



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



2022-2918

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

Prosecutor Summary

INVESTIGATION REGARDING:

Officer-Involved Critical Incident Involving Barberton Police Department Officer [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

INVESTIGATING AGENCY:

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

CASE NUMBERS:

2022-2918 BCI Special Investigation Unit
 BCI Crime Scene Unit
 BCI Criminal Intelligence Unit
23-30232 BCI Laboratory
202204631 Barberton Police Department

DATE OF INCIDENT:

Monday, December 26, 2022

DATE OF REPORT:

March 27, 2023

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Investigative Request

On the morning of Monday, December 26, 2022, at approximately 0945 hours, the Barberton Police Department requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) investigate a shooting involving a member of the Barberton Police Department. Specifically, the request was for an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 500 West Hopocan Avenue, Barberton, Ohio, and resulted in the death of Zachary Zoran. At approximately 1542 hours on December 26, 2022, Barberton Police Department Chief Vincent Morber confirmed the earlier request for assistance in writing via email. The BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) and the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) were requested and responded.

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Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the December 26, 2022, officer-involved shooting and death of Zachary Zoran (Zoran) in Barberton, Summit County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred during this incident. Every fact and detail are not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officer's actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.



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Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent Nick Valente was assigned as the lead investigator. Special Agent Nick Valente received assistance from BCI Special Agent Chuck Moran, BCI Special Agent Matt Armstrong, BCI Special Agent Bill Conn, BCI Special Agent Charlie Snyder, and former BCI Special Agent Todd Clark

BCI Special Agent Dan Boerner and BCI Special Agent Larry Hootman of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene.

Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Jon Lieber.



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Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Video recorded interview of Barberton Police Officer [REDACTED] who discharged his weapon during the incident
- Video recorded interview of Barberton Police Officer [REDACTED] who was present at the scene of the incident
- Canvassed for and interviewed 12 witnesses to the incident
- Interviewed 6 additional people who interacted with the decedent in the days preceding his death
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the medical treatment administered
- Canvassed for surveillance video cameras in the area surrounding the scene
- Reviewed all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident
- Obtained and reviewed body-worn camera video footage related to the incident
- Obtained and reviewed body-worn camera video footage of the subject on two prior occasions in the days leading up to this event
- Obtained and reviewed records of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subject, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Processed the crime scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting and collecting)
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Reviewed dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Reviewed Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) communications relative to the incident
- Issued preservation letters for social media accounts believed to have some relevance to the incident
- Reviewed Barberton Police Department's reports and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, (excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement)
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearm and casing
 2. Firearm operability testing
 3. Taser operability testing

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- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for the involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer who discharged his weapon
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Reviewed social media posts and pertinent statements made in the media regarding the incident
- Reviewed medical records of treatment of the subject from Akron General Hospital, obtained pursuant to a search warrant
- Reviewed medical records of treatment of the subject from Summa Hospital, obtained pursuant to a search warrant
- Reviewed treatment and medical records of the subject from The Light Center Recovery, obtained pursuant to a search warrant
- Reviewed social media records and communications of the subject from Facebook, obtained pursuant to a search warrant
- Reviewed electronic records of the subject's cellular telephone activity, obtained pursuant to a search warrant



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Incident Summary/Overview

On Saturday December 24, 2022, at approximately 0232 hours, Zachary Zoran (Zoran) called 911 and reported he believed an unknown person(s) had dug a large hole in a tree lawn across the street from him and buried human bodies in the hole. When police arrived, Zoran answered the door holding a baseball bat. Zoran went on the make additional statements and accusations to police during this encounter that appeared indicative of paranoia. During the commotion, Zoran's housemates came to the door and quickly dismissed his concerns to the responding police officers who left the home moments later.

Approximately 8 hours and 20 minutes later, at 1052 hours on December 24, 2022, Akron Police were again dispatched to the group home Zoran was residing at. This time officers were dispatched to the group home due to a complaint from the group home supervisor. The group home supervisor told police Zoran was acting erratic and threatening the other members of the group home. When officers entered the home, they encountered Zoran pacing in the kitchen and again holding a baseball bat. Zoran was asked multiple times to put the bat down. Zoran refused multiple commands to do so. Zoran had also just microwaved his iPad because he believed someone was using it to spy on him. Zoran, who had a knife on his person at the time, was eventually removed from the home against his will and taken to Akron General Hospital for a psychiatric evaluation.

Zoran was admitted to Akron General Hospital at 1215 hours. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Later that same day, after receiving medication and treatment, Zoran was released from the hospital.

Zoran returned to the group home and was told he would no longer be allowed to stay in the home by the home's manager. A group home supervisor ordered a Lyft (taxi-cab) for Zoran. Zoran was then taken to a duplex he had recently rented in Barberton, Ohio. During this same period of time, Zoran began sending threatening messages to multiple people and demanding his son be turned over to him. Zoran also began posting other nonsensical threats to his family and police on his public Facebook page around this time. A later search of the duplex Zoran rented noted carvings in the door, presumably made by Zoran, stating his son was being held in the attic.

The following morning, on Sunday, December 25, 2022, at approximately 0708 hours, Pamela Stratford (Stratford) reported to the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department that her son, Zoran, was sending her audio clips and text messages through Facebook messenger threatening to kill her.

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Stratford reported that she felt concerned for her safety after receiving these messages. Stratford told the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department that Zoran had drug dependency issues and suffered from mental health problems. Based on Stratford's complaint, the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department obtained a warrant for the arrest of Zoran.

On Monday December 26, 2022, at approximately 0900 hours, Cuyahoga Falls Police created another police report in relation to more threats made by Zoran, now being sent to Sherry McCrossin (McCrossin). McCrossin reported that her nephew, Zoran, was sending her audio clips and text messages threatening to kill her and others if Zoran's son was not turned over to him. McCrossin stated she felt Zoran was likely under the influence of drugs and she feared he could potentially act on his threats in his current state.

At nearly the same time McCrossin was reporting the threats she received to the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department, Margaret Patterson (Patterson) called 911 and reported a man was following her and demanding her property. Patterson made her way into the Lake Anna YMCA, 500 West Hopocan Avenue, Barberton, Ohio, accompanied by an unrelated individual, Morgan Morrissey, whom Patterson located in the parking lot of the YMCA. Barberton police were dispatched to the Lake Anna YMCA regarding Patterson's complaint.

Barberton Police Officer [REDACTED] was the first to arrive. Officer [REDACTED] entered the foyer of the YMCA and located Patterson. While Patterson spoke to Officer [REDACTED] another patron entered the YMCA. This patron, Charles Nicholas (Nicholas), overheard the conversation occurring between Patterson and Officer [REDACTED]. Nicholas interjected, stating Zoran just approached him in the parking lot, was acting strangely, and was now walking southbound along the exit driveway of the YMCA.

While Officer [REDACTED] spoke with Patterson and Nicholas, Zoran continued southbound toward and through the intersection of 2nd Street Northwest and West Lake Avenue.

Officer [REDACTED] exited the YMCA, entered his car and began to make his way out of the YMCA parking lot.

After clearing the intersection, Zoran noticed Sean Richards (Richards) and Tessa Jordan (Jordan) as they exited Richards' vehicle which Richards just parked on 2nd Street Northwest. As the couple crossed the street on foot and began to enter The Coffee Pot, a local restaurant, Zoran engaged them in conversation. Zoran's erratic behavior and demeanor at the time of their brief interaction led Richards to believe Zoran may try and break into his car. Richards watched Zoran from the entryway of the restaurant as Zoran briefly loitered near his car before walking back in the direction of the Lake Anna YMCA through a snow-covered parking lot used by Lakeview United Methodist Church. This snow-covered lot was vacant except for a single white pick-up

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truck parked near the back of the lot where a trash dumpster was also present. The parking lot was covered by an exterior security camera of the Sitting Pretty Hair and Nail Boutique which operated out of the brick building on the southside of the parking lot.

Zoran was observed on the above described security camera running through the parking lot as Officer [REDACTED] made his way out of the YMCA parking lot and towards Zoran. Zoran appeared to attempt to hide from Officer [REDACTED] behind the hood of the pick-up truck. Officer [REDACTED] observed Zoran, and with his lightbar activated drove across the street and into the parking lot. Zoran walked out from behind the truck and away from Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] exited his patrol vehicle and ordered Zoran to "stop" and "come here." Zoran ignored these commands and walked away from Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] approached Zoran on foot. As Officer [REDACTED] made his way closer to Zoran, Zoran turned around to face him, placed a bag he was carrying on the ground and produced a knife. Officer [REDACTED] continued to give Zoran commands to "stop" and "show me your hands." Zoran replied to Officer [REDACTED] "no, you stop" and Zoran began walking towards Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] then began walking backwards and used his police radio to request his back-up officer expedite his response to the scene. Zoran then walked backwards through the lot from the west to the east, away from Officer [REDACTED] while still facing him. As Zoran walked backwards he changed his grip on the knife so that the blade would face his body (a grip more conducive to stabbing rather than slicing). Officer [REDACTED] with his pistol now in hand and directed at Zoran, continued to give Zoran additional commands to "drop the knife" and variations thereof.

