eat" her "bones."
- Zoran messaged that he was "Satan's arm of destruction."
- Zoran sent photos of himself inside a structure with a hardwood floor and glass panes on the floor.
- Zoran messaged that he would be "breaking my other hand" on James McCrossin's face.
- Zoran wanted to see Gabriel on a video chat or "something terrible" would happen.
- Zoran messaged that Stratford was not safe anywhere.
- Zoran threatened to destroy Stratford's minivan.
- Zoran messaged about being "touched" by a family member when he was a child.



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- Zoran requested a video call or "horrible things" would happen to Stratford. He included a gun emoji, a knife emoji, a sword emoji, a fork and knife emoji, and a dinner plater emoji.
- There were multiple missed audio calls from Zoran.
- Zoran messaged, "PAM STRATFORD YOU'RE FUCKING DEAD AND SO ARE YOU JAMES MCCROSSIN."

SA Moran reviewed Zoran's Facebook posts (likely on December 25, 2022, due to timestamp) and noted the following:

- Zoran posted about heroin.
- Zoran posted about handcuffs and how they were "just giving me more drugs."
- Zoran posted about being allowed to leave the hospital the same day he did horrible things to "Chris." Zoran posted that they knew he "threatened people" and they still allowed him to leave.
- Zoran posted that he broke Chris' "jaw in 3 separate places."
- Zoran posted that he broke his left hand yesterday after he was "high on meth" and punched Chris in the face.
- Zoran posted, "I always ride strapped. I always have multiple weapons. Knifes, guns, brass knuckles."
- Zoran posted, "I'll see you soon son. Dad loves you more than anything in this world. Even himself and I always will until the day that I die."
- Zoran posted, "They have until 9:11 am. Take by any force necessary."
- Zoran posted, "You only have a few minutes before I start posting photos of your family members."
- Zoran posted, "Don't worry officers I'm watching you all right now."
- Zoran posted, "I can see you officer sir."

Stratford asked if Zoran had a "pocket knife." SA Moran said he was not certain what kind of knife Zoran had. Stratford said Zoran stated he was "Satan's arm." Stratford said Zoran's uncle was schizophrenic. Stratford said Zoran had "psychosis" and she believed he was schizophrenic and his condition worsened when he used "meth." Stratford said when Zoran was 19-years-old, he weighed "287 pounds" and his weight dropped to "105 pounds" because he was anorexic and bulimic. She also said Zoran was "peeing in bottles in his room" and that was a "sign of mental illness." Zoran refused to take his prescribed medication. Stratford said Zoran met a female, Brandy Stalnaker (Brandy), and they had Gabriel together and Brandy wanted nothing to do with Gabriel.



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Stratford received a call from Akron City Hospital about Zoran. SA Moran told Stratford that law enforcement had collected multiple evidence items from the scene. SA Moran told Stratford that the Summit County Medical Examiner's Office would perform an autopsy.

SA Moran reviewed Zoran's Facebook Messenger voice messages and noted the following:

- Zoran warned of consequences for Stratford and James McCrossin if he did not get to talk to his son. Zoran stated, "You will die. I do not care. I will spend the rest of my life in prison." Zoran stated, "I'll fucking murder both of you two in cold blood."
- Zoran warned Stratford not to involve the police or there would be consequences. Zoran stated, "I do not give a fuck what the Akron Police says. I have them by their motherfucking balls and I have the Cuyahoga Falls Police by their balls too."
- Zoran said he was the "motherfucking rap devil."

Stratford said Zoran lived at 921 Nathan Street, Akron, Ohio, for the past two years. She said it was a "sober living house." Zoran lived with other people at the house, including "Jimmy Greathouse" (Greathouse). Stratford said Zoran also had an apartment, likely in Barberton, but she did not know the exact address. Stratford said Zoran and Greathouse are cousins. Stratford said they purchase "clean urine" and "warmer" from a store, "Arsenic and Old Lace." Stratford said Zoran's phone number was 330-880-8234.

At the 35:49 audio recording mark, the audio recording stopped for an unknown reason(s).

Stratford said Zoran was involved in a previous incident with the CFPD about three years ago. During that incident, Zoran injured one of the CFPD officers. She said Zoran has had multiple encounters with the police in the past and has been arrested a few times.

Stratford said Zoran told his aunt, Sherry McCrossin, that he purchased a gun "illegally" and a new knife. Stratford said Zoran also made threats to Sherry McCrossin. Stratford said she knows Zoran usually carries a pocket knife. She also knows that Zoran took pain medication, aspirin and "meth."

Stratford told BCI agents she last saw Zoran in-person "a week ago Sunday," when he visited Gabriel for five hours at Stratford's residence. Stratford said Zoran was acting "weird" and "distant" during that time. Stratford said Zoran always used his cell phone to "film things." Stratford said she did not know why Zoran was angry and upset with her and Gabriel on December 25, 2022, that would have caused him to send threatening messages.

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### Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation

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At about 1434 hours, Sherry McCrossin arrived at Stratford's residence. The interview with Stratford concluded.

The partial audio recording was attached to this report. The photographs that SA Moran took of Zoran's Facebook Messenger messages and Facebook posts were also attached to this report. The short video recording of Zoran's Facebook Messenger audio recordings was also attached to this report.

#### **Reference Item:**

The partial audio recording, the photographs of Zoran's Facebook Messenger messages and Facebook posts, and the short video of Zoran's Facebook Messenger audio recordings were copied to a DVD-R and were submitted to the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item C.

### **Attachments:**

- 1. 2022-12-26 Audio Pamela Stratford Interview 803 0742
- 2. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3245
- 3. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3246
- 4. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3247
- 5. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3248
- 6. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3249
- 7. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3250
- 8. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3251
- 9. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3252
- 10. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3253
- 11. Video Facebook Messenger Audio Messages Zoran to Stratford IMG 3254
- 12. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3255
- 13. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3256
- 14. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3257
- 15. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3258
- 16. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3259
- 17. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3260
- 18. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3261
- 19. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford  $IMG_3262$
- 20. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG\_3263
- 21. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3264
- 22. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG\_3265
- 23. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG\_3266



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- 24. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG\_3267
- 25. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3268
- 26. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3269
- 27. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3270
- 28. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG\_3271
- 29. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3272
- 30. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3273
- 31. Photo Facebook Messenger Zoran to Stratford IMG 3274

























































