



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



2023-2059

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 205 US 250, Polk, Ohio 44866

**Investigative Activity:** Witness Interview – Angela Dunham  
**Activity Date:** August 5, 2023  
**Activity Location:** 205 US 250, Polk, Ohio 44866  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Matthew Armstrong #146

**Narrative:**

On August 5, 2023, at approximately 2337 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) interviewed Angela Dunham (A. Dunham), the wife of Larry Dunham (L. Dunham). Angela was present inside the residence when the shooting occurred. The interview took place in the front yard of the residence and was audio recorded. Angela was seated at the rear passenger side of an Ashland County Sheriff's cruiser with the door open during the interview. The audio recording contains the interview of A. Dunham and her son Nathan Dunham. The recorded interview of A. Dunham began at 38:00 minutes on the recording.

The following is a summary of the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. The information was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Throughout the interview, A. Dunham provided the following information:

She had been married to L. Dunham since 1989 but became separated from him in 2011. They had not lived together since that time until approximately 4 months prior to the interview. She stayed on the couch and had enough clothes for a week. She began staying with L. Dunham on and off because he was having medical issues and she was helping transport him to and from doctors' appointments.

L. Dunham had stopped drinking alcohol recently while he was in the hospital and he had gone to rehab and was released in June 2023. She did not realize he had started drinking again until the previous Monday (July 31, 2023) when she found a bottle of Lady Bligh Rum. She explained August 5, 2023 was the first day she saw physical behavior changes leading her to believe he had been drinking again.

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That afternoon he had made her a BLT and was treating her normal. She was inside the home and he was outside trying to deal with a rodent problem. He had taken some guns outside and she believed it was for the rodent issue.

She was unaware L. Dunham had gone over to the neighbor's house until his sister, Carol Hess (Hess) walked over and confronted him in the backyard of his residence. (Hess lived a few houses west of L. Dunham). A. Dunham was outside on the back-porch step on the phone with her son N. Dunham when Hess arrived.

Hess confronted L. Dunham because he had been at the neighbor's residence with guns in his pocket and they were not happy about it because they had small children. During the confrontation, Hess was trying to get L. Dunham to answer her and she could hear that he was intoxicated because his speech was slurred. Hess wanted to know if the gun was loaded. L. Dunham picked the gun up, cleared the chamber and "clicked" it a few times showing that the gun was unloaded. A. Dunham did not see L. Dunham point the gun toward anyone at that time.

Her son told her over the phone to get up and go around the house to get away from L. Dunham. She explained when L. Dunham has been drinking and things get confrontational, L. Dunham becomes very aggressive. She ended up going back inside the house. Her daughter had called her and told her Hess was calling the police. She did not see the police arrive because she was inside the house. She did not see the shooting and did not remember hearing any gunshots. When she came out the back door, she saw 3 police officers and L. Dunham on the ground. That was when she realized what had happened.

She was unaware of L. Dunham ever threatening to kill himself or anyone else. She was asked about the incident at Easter when L. Dunham pulled a gun out and her son became involved in a physical confrontation with him. She confirmed L. Dunham tried to get a gun out and her son had stopped him. She did not provide any other details regarding that particular incident. She then added L. Dunham had never pulled a gun out on her but she was sure he had on others even though she had never witnessed it.

When asked if L. Dunham had any hatred toward the police or the government she laughed and said he didn't think very highly of the police or government. He never made comments about killing the police but always made the comment "I will protect me and mine" (53:31).

She did not believe L. Dunham had very many guns. When asked, she confirmed he did have a grenade. He had it for as long as she had known him. She suspected he had a mental illness but he was never diagnosed with anything related to his mental health. He had drunk alcohol since

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she met him when she was 19. When their kids were born he stopped drinking. He remained sober until her son entered middle school.

She said she did not know if there were illegal items in the house. She said she knew better than to go snooping through his house because if she got caught he would question her. She explained it always got worse the more he drank so she lived with her son so she didn't have to deal with him on a daily basis.

As the interview was ending A. Dunham began saying she wished this could have ended differently. She believed Hess could have approached L. Dunham differently. She then added L. Dunham had put the bullets back in the gun while Hess was walking away. She reiterated L. Dunham did not threaten anyone that day but said "I know every time he points a gun in her face she doesn't like it and I understand. It is scary to have somebody point a gun in your face and you're not sure what their intent is" (01:03:28). A. Dunham was then asked if L. Dunham had pointed a gun in Hess's face previously but she did not answer.

**Attachments:**

2023-08-05 Interview - Nathan Dunham and Angela Dunham