As Zoran walked backwards through the lot away from Officer [REDACTED] Officer [REDACTED] arrived on scene. Officer [REDACTED] arrived from the area of West Lake Avenue and 3rd Street Northwest. Officer [REDACTED] quickly exited his patrol vehicle and began to slowly walk toward Zoran himself. Officer [REDACTED] initially directed his taser at Zoran as he approached. Officer [REDACTED] also gave Zoran multiple commands to "drop it." As the two officers approached, Zoran briefly paused near the truck and took a lowered squatting stance. While squatting, Zoran placed the bookbag he had been holding by a small strap in his hand over his shoulders and onto his back. Zoran then continued backing away from the officers while still facing them and ignoring their commands.

Upon having walked backwards through the majority of the parking lot, Zoran stopped abruptly and charged towards Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] reported attempting to utilize his taser to attempt to stop Zoran but found his taser unresponsive. Officer [REDACTED] reported that he would have shot Zoran but did not due to a concern for where his projectiles could ultimately come to rest noting the open space behind him that was occupied by moving cars and people in the area.

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Though Zoran abruptly charged at Officer ██████ Zoran stopped himself within mere feet of making physical contact. Zoran then slowly and deliberately began to walk towards the officers. The two police officers then walked backwards through the lot away from Zoran while they continued to give Zoran further commands that he ignored. As Zoran approached the officers he began giving them commands to “go back to your car(s).”

Zoran continued to advance on the officers. While backing up, Officer ██████ transitioned from holding his malfunctioning taser to his duty pistol. Once past the pick-up truck, Officer ██████ began walking around the hood of the truck in an attempt to create distance and cover from Zoran. As Officer ██████ walked backwards around the hood of the pick-up truck Zoran changed direction and began to advance towards Officer ██████ Officer ██████ who was walking backwards, now near Officer ██████'s patrol vehicle and the road, then fired a single shot that struck Zoran. Zoran suffered a single penetrating/perforating ballistic gunshot wound that entered his torso, passed through his body, and exited near the right side of his spine.

After being shot, Zoran took one or two more steps forward and fell to the ground. Zoran laid on the ground, appeared to attempt to stand up momentarily before rolling onto his stomach. Officer ██████ approached, then stood over Zoran in a mounted position and attempted to gain control of Zoran's right arm. Zoran remained noncompliant and refused to give Officer ██████ his hand and arm so that he could be handcuffed. In the ensuing moments Zoran lost consciousness, was placed in handcuffs, given first aid and removed from the scene via ambulance. Zoran was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died shortly after arrival.



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Crime Scene Processing

The BCI Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) responded to the Lake Anna YMCA, 500 West Hopocan Avenue, Barberton, Ohio and a small unmarked gravel parking lot across the street on the southwest corner of West Lake Avenue and 2nd Street Northwest. This gravel parking lot was located behind, and utilized by, the Lakeview United Methodist Church, 211 3rd Street Northwest. This snow-covered gravel parking lot is the location where the shooting occurred.

BCI CSU personnel documented, processed and preserved items of potential evidence. The process included the search for, documentation and collection of potential evidence. Detailed photographs and crime scene reports were completed with the below information only summarizing some of the more significant findings. The scene was further documented with a FARO Focus laser scanner.

Gravel Parking Lot Scene

BCI CSU SA Boerner and SA Hootman processed the scene of the shooting.

Agents collected the items documents in the table below while processing the scene.

| Item # | Description | Location |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Black folding knife | Parking lot |
| 2 | Blue backpack with misc. items | Parking lot |
| 3 | Cellphone – Samsung | Parking lot |
| 4 | Misc. personal effects - \$95.00, SSN card | Parking lot |
| 5 | Pair of black gloves | Parking lot |
| 6 | Cartridge case – 45 cal. | Parking lot |
| 7 | Aldi bag with misc. items | Parking lot |
| 8 | Misc. personal effects – debit cards, Ohio IDs | Det. Sgt. Ben Knorr |
| 9 | Firearm – a black Smith & Wesson, M&P 45, SN: [REDACTED] 1 cartridge from chamber, 1 mag with 9 cartridges and two mags with 10 cartridges each (Ofc. [REDACTED]) | SAS Jon Lieber |
| 10 | Taser – X26, SN: [REDACTED] with 1 undeployed cartridge (Ofc. [REDACTED]) | SAS Jon Lieber |
| 11 | Misc. clothing – Zachary Zoran | SA Charlie Snyder |

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The photographs below depict an overview of the scene. The evidence placards depicted within each photograph correspond to the evidence item numbers listed in the table above.



Figure 1, showing the crime scene in relation to Sitting Pretty Hair and Nail Boutique (grey brick building/storefront on left side of image).



Figure 2, showing the scene with evidence items and placards in place.

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Figure 3, showing the scene from west to east.



Figure 4, showing item #1, the knife possessed by Zoran during the incident.

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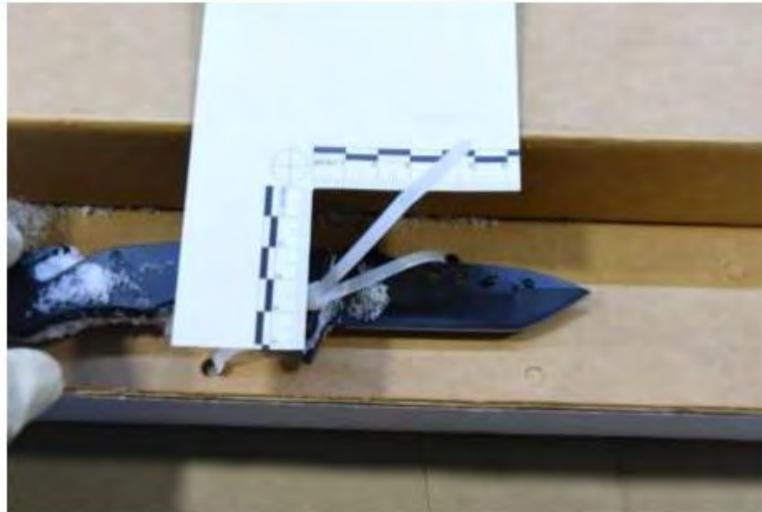


Figure 5, showing Zoran's knife pictured with a scale upon collection.

All items of evidence were transported to the BCI Richfield Office (4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286) and placed into temporary evidence locker #10 with the exception of Item 11 (Zoran's clothing which were received from Akron General Hospital). Item #11 was first placed in the drying room. Once dry, the clothing was examined, photographed and placed into evidence bags and moved to evidence storage.

Zachary Zoran Clothing and Personal Affects Examination

On January 3, 2023, BCI agents packaged Zoran's clothing that was previously held in the secure drying room at BCI Richfield. Agents noted significant red and brown staining in the clothing and a defect present in some of the garments indicative of an object penetrating the garments. The locations of these defects in the clothing is consistent with Zoran being shot in the abdomen as noted elsewhere throughout this report.

Summa Health Systems - Akron General Hospital

During the initial BCI response, a BCI agent responded to Summa Health Systems – Akron Campus (Akron General Hospital) and was granted access to the operating room where the agent observed numerous medical personnel providing care to Zoran. At approximately 1148 hours, medical care stopped and Zoran was declared deceased. BCI subsequently received from the hospital staff a large semi-transparent bag containing Zoran's clothing and personal affects contained therein.

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According to subsequent examination by medical personnel at the hospital, Zoran's single perforating/penetrating gunshot wound entered through his abdomen and exited his back. No ballistic evidence was recovered at the hospital.

For additional details regarding the response to the hospital and the evidence collected refer to the investigative reports titled, *2022-12-26: Documentation of Officers and Firearms*, *2022-12-26: Initial Crime Scene Processing – 208 2nd Street NW*, and *2022-12-27: Evidence Documentation*.

Autopsy

On December 27, 2022, Summit County Medical Examiner Doctor Lisa Kohler conducted a forensic autopsy of Zoran. BCI attended this autopsy and learned Zoran's injuries included the following:

[REDACTED]

For additional detail concerning the autopsy refer to the investigative narrative titled: *2022-12-27: Autopsy – Summit County Medical Examiner's Office*.

Barberton Police Department

BCI responded to the Barberton Police Department and met with and photographed the two involved officers. They were identified as Officer [REDACTED] who did not fire his weapon, and Officer [REDACTED] who did fire his duty pistol a single time. Both officers declined to give a statement at that time.

BCI photographed both officers, who were dressed in their duty uniforms, as they appeared during the incident. Both officers' uniforms were navy blue in color, had Barberton Police Department patches on the shoulders and silver badges affixed to their chests. Officer [REDACTED] was photographed wearing his Barberton Police Department coat, which he wore during the incident,

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that also had Barberton Police Department patches on the shoulders. Both men wore navy blue police style uniform pants, black boots and typical police duty belts on their persons.

BCI collected Officer ██████' taser and noted in the process of collecting the taser it was turned on and then off. While doing so the back display indicating the device was functioning properly failed to turn on.

BCI also collected Officer ██████ pistol, a .45 caliber Smith & Wesson M&P, bearing serial number ██████. A magazine was seated in the pistol at the time of collection and a cartridge was found in the chamber of the gun. The magazine, once removed from the pistol was found to contain 9 cartridges. Officer ██████ stated that he "tops off" his duty pistol, meaning he would carry the pistol with a fully loaded magazine with an additional cartridge in the chamber of the gun, for a total of 11 cartridges. Consequently, the 10 cartridges found in the magazine and chamber of the pistol were indicative of the weapon being fired a single time.

