

Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Investigative Report

2022-2608

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 28 North Paint St., Chillicothe (L)



Investigative Activity: Crime Scene Processing (Scene #1)

Activity Date: November 17, 2022

Activity Location: Law Enforcement Complex located at 28 N. Paint Street, Chillicothe, Ohio

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Chad Holcomb, #61

On October 17, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chad Holcomb, SA Aja Chung and Crime Scene Technician (CST) Amy Gill were assigned to assist the Ross County Sheriff's Office with an officer involved critical incident. It was reported that during an interaction between RCSO Sergeant (Sgt.) Eric Kocheran and Nicholas Mitchell (Mitchell) outside of the Law Enforcement Complex that both Sgt. Kocheran and Mitchell discharged a firearm. Both the deputy and the involved party were injured and transported to the local hospital. Mitchell died of his injures, while the deputy was transported to Grant in stable condition. It was determined that the BCI Crime Scene Unit would process the scene and the BCI Special Investigations Unit would handle the investigation.

SA Holcomb arrived at the Law Enforcement Complex located at 28 North Paint Street, Chillicothe, Ohio at 2140 hours and began processing the scene. A large area had been taped off with crime scene tape. The scene was primarily contained to the service entrance door which was located on the northwest side of the building. A Chillicothe police car #14 was parked close to the service door entrance. A large pool¹ of blood was observed near the large grate by the service door entrance. Numerous paper towels with blood were located throughout the scene. SA Holcomb used a FARO 3D scanner to collect measurements of the scene.

SA Holcomb was provided a key to a gun locker where Sgt. Kocheran's firearm had been secured after the shooting. The firearm, a Sig Sauer, P320, 9mm semi-automatic handgun had a serial number of The firearm had one cartridge in the chamber and 11 in the magazine. The firearm, cartridges and magazine were all collected as item #1.

Multiple casings and a projectile were collected from the scene including:

Item#	Description
#2	9mm casing located on ground near service entrance
#3	9mm casing located on ground near service entrance
#4	9mm casing located inside on ground near service entrance
#5	9mm casing located inside on ground near service entrance
#6	9mm casing located inside on ground near service entrance
#7	9mm casing located inside on ground near service entrance
#8	.380 casing on ground by grate
#12	.380 casing located on ground near passenger side of Chillicothe cruiser

¹ Pool is a bloodstain resulting from an accumulation of liquid blood on a surface.

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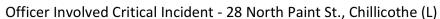
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#13	.380 casing located on ground near passenger side of Chillicothe cruiser
#14	Projectile located on ground near grate

A firearm was located on the ground, by the grate, near the pool of blood. The firearm, a Ruger, LCP II, .380 semi-automatic handgun had a serial number of 380196961. The firearm had one cartridge in the chamber and one cartridge in the magazine. The firearm, cartridges, and magazine were all collected as item #9.



(Evidence located near the service door entrance)

While on scene, SA Holcomb was provided the clothing of Mitchell that deputies recovered from the hospital. The clothing included tan pants with suspected bullet holes near the back pockets, black sweatpants, pair of tan Nike boots and a lighter. All the clothing was collected as item #10. A Dodge key fob was also located in the pants pockets. Agents used the key fob to locate the vehicle that Mitchell

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drove (see report: Processing of Dodge Challenger). Agents also collected dark gray sweatpants with a blue drawstring, underwear and one sock (item #11).

SA Holcomb was provided Sgt. Kocheran's duty belt and RCSO jacket. The duty belt and jacket were photographed. The items did not have any evidentiary value and were returned to the RCSO. SA Holcomb was also provided RCSO Dispatcher Taylor Matson's (Matson) clothing. It was reported that Matson provided first aid to the injured parties after the shooting and had blood on her clothing. The clothing was photographed and nothing of evidentiary value was observed. The clothing was returned to a PCSO deputy.

Agents observed multiple ballistic events (BE) and labeled them BE 1-2 for documentation purposes. BE 1.0 was located on the metal frame near the service door. The bullet struck the metal door frame and then grazed the glass next to it (BE 1.1). No projectile was recovered. BE 2.0 was located on the front passenger side of a RCSO van. The bullet grazed the side of the van which caused paint chips to land on the ground. No projectile was recovered from this location.

No additional items of evidentiary value were located. Examination of the scene was completed at 0039 hours on November 18, 2022.

At 0135 hours, SA Holcomb placed all items in the BCI temporary evidence locker in London, Ohio.

At 0919 hours, SA Holcomb removed all items from the BCI temporary evidence locker. Items #1-9 & 12-14 were submitted to the BCI laboratory for examination at 0942 hours. Items #10-11 were placed in the BCI temporary evidence locker #2 to be submitted to the BCI major crimes evidence vault.