



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



2025-3711

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1363 State Route 534
NW, Braceville Township, OH 44470, Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Interview of Todd Garland
Involves: Todd Garland (W)
Activity Date: 11/14/2025
Activity Location: 1363 State Route 534 Northwest, Braceville Township,
OH 44470
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Friday, November 14, 2025, at 2118 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) and SA Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Todd Garland (Garland), relative to the officer-involved critical incident which took place on Friday, November 14, 2025. The interview took place inside of the Trumbull County Emergency Management mobile command post which was at the scene. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

Garland stated that he received a phone call at 1655 hours from his niece, Trisha Reeder (Reeder). She was reportedly hysterical on the phone while she explained that John Adams was at Doll Lumber with a gun. Garland explained that around the same time he received Reeder's call, he was dispatched to the incident in his official capacity as the Braceville Fire Chief. He made his way to the scene in his marked Braceville Fire Department command unit after logging himself in service. Once on scene, Garland said that he parked his vehicle between Adams and the road in an attempt to keep citizens on the roadway safe.

Garland noted that when he arrived Adams was sitting on the ground with a gun beside him. He recalled the following about his initial attempts to speak with Adams:

"You know, I said, You know, and I'm, I'm trying to talk to him, you know. I said, John, what the hell are you doing? You know, I said, he goes, ah, 'I can't take it'. 'That crazy bitch, you know', that girlfriend of his took all the money and 'I have nothing to live for now Todd'. And I said, You know, shut up. You know, I'm like, you know, shut up. You know? I said, dude, you got me. You got your family, you got your mom, you got, you know, I'm talking. I said, John, you got so much. I said, stop. I said, put the gun down. I said, Let's, you know, and I was

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talking to him, uh, [REDACTED] from Braceville pulled up. She got out and we were both standing there kind of side by side, probably about, I dunno, 20, 25 feet away from him". (01:20)

Garland said that he and [REDACTED] continued to speak with Adams. While doing so Adams would occasionally move his firearm towards his head which Garland described as follows:

"And, uh, you know, every once in a while he'd pick the gun up and pointed at his head and he goes, 'Is this where I shoot?" (02:06)

Garland continued to try to get Adams to put the gun down, but Adams refused to do so. Eventually a Sheriff's Deputy arrived on scene. Garland recounted the arrival of the Deputy as follows:

And, uh, you know, and John's like, you know, 'Get your hand off your gun'. You know, he come running up there posturing, you know, with his hand on his gun and stuff, you know, and John's like, 'Take your hand off your gun'. He goes, and, and, you know, and they started and he started yelling back at John, and they were yelling back and forth a little bit. (02:51)

Garland stated that he attempted to distract Adams by telling him about all of the things they had to do together, but during that time Adams told the Deputy that he had no intention of shooting him. The Deputy reportedly told Adams to put the gun down, but he did not. Garland said that occasionally Adams would move the gun away from his head and point it down, and when he would do that the Deputies would yell at Adams to stop pointing the gun at them. Garland stated that another Sheriff's Deputy arrived with a rifle and pointed it at Adams. He stated that when this occurred, he perceived the incident to have escalated.

Around the time the Deputy with the rifle arrived, Adams told Garland that he wanted to talk to him. A Deputy, whom Garland described as bald, grabbed him and moved him away from Adams behind Reeder's vehicle. Garland continued to speak with Adams from the trunk of Reeder's vehicle. Garland described Adams getting up from the ground and walking towards him as follows:

"And John was still sitting there. He goes, 'I need to talk to you, you know, I wanna talk to you'. And he got up and he started walking over towards me, and he's kind of just carrying the gun, you know? And, and I'm yelling at him, John, drop it. Please just fucking drop it. 'You

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know, they're gonna arrest me'. I said, No, they're not gonna arrest you. I said, you're going with me to the hospital? I said, You're gonna be in my ambulance, John, I said, We're gonna take you down and get you some freaking help". (04:20)

Garland continued to assure Adams that he would not be arrested, that he would go with him in the ambulance, and that he would get the help he needs. Adams reportedly continued to walk towards Garland at which time one, or more, of the law enforcement officers on scene yelled at Adams to stop approaching Garland