For additional details regarding the documentation of the involved officers, refer to the Investigative Report titled: *2022-12-26: Documentation of Officers and Firearms.*



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Neighborhood Canvass

While the crime scene was being processed, agents conducted a neighborhood canvass in the area of the shooting incident. The purpose of the canvass was to identify and interview potential witnesses to the officer-involved shooting. The canvass was also conducted to identify any potential sources of video surveillance. Multiple witnesses to the event were located and identified. Information obtained from these witnesses is detailed in the "interviews" section of this report.

Video Surveillance Canvass

While conducting a canvass of the area surrounding the shooting scene, agents located video surveillance cameras on the Lake Anna YMCA building and on the Sitting Pretty Hair & Nail Boutique. Relevant footage of the shooting incident was obtained from both of these locations.



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BCI Laboratory Analysis

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

Firearms

Officer [REDACTED] firearm, and the cartridge casing collected from the scene were submitted to the BCI Firearms Section for analysis. Officer [REDACTED] firearm was determined to be operable. Further, by comparing the cartridge casing collected from the scene to known standards from the weapon, identification was made confirming Officer [REDACTED] weapon did fire the cartridge casing found at the scene.

Findings

| Item Description | Comparison | Conclusion |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Item #1 - Smith & Wesson pistol | N/A | Operable |
| | Item #2 - cartridge case | Source Identification |

For additional details regarding the results of the Firearms analysis, refer to the lab report and the Investigative Report titled, *2023-02-02 Firearm Lab Received and Reviewed*.

Taser

Officer [REDACTED] taser was collected and submitted to the BCI Cyber Crimes Unit (CCU). BCI Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Justin Root (Root) authored the Investigative Report detailing the findings of that analysis. SAS Root was unable to conduct a spark test of the taser because it would not turn on. The taser appeared to have not been downloaded since it was put into service on 2/6/2013. Accurate records of date and time activity for the taser could not be retrieved due to the age and condition of the device. The Investigative Report authored by SAS Root should be referred to for a full understanding of the findings of that analysis.

Cellular Telephone

On January 9, 2023, BCI obtained a search warrant through the Summit County Common Pleas Court to search Zoran's phone which was recovered from the scene.

A review of the data on the phone revealed the following:

Audio Files



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[REDACTED]

[Instant Messages](#)

A review of the instant messages extracted from the device revealed the following:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Witnesses

BCI conducted audio recorded interviews of multiple witnesses throughout the investigation. All the interviews were conducted in person unless otherwise noted.

Margaret Patterson

While walking to work, Patterson noticed Zoran across the street from her “yelling and screaming at cars going by, talking to himself maybe, I’m not entirely sure.” Patterson walked into the parking lot across from the YMCA to avoid Zoran.

Zoran then began to yell at Patterson “Hey Lady! Hey Lady!” Patterson did not turn around to face Zoran. Rather, she continued walking in the direction of the YMCA. Zoran continued to approach Patterson and as he got closer said “give me your car keys.” Patterson told Zoran she didn’t have a car or car keys. Zoran insisted Patterson give him her keys. Zoran told Patterson she “needed to empty my pockets and that I needed to empty my bookbag and give him everything I had on me.” Patterson told Zoran she would not give him her belongings and told Zoran to leave her alone. Zoran told Patterson “I’m not going to leave you alone.” Patterson began to speed up, walking as fast as she safely could in the snow. Patterson did not stop or turn around at any point, stating she “was just afraid that if he grabbed me I wouldn’t have any way to defend myself so I just kept running.” Patterson then began “screaming for somebody to call 911.” Eventually Patterson “saw a woman crossing the street” and told this woman “Please call the cops! Please call the cops!” Patterson herself began calling 911 at the same time. Zoran was still behind Patterson and giving her orders to “give me your stuff, give me your bag.”

Once Patterson and Zoran reached the main doors of the YMCA, Zoran stopped outside as the women entered the facility and Zoran “kinda stared me down through the door.” Patterson reported “an elderly couple pulled up and he just started screaming at their car and screaming at them.” Patterson then remained in the foyer of the YMCA.

Moments later, Patterson observed Zoran and Barberton Police Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from her vantage point in the foyer of the YMCA. Patterson recalled that moments later she watched as one of the officers drew a weapon, which she could not identify, as Zoran approached them. Patterson believed one of the officers had to walk back, retreating behind a car. Patterson did not see the shooting but heard “what sounded like something” but was not positive about the origin of the sound she heard.

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Patterson believed Zoran was attempting to rob her during their interaction.

For additional details regarding the interview, refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2022-12-26: Margaret Patterson Interview*.

Morgan Morrisey

Morrisey was walking into the YMCA when Paterson approached her asking for help. Morrisey escorted Patterson into the YMCA. Moments later, Morrisey partially observed the interaction between Zoran and Barberton Police Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

For additional details regarding the interview, refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2022-12-26: Morgan Morrisey Interview*.

Evan Kuhn

Kuhn is the property manager at the Barberton YMCA. Kuhn observed Zoran as he followed Patterson towards the YMCA.

Moments later, Kuhn observed Zoran interacting with Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] in the gravel parking lot where he was shot.

For additional details regarding the interview of Evan Kuhn, refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2022-12-26: Witness Interview – Evan Kuhn*.

Jadyn Klepper

While attempting to leave the YMCA parking lot in her vehicle, Klepper observed Zoran as he interacted with Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] in the gravel parking lot across the street.

For additional details regarding the interview, refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2022-12-26: Jadeyn Klepper Interview*.

Jonathon Dobben

Dobben was at the Coffee Pot restaurant during the interaction between Zoran and Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Dobben watched the altercation from the restaurant along with other customers and employees.

For additional details regarding the interview, refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2022-12-26: Jonathon Dobben Interview*.



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Charles Nicholas and Tommie Nicholas

C. Nicholas and T. Nicholas briefly interacted with Zoran in the parking lot of the YMCA moments before Zoran was shot and killed.

For additional details regarding these interviews, refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2022-12-26: Charles Nicholas and Tommie Nicholas Interview*.

Menda Ramsey

Ramsey owns The Coffee Pot restaurant. The front window of her restaurant faces out to the vacant lot where the officer-involved shooting occurred.

Ramsey, along with other staff and customers of her restaurant, observed the interaction between Zoran and Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the front window of her restaurant.

For additional details regarding the interview, refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2022-12-26: Menda Ramsey Interview*.

Tessa Jordan

Tessa Jordan observed the interaction between Zoran and Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the front window of the Coffee Pot along with other patrons and staff.

For additional details regarding the interview, refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2022-12-26: Tessa Jordan Interview*.

Sean Richards

Sean Richards observed the interaction between Zoran and Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the front window of the Coffee Pot along with other patrons and staff.

For additional details regarding the interview, refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2022-12-26: Sean Jordan Interview*.

Kylie Bussey

Bussey works at the Coffee Pot and observed the interaction between Zoran and Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the front window of the Coffee Pot along with other staff and patrons of the restaurant.

For additional details regarding the interview, refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2022-12-27: Kylee Bussey Interview*.



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[Ryan Williams](#)

Williams told BCI agents that he drove through the intersection where the altercation occurred as it was unfolding. Williams reported after passing through the intersection he heard a gunshot, turned around, and loitered in the area where observed the police and emergency medical personnel tend to Zoran after he had been shot.

For additional details regarding the interview, refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2022-12-27: Ryan Williams Interview*

[Non-witness Interviews](#)

BCI agents conducted interviews with additional people who were not witnesses to the actual incident but provided contextual information involving the history and recent activity of Zoran. These persons included Jason Plants, Christle Stephens, James Greathouse, Sherry McCrossin and Pamela Stratford. Investigative Reports detailing each of these interviews were written. Those reports and the accompanying audio recordings of those interviews should be referred to for additional information regarding what these parties shared with BCI agents.



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Law Enforcement Witness

The following paragraphs are an abbreviated versions of Officer [REDACTED]'s account of his actions and perceptions of this incident. A more detailed account of Officer [REDACTED]'s interview may be obtained from reviewing the video recording of his interview.

Barberton Police Officer [REDACTED]

Officer [REDACTED] reported he was dispatched to call of a male trying to take a female's keys. The dispatch didn't seem right to him, so he used his emergency lights and siren intermittently while responding.

When Officer [REDACTED] arrived at the YMCA, he pulled in the parking lot from Hopocan Avenue and parked near the front entrance. A male was outside salting the sidewalk; and as Officer [REDACTED] exited his cruiser, the male pointed to the front door of the YMCA.

As Officer [REDACTED] entered the YMCA, he observed a female inside the front entrance. The female was visibly upset, shaking and crying. She provided a brief explanation of what happened. When Officer [REDACTED] asked what the male looked like, she pointed to the area of 2nd Street NW and W. Lake Avenue and said, "There he is," (5 minutes 15 seconds). Officer [REDACTED] asked the female to stay at the YMCA because he needed more information but told her he wanted to go speak with the male.

As Officer [REDACTED] drove out of the YMCA parking lot, he could see the male "kind of like jogging" west through a parking lot. The lot was located on the southwest corner of 2nd Street NW and W. Lake Avenue. There were no vehicles in the lot besides a white pick-up truck. While Officer [REDACTED] drove toward the subject, the subject squatted down in front of the white truck and was looking around as if he was hiding. Officer [REDACTED] did not believe the subject could see him and found the subject's behavior confusing.

The subject then got up and began walking away. At that time, Officer [REDACTED] exited his cruiser and told the subject, "Hey come here. You're not in trouble. I just need to talk to you." The subject started jogging away from him and Officer [REDACTED] followed. Officer [REDACTED] told the subject to stop again and the subject continued jogging quicker. Officer [REDACTED] radioed that the subject was starting to run from him. When the subject reached the alley, Officer [REDACTED] was behind the subject, facing the subject's back. Officer [REDACTED] said, a third time, "Stop! I need to talk to you." The subject turned around, and as he did so, Officer [REDACTED] could see the blade of a knife in the subject's right hand. Officer [REDACTED] explained it freaked him out. He took a step back away from

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the subject, drew his firearm and said, "Drop the knife." Officer [REDACTED] then radioed the subject had a knife.

The subject made his way east through the parking lot, while Officer [REDACTED] continued ordering the subject to drop the knife. Officer [REDACTED] told the subject he did not want to shoot him and gave him more stern commands to drop the knife. Officer [REDACTED] arrived while they moved east through the parking lot. He was on Officer [REDACTED]'s left side and parallel to him. The subject then started lunging toward them and then backing up. After doing that a few times, it got to the point where it was getting aggressive. As the subject started moving directly toward them, Officer [REDACTED] took cover behind the white truck.

Officer [REDACTED] remembered there were people in the background which were in his line of fire and because of that, he did not have a clear shot. Then the subject started charging toward Officer [REDACTED]. As Officer [REDACTED] was squeezing his trigger, he heard "boom" and immediately thought they had just shot the guy.

Officer [REDACTED] explained Officer [REDACTED] originally had his taser out and he did not know Officer [REDACTED] had transitioned to his firearm. After the subject was shot, the subject stood there frozen and dazed. After approximately a minute, the subject collapsed to the ground and was still clinching the knife. Officer [REDACTED] gave additional commands for the subject to drop the knife. Eventually, the subject opened his hand and Officer [REDACTED] walked up to the subject and kicked the knife away. The subject was still actively showing aggression, so Officer [REDACTED] got on top of the subject and pinned his arms down with his knees. The subject continued to actively resist, so they handcuffed him.

They cut the subject's backpack off and some of his clothing and located a wound on his stomach and on his back. The fire department then arrived and transported the subject from the scene.

During the incident, it was sunny outside but the parking lot was snow covered. When the subject was lunging toward them, he was within 10 to 12 feet of the officers. Officer [REDACTED] said he was fearful when the subject was coming at him with the knife in his hand. Officer [REDACTED] explained he had been on hundreds of calls where a subject had a knife; and when an officer displayed his firearm, the subject complied and dropped the knife. When this subject did not drop the knife, Officer [REDACTED] thought he was going to get stabbed, and it was going to end badly for him or Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] reiterated the only reason he had not discharged his firearm was because of the people in the background.

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Officer [REDACTED] believed his actions were consistent with his training. He had spoken with the command staff of his department after the incident but no one had asked him to lie or tried to influence his statement.

Officer [REDACTED] had not watched any video footage of the incident before being interviewed. Prior to the conclusion of the interview, Officer [REDACTED] was offered to review his body-worn camera video footage. He and his attorney reviewed the video and afterward indicated they did not wish to add any additional information to Officer [REDACTED] s statement.

For additional details regarding the interview of Officer [REDACTED] refer to the audio recorded interview and the Investigative Report titled, *2023-01-05: Officer Interview – [REDACTED]*

Involved Law Enforcement Officer

BCI conducted a video recorded interview with the involved officer, [REDACTED] and reviewed his personnel files and training records. Included within this section are abbreviated versions of the Officer [REDACTED] account of his actions pertaining to this incident and/or discharging his weapon. A more detailed account of this information may be obtained by reviewing the video recorded interview.

Officer [REDACTED]

Officer [REDACTED] stated he and Officer [REDACTED] “got a call of a suspicious person that confronted a woman in the parking lot of the YMCA.” Officer [REDACTED] stated he arrived from the direction of West Lake Avenue and 3rd Street NW.

Officer [REDACTED] upon exiting his patrol vehicle, observed Zoran and Officer [REDACTED] standing near a trash dumpster along the northwest corner of the building (identified by investigators as the Sitting Pretty Hair & Nail Beauty Boutique, 208 2nd Street Northwest, Barberton, Ohio). As Officer [REDACTED] exited his patrol vehicle, he heard Officer [REDACTED] tell Zoran “drop the knife.”

As Officer [REDACTED] exited his vehicle, Zoran began walking eastbound through the parking lot. Officer [REDACTED] stated, “Patrolmen [REDACTED] said ‘Put it down’, I believe I said a couple times maybe, ‘Put the weapon down as well.’” Officer [REDACTED] then described taking his taser out near where he entered the parking lot, noting Officer [REDACTED] had his service weapon out at the time.

Zoran, upon reaching the end of the parking lot, reversed course and began to walk towards the officers. Officer [REDACTED] stated “I attempted to discharge my taser. My taser, I tried twice, my taser, it was malfunctioning.” Officer [REDACTED] then put his taser in his left side pant pocket and

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“pulled out my service revolver.” Note: Officer ██████ misspoke while referring to his Smith and Wesson M&P pistol as a revolver.

Officer ██████ stated he and Officer ██████ gave Zoran “several more commands ‘drop the knife’” as they walked in the parking lot. Officer ██████ demonstrated for investigators with his right hand and arm out in front of him Zoran’s actions. Officer ██████ stated “He came towards me with the knife in his right hand and I fired one time.”



Figure 6, Officer ██████ Interview Image 2

Officer ██████ stated he observed Zoran as “he proceeded to drop.” Officer ██████ provided cover as Officer ██████ attempted to handcuff Zoran. Sergeant Donley then arrived and began to assist the officers.

Officer ██████ stated “We kicked the knife,” and pointed to the area on the screen where the knife was kicked. Officer ██████ stated “Then we attempted to find where the wound was.” Officer ██████ touched his left abdomen in an effort to show investigators where the entry wound on Zoran was located, as he described looking for the wound. Officer ██████ continued that he believed “it exited out his right kidney area, somewhere around there.”

Officer ██████ stated officers then handcuffed Zoran and cut off his bookbag as paramedics arrived.

When asked, Officer ██████ stated the weather at the time was cold and the ground was snow and ice covered. However, he did not believe these conditions had any impact on his or Zoran’s movements through the parking lot.

When asked, Officer ██████ stated that at the time he fired his weapon, he believed he was “between 10 and 15 feet” from Zoran who was facing him and “looking right at me.”

When asked, Officer ██████ stated he became aware that Zoran had a knife in his possession and “definitely saw the knife, um, when we were about in the middle of the parking lot.”

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When asked, Officer ██████ estimated the time from when he first noticed the knife to having fired his weapon to be between one minute and one and a half minutes.

When asked, Officer ██████ recalled Zoran saying to him and Officer ██████ “to get back into our cruisers and leave.”

When asked if he recalled the commands he gave to Zoran, Officer ██████ stated he told Zoran “drop the knife, get on your knees.” Officer ██████ then stated that Officer ██████ primarily gave Zoran commands, and he provided limited verbal commands because he has found through his experience when multiple officers provide commands, it becomes more distracting than helpful.

When asked if he perceived any other options than the use of deadly force at the time he fired his weapon, Officer ██████ stated “There were no other option in my mind.”

When asked what he thought would have likely happened had he not used deadly force, Officer ██████ stated “Um, that I would have been stabbed.”

When asked, Officer ██████ stated he did fear for his safety and the safety of Officer ██████. Officer ██████ felt his actions and the actions of Officer ██████ were consistent with his training.

When asked about specific training pertaining to persons with edged weapons, Officer ██████ stated he was aware that a person armed with a knife “within, can’t remember exactly, but, it, you know, they can cover a great deal of distance in a short span with, and he, like I said he was within 10 to 15 feet of me when this happened.”

Officer ██████ stated he had not watched his body-worn camera video recording of the incident prior to the interview. When given the opportunity to do so at the end of the interview, Officer ██████ declined.

For additional details regarding the interview, refer to the Investigative Report titled: *2023-01-05 Officer ██████ Interview* and the video recorded interview maintained in the BCI case file as Reference Item F.

Officer ██████ [Employment and Training Records](#)

BCI reviewed the personnel file, training records and Ohio Peace Officer Training Council (OPOTC) records for Barberton Police Officer ██████. Nothing unusual or concerning was found within those records.

BCI conducted a search of the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy Active Officer Portal for OPOTC information for ██████ and again did not find anything unusual or concerning.

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For additional details regarding the employment and training records, refer to the Investigative Reports titled *2022-05-20 Officer Kelley Personnel File Review* and *2022-05-16 Involved Officer's OPOTC Training Records*.



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Subject Information – Zachary Zoran

This section contains information about the subject, Zachary Zoran.

Zachary Zoran Interview

BCI special agents were unable to interview Zachary Zoran as he succumbed to his wounds before agents could attempt to conduct an interview with him.

Zachary Zoran Medical Records

This section contains information regarding medical/treatment records of Zachary Zoran. BCI executed three warrants relevant to the past medical history and treatment of Zoran as part of this investigation. Pertinent information obtained from each medical/treatment record is more fully described below. A more complete accounting of these records may be obtained by reviewing the actual records themselves.

The Light Center Recovery

BCI obtained records of treatment Zachary Zoran received from The Light Center Recovery pursuant to a search warrant served on the organization.

Pages 16 through 21 of those records included a copy of The Light Center Recovery's group home rules and regulations, a copy of resident rights, payment terms, and an *Incident-Grievance Form*.

[REDACTED]

Akron General Hospital

BCI received medical records from Cleveland Clinic, Akron General Hospital for care provided to Zoran. The records were provided pursuant to a search warrant.

The medical records documented the extent and nature of care received by Zoran at the time he was taken to the hospital under a psychological hold referral (pink slip) on December 24, 2022. The records further provided details regarding Zoran's evaluation, treatment, toxicology, medications administered, and discharge instructions.

Under the *Reason for Visit* heading, the document included the following notation:

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

At 1811 hours a doctor wrote:

[REDACTED]

Suma Hospital

BCI obtained records of treatment Zachary Zoran received from Suma Hospitals pursuant to a search warrant. Those records documented attempted lifesaving action and treatment Zoran received at the hospital after being shot by Officer [REDACTED]. These records also detail the death of Zoran, which occurred shortly after his arrival to the hospital.

Summit County Medical Examiner

BCI obtained the Forensic Toxicology Laboratory Report, Report of Autopsy, and Report of Investigation from the Summit County Medical Examiner's Office on March 15, 2023. The "Cause of Death" for Zachary Zoran was listed as "Gunshot wound to the torso." The "Manner of Death" was listed as "Homicide: Shot by police." The injuries described within the report appeared consistent with injuries sustained from a gunshot to the abdomen. No suspicious injuries to other parts of the body were identified. The toxicology screening noted Zoran's blood tested positive for methamphetamine at the time of his death.

Zachary Zoran – Background, Computerized Criminal History

Background information for Zoran was compiled and reviewed. It included researching past police reports involving Zoran, criminal history records, court records, open/closed source database inquires and social media posts.

Database Searches

An Accurant report was obtained and reviewed. Nothing relevant to the investigation was observed.

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Social Media

The following Facebook account belonging to Zoran was located:

- <https://www.facebook.com/zachary.zoran>

BCI served Meta Inc. with a search warrant to obtain records related to the Facebook account of Zachary Zoran (Zoran).

A review of those records noted the following:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

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- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]”

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Zoran sent messages similar to those described and documented above to other individuals through Facebook in the days preceding his death. The reader of this report is encouraged to review the full collection of Facebook records for a fuller understanding of Zoran's activity while using Facebook.

Prior Police Encounters

A records inquiry completed by Barberton Police revealed the department had no encounters with Zoran prior to the officer-involved shooting. However, Zoran has had multiple police encounters with other area police departments leading up to his death. Documented police interactions between Zoran and the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department and the Akron Police Department in particular are more fully described below. Note that Cuyahoga Falls Police Department obtained a warrant to arrest Zoran for aggravated menacing for threats Zoran made to his mother the day before his death. Akron Police also interacted with Zoran in two meaningful encounters two days before his death. These interactions, including the review of Akron Police body-worn camera recordings, are documented below.

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Cuyahoga Falls Police Records:

Zoran is named in at least nine separate police reports involving the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department.

Akron Police Records:

Zoran is named in at least ten separate police reports involving the Akron Police Department.

BCI reviewed body-worn camera recordings of Zoran interacting with Akron Police on December 24, 2022 and noted the following:



Figure 7, Zoran answered the door holding a baseball bat.

Zoran, who had called 911 during the early morning hours of December 24, 2022 to report what he thought was suspicious behavior, was confrontational with police and hesitant to put down a baseball bat during the interaction.

Later that morning, Akron Police were again dispatched to the home because a group home supervisor reported Zoran had microwaved an iPad and was acting aggressive towards his housemates. Akron Police again found Zoran in possession of a baseball bat. Eventually Akron Police were able to remove the bat (and a knife) from Zoran. Akron Police then transported Zoran to the hospital for a psychiatric evaluation.

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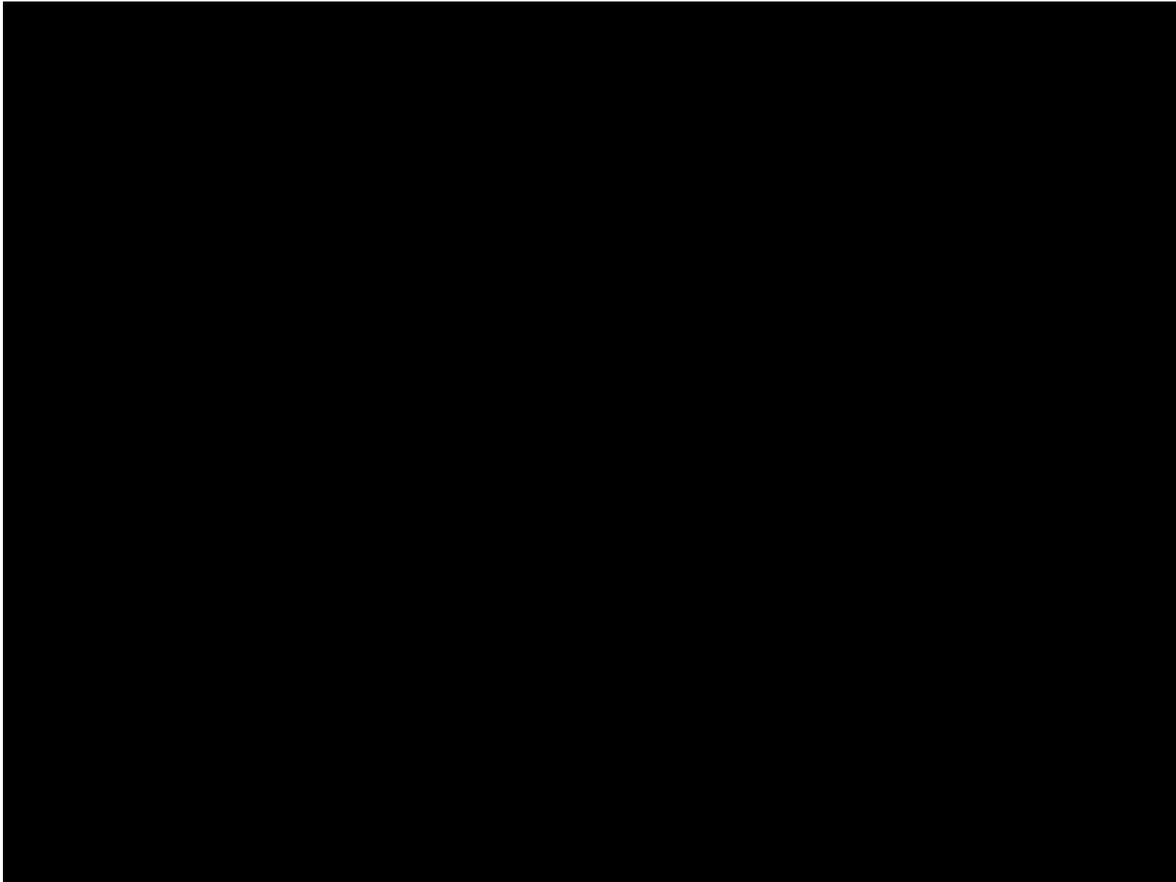


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Computerized Criminal History (CCH) and/or Court Records

Zoran's Computerized Criminal History (CCH) consisted of three prior police interactions where Zoran was arrested and convicted for various offenses. The table below displays information related to those events.



Dispatch-Related Information

This section contains dispatch-related information associated with the incident. The information reviewed was obtained from the Barberton Police Department.

Audio Recorded Calls to Police

There was a single 911 phone made regarding this incident.

The 911 call, placed by Margaret Patterson, began with Patterson yelling, "Get away from me!" Patterson told the dispatcher she was in the YMCA parking lot and a male was following her,

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asking for her keys and bookbag. Patterson said the man tried to take her keys and bag from her. Patterson said the male was White and was wearing jeans and a black coat. Patterson told the dispatcher she was in the YMCA and the male was on the sidewalk looking for her. Patterson said the male was yelling at other people. The male, Zoran, told Patterson he would keep following her until she gave him her stuff.

[Barberton Police Department CAD Report & Barberton Fire Department CAD Report](#)

The following items were noted:

- 12/26/2022 09:05:11 He took off running. Hiding at the church.
- 12/26/2022 09:06:00 He has a knife.
- 12/26/2022 09:07:00 Shots fired, send BFD.

[Barberton Fire Run Report:](#)

Documented Barberton Fire Department's response to the scene and the transport of Zoran to the hospital. The report indicated Zoran initially had no pulse, but began to spontaneously move his arms. Barberton Fire Department took Zoran to Akron City Hospital.

[Barberton Police Report](#)

The Barberton Police Report documented Barberton Police Department's response to this incident.

Page 6 - Supplement Report completed by Officer James Dawson (Dawson):

- Officer ██████ told Dawson he tried to deploy his taser and it did not work. ██████ transitioned to his handgun and fired one round, striking Zoran in the center-mass area.
- Dawson indicated ██████ taser was taken to the armory and checked. Dawson indicated the taser would not turn on and was not active.

Page 13 – Supplement Report completed by Officer Anthony Memmer (Memmer)

- YMCA employee Keith Murphy told Memmer that he received an email from a member named Jamy Bechler (Bechler). Bechler emailed YMCA staff saying he saw the incident.

It should be noted that on page 8 and page 15 of the report, supplements were completed by Officer ██████ and Officer ██████ SA Clark and SA Valente did not review the supplement reports. The supplements were redacted by SA Moran.

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MDT Messages

BCI reviewed the MDT messages and noted the following:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/26/2022 10:48:10AM | Mgreen-B39 | dselman | Hey Shane, I have a bunch of witness name/phone numbers for report . Will you add them to the call please. I do have one DS but the rest are name/#. |
| 12/26/2022 10:53:38AM | Mgreen-B39 | dselman | Ryan M. William [REDACTED] Sean J. Richards [REDACTED] Tessa L. Jordan [REDACTED] Jonathan Dobbins [REDACTED] Kylie L. Bussey [REDACTED] Menda Ramsey [REDACTED] |

For additional details regarding the dispatch related information, refer to the Investigative Report titled, *2023-01-17 Review of Information provided by the Barberton Police Department.*



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Video Recordings

This section contains information from the review of video recordings obtained throughout the investigation. This includes surveillance video footage and body worn camera footage.

Surveillance Video

A canvass for surveillance video cameras and footage was completed to identify potentially relevant video recordings. The canvass resulted in the collection of surveillance video footage captured at the following locations:

- Lake Anna YMCA, 500 West Hopocan Avenue, Barberton, Ohio.
 - The Lake Anna YMCA had three separate cameras capture video recordings related to this incident.
- Sitting Pretty Hair & Nail Boutique, 208 2nd Street Northwest, Barberton, Ohio.
 - The Sitting Pretty Hair & Nail Boutique had two separate video cameras capture video relevant to this investigation.

Lake Anna YMCA, 500 West Hopocan Avenue

A review of these recordings noted the following:

The Lake Anna YMCA had three separate cameras which captured Zoran as he was on their property.

The first recording, titled: *North Lot_20221226_085531*, captured Zoran as he walked towards the facility from the north to the south.



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Figure 7, YMCA North Lot Still 1

In the above image Zoran can be seen as he approached Margaret Patterson for the first time. Patterson was walking southbound along Newell Street approaching West Hopocan Avenue. Zoran was walking westbound along West Hopocan Avenue.

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The second recording titled: *Front Lot 3_20221226_085721*, captured Zoran as he walked towards and past the main entrance of the Lake Anna YMCA.



Figure 8, YMCA Front Lot Still 1

Zoran is captured on this camera recording as he continued to follow Patterson, who was now accompanied by Morgan Morrisey.



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The third recording titled: *24 7 Door 1_20221226_090548*, showed the interaction between Zoran and the Barberton Police to the rear of the Lake Anna YMCA property.



Figure 9, YMCA 24 7 Door – Still 1

This camera faced the rear of the Lake Anna YMCA and partially captured the incident between Zoran and police. This camera's view of the interaction between the subjects was significantly obstructed by a large pine tree. Note that this camera was also the furthest from the subjects at the time of the incident and this camera recording, like the other Lake Anna YMCA surveillance videos, was created with a variable frame rate and lower image quality than the other known recordings of the incident. Witness Evan Kuhn can be seen in the foreground, while Zoran, Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] are present in the background.

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Sitting Pretty Hair & Nail Boutique, 208 2nd Street Northwest

Located on the southwest corner of the intersection of 2nd Street Northwest and West Lake Avenue in Barberton, Ohio.



Figure 10, CH02-2022-12-26-10-01-18_10-21-21 - Image 9

Zoran, with the object (knife) still visible in his right hand, abruptly charged at Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] attempted to retreat and quickly took multiple steps backwards away from Zoran.



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Figure 10 cropped, CH02-2022-12-26-10-01-18_10-21-21 - Image 9 Cropped

A cropped image of the above still frame included to provide a closer view of Zoran as he charged Officer [REDACTED]



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Figure 11, CH02-2022-12-26-10-01-18_10-21-21 - Image 11

After Officer ██████ took cover behind the pick-up truck, Zoran began to approach Officer ██████



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Figure 11 cropped, CH02-2022-12-26-10-01-18_10-21-21 - Image 11 Cropped

A cropped still taken from “CH02-2022-12-26-10-01-18_10-21-21 - Image 11 ” to show a close up of Zoran as he began to quickly approach Officer [REDACTED] with the object, identified as a folding knife, still in his hand.



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The following table lists the timestamp present on the video at various points of significant activity. Note that the timestamp on the video, as previously noted, is not accurate to the actual time these events occurred.

| Timestamp: | Event: |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:07:59 | Zoran first entered the field of view of the camera on the side of Sitting Pretty Hair & Nail Beauty Boutique, 208 2 nd Street Northwest |
| 10:08:39 | Officer [REDACTED] exited his cruiser and began to approach Zoran. |
| 10:09:02 | Officer [REDACTED] arrived on scene. |
| 10:09:44 | Zoran charged at Officer [REDACTED] with an object in his hand. |
| 10:10:03 | Officer [REDACTED] took cover behind the pick-up truck and Zoran again began to appear to charge towards Officer [REDACTED]. Zoran also began to fall to the ground at this same timestamp. |
| 10:10:40 | Officer [REDACTED] observed making a pronounced step and sweeping motion with this leg near Zoran's midline as he lay on the ground. |
| 10:10:50 | Officer [REDACTED] mounted Zoran. Officer [REDACTED] made a sweeping and kicking motion near Zoran's feet. |
| 10:11:15 | A third Barberton police officer arrived on scene. |
| 10:19:27 | Paramedics observed moving Zoran from the scene to a waiting ambulance. |

Approximately 1 minute and 21 seconds transpired from the time Officer [REDACTED] exited his cruiser to the time Zoran was observed falling to the ground.

Approximately 19 seconds transpired from the time Zoran first charged towards Officer [REDACTED] and when Zoran was shot.

Approximately 9 minutes and 24 seconds transpired from the time Zoran fell to the ground after having been shot and when he was removed from the scene. Various first responders were seen throughout that time taking actions that appeared consistent with attempted life saving measures.

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Police Worn Body Camera Video

Both Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED] wore and activated their body -worn cameras which captured video footage relevant to this investigation.

Officer [REDACTED] Video Review

A review of Officer [REDACTED]'s body camera recording is included in the review of the video productions created by the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC).

Officer [REDACTED] Video Review

A review of Officer [REDACTED]'s body camera recording is included in the review of the video productions created by the OOCIC.

Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission

The OOCIC created video productions from the surveillance camera of Sitting Pretty Hair & Nail Boutique and the body-cameras of Officer [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED]

Below is a collection of select video frames from the above described productions provided with additional relevant information. In certain images obvious red lines, arrows, and ovals over the frames have been added to provide additional detail and point out specific items within the images.



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Figure 12, Frame 04880 of Sitting Pretty Hair & Nail Beauty Boutique outdoor surveillance camera.

The above image is taken from footage captured by a surveillance camera placed on the northeast corner of Sitting Pretty Hair & Nail Beauty Boutique. This image depicts Officer [REDACTED] as he arrived in the parking lot, exited his patrol vehicle, and began to approach Zachary Zoran (Zoran). Officer [REDACTED] drove into the lot after exiting the driveway of the Lake Anna YMCA across the street. Just prior to Officer [REDACTED]'s arrival, Zoran ran through the snow-covered parking lot from the bottom of the image (east) to the upper left side of the image (west). Zoran appeared to attempt to hide from Officer [REDACTED] behind the hood of the white pick-up truck momentarily. Officer [REDACTED] exited his patrol vehicle and Zoran began to walk southbound toward the alleyway.



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Figure 13, Frame 00118 of Officer ██████'s body camera.

The above image was taken from Officer ██████'s body-worn camera video recording production. In this image, captured moments after Officer ██████ exited his vehicle, Zoran can be seen with a knife in his right hand. Zoran then placed a bag on the ground, walked backwards away from Officer ██████ and told him “no, you stop” as Officer ██████ gave additional commands to Zoran to “stop.”



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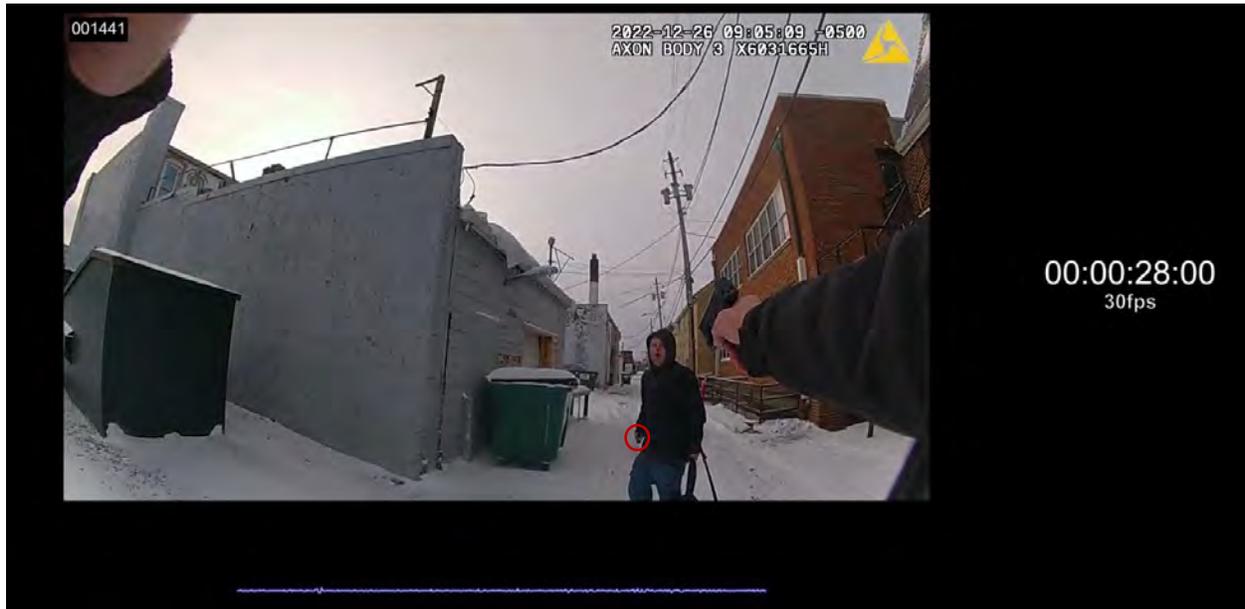


Figure 14, Frame 001441 of Officer ██████'s body camera.

The above image was taken from Officer ██████'s body-worn camera video recording production. Zoran changed course, turned to his right, and began walking in the direction from which he just came. Officer ██████ drew his firearm, directed it at Zoran, and began to walk backwards away from Zoran while radioing for Officer ██████ to “step it up.” Zoran continued to hold the knife in his right hand.



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Figure 15, Frame 002324 of Officer ██████'s body camera.

Officer ██████ who had just arrived on scene can now be seen on the left side of the image.
Officer ██████ was directing his taser at Zoran in this image.



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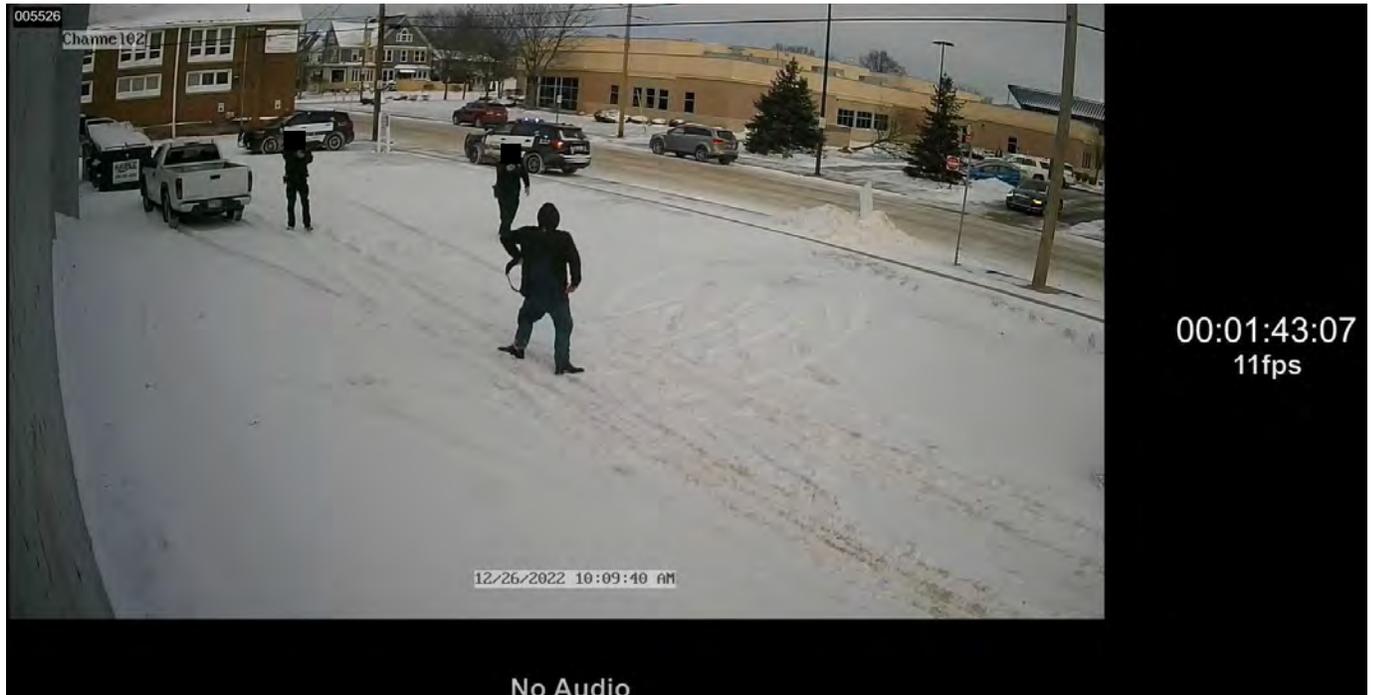


Figure 16, Frame 005526 of the Sitting Pretty Hair & Nail Boutique Exterior Side Camera.

As seen above, Zoran continued to walk backwards away from both officers while still facing them and holding a knife in his right hand.



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Figure 17, Frame 005558 of the Sitting Pretty Hair & Nail Boutique Exterior Side Camera.

As observed above, Zoran stopped walking away from the officers and abruptly charged in the direction of Officer [REDACTED]. Zoran stopped himself within mere feet of Officer [REDACTED]. Zoran paused briefly and then continued to slowly advance on both officers who walked backwards away from him.



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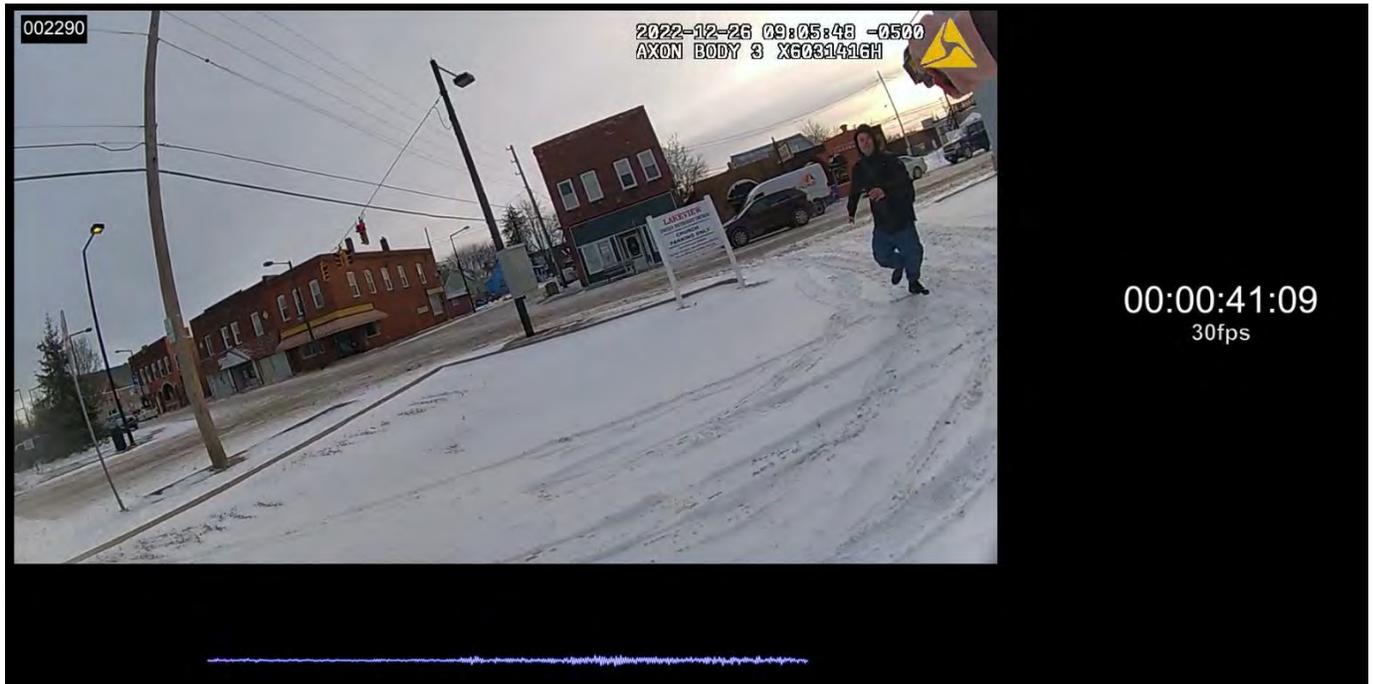


Figure 18, Frame 002290 of Officer [REDACTED] body camera.

Still image from Officer [REDACTED]' body-worn camera production showing Zoran as he began to quickly charge at Officer [REDACTED]



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Figure 19, Frame 002467 of Officer [REDACTED] body camera.

After charging at Officer [REDACTED] Zoran began to move in the direction of Officer [REDACTED] as seen above. Zoran continued to ignore orders from both officers to stop and drop the knife. Rather, Zoran continued to advance on both officers while maintaining possession of the knife and ordering the officers themselves to stop and go back to their cars. Officer [REDACTED] then backed up and began to take cover behind the hood of the pick-up truck. At the same time, Officer [REDACTED] backed up in the opposite direction. Zoran then focused his attention on Officer [REDACTED]



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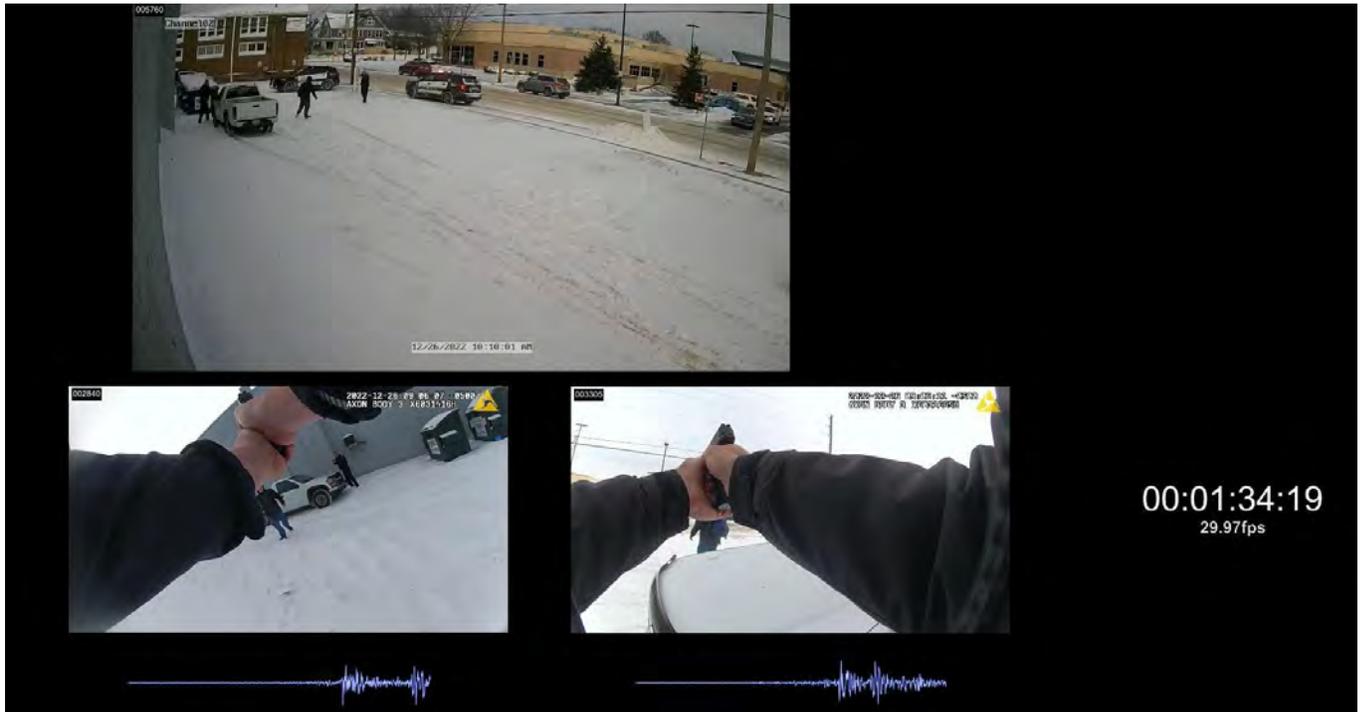


Figure 20, Frame 005760 of the Sitting Pretty Hair and Nail Boutique surveillance camera alongside frame 007840 of Officer ██████ body camera and frame 003305 of Officer ██████'s body camera synced.

The above still image depicts all three angles of the incident at the moment Zoran was likely shot. Officer ██████'s body-worn camera is mostly obstructed at this exact moment due to the placement of his hands and arms.



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Figure 21, Frame 002840 of Officer [REDACTED] body-worn camera.

This image captured Zoran as he continued to advance on Officer [REDACTED]. Note the audio wave bar spike, indicative of Officer [REDACTED] firing his pistol.



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Figure 22, Frame 002844 of Officer ██████ body worn camera.

Note the slide on Officer ██████ pistol is now back indicating he just fired the weapon.



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Figure 23, Frame 004118 of Officer [REDACTED] body camera.

This image showed Zoran on the ground and Officer [REDACTED] standing over him. Note Zoran's knife visible in the red oval. After being shot and falling to the ground, Zoran continued to ignore commands and ultimately appeared to lose consciousness while being placed into handcuffs.

Approximately 1 minute and 21 seconds transpired from the time Officer [REDACTED] stepped out of his patrol vehicle to the time Zoran was shot. During that time Officer [REDACTED] gave Zoran over 25 total commands which included ordering Zoran to "drop the knife" or a command very similar thereto 18 times. Zoran ignored all of those commands. Likewise, Officer [REDACTED] ordered Zoran to "drop it" 10 times. Officer [REDACTED] commands were also ignored by Zoran.

After having initially walked away from the two officers, Zoran reversed course and took approximately 38 steps towards the officers prior to being shot.

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Conclusion

Based upon the tangible/physical evidence, video and audio recordings, statements from uninvolved law enforcement officers, statements from witnesses, and the totality of the investigation, it is concluded that Barberton Police Officers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were dispatched to investigate a possible attempted robbery which occurred outside the Lake Anna YMCA, 500 West Hopocan Avenue, Barberton, Ohio. Officer [REDACTED] was first to arrive and located the victim of this offense inside the foyer of the YMCA. Officer [REDACTED] quickly learned the suspect of this offense was still in the area, walking just outside the YMCA. Officer [REDACTED] returned to his car, exited the YMCA parking lot, crossed the street, and encountered the subject, Zachary Zoran, in a snow-covered gravel parking lot.

Zoran, who appeared to have been attempting to hide from Officer [REDACTED] walked out from behind a truck and away from Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] exited his patrol vehicle and ordered Zoran to “stop” and “come here.” Zoran ignored these commands and walked away from Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] approached Zoran on foot. As Officer [REDACTED] made his way closer to Zoran, Zoran turned around to face him, placed a bag he was carrying on the ground and produced a knife. Officer [REDACTED] continued to give Zoran commands to “stop” and “show me your hands.” Zoran replied to Officer [REDACTED] “no, you stop” and began walking towards him. Officer [REDACTED] then began walking backwards and used his police radio to request Officer [REDACTED] expedite his response to the scene. Zoran then walked backwards through the lot from the west to the east, away from Officer [REDACTED] while still facing him. As Zoran walked backwards he changed his grip on the knife so that the blade would face his body (a grip more conducive to stabbing rather than slicing). Officer [REDACTED] with his pistol now in hand and directed at Zoran, continued to give Zoran additional commands to “drop the knife” and variations thereof.

As Zoran walked backwards through the lot away from Officer [REDACTED] Officer [REDACTED] arrived on scene. Officer [REDACTED] arrived from the area of West Lake Avenue and 3rd Street Northwest. Officer [REDACTED] quickly exited his patrol vehicle and began to slowly walk toward Zoran himself. Officer [REDACTED] initially directed his taser at Zoran as he approached. Officer [REDACTED] also gave Zoran multiple commands to “drop it.” As the two officers approached, Zoran briefly paused near the truck and took a lowered squatting stance. While squatting, Zoran took the bookbag he had been carrying with a single hand holding a shoulder strap and placed the bookbag over his shoulders and onto his back. Zoran then continued backing away from the officers while still facing them and ignoring their commands.

Upon having walked backwards through the majority of the parking lot, Zoran stopped abruptly and charged towards Officer [REDACTED]. Officer [REDACTED] reported trying to utilize his taser to attempt to stop Zoran but found his taser unresponsive. Officer [REDACTED] reported that he would have

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shot Zoran but did not due to a concern for where his projectiles could ultimately end up noting the open space behind him that was occupied by moving cars and people in the area.

Though Zoran abruptly charged at Officer [REDACTED] Zoran stopped himself within mere feet of making physical contact. Zoran then slowly and deliberately began to walk towards the officers. The two police officers then walked backwards through the lot away from Zoran while they continued to give Zoran further commands that he ignored. As Zoran approached the officers, he began giving them commands to "go back to your car(s)."

Zoran continued to advance on the officers. While backing up, Officer [REDACTED] transitioned from holding his malfunctioning taser to his duty pistol. Once past the pick-up truck, Officer [REDACTED] began walking around the hood of the truck in an apparent attempt to create distance and cover from Zoran who focused his attention on him. As Officer [REDACTED] walked backwards around the hood of the pick-up truck Zoran changed direction and began to advance towards Officer [REDACTED] Officer [REDACTED] who was walking backwards, now near Officer [REDACTED]'s patrol vehicle and the road, then fired a single shot that struck Zoran. Zoran suffered a single penetrating/perforating ballistic gunshot wound that entered his torso, passed through his body, and exited near the right side of his spine.

Approximately 1 minute and 21 seconds transpired from the time Officer [REDACTED] stepped out of his patrol vehicle to the time Zoran was shot. During that time Officer [REDACTED] gave Zoran over 25 total commands which included ordering Zoran to "drop the knife" or a command very similar thereto 18 times. Zoran ignored all of those commands. Likewise, Officer [REDACTED] ordered Zoran to "drop it" 10 times. Officer [REDACTED] commands were also ignored by Zoran.

After having initially walked away from the two officers, Zoran took a total of approximately 38 combined walking or running steps towards the two officers prior to being shot.

After having been shot, Zoran took one or two more steps forward and fell to the ground. Zoran laid on the ground and appeared to attempt to stand up momentarily before rolling onto his stomach. Officer [REDACTED] approached, stood over Zoran in a mounted position and attempted to gain control of Zoran's right arm. Zoran remained noncompliant and refused to give Officer [REDACTED] his hand and arm so that he could be handcuffed. In the ensuing moments Zoran lost consciousness, was placed in handcuffs, given first aid, and removed from the scene via ambulance. Zoran was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died shortly after arrival.

This conclusion was based on the totality of the investigation. Throughout the investigative process, investigators continually evaluated the physical evidence, in conjunction with audio and video recordings, forensic findings, witness statements, involved officer statements and other

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information to ensure all relevant facts and circumstances surrounding this incident were obtained.

This investigation was focused on the actual shooting of Zoran and the use of force related thereto. Evidence related to other crimes and the investigation of those crimes was not done by BCI.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Nicholas Valente who can be reached via email at Nicholas.Valente@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone at 614-208-8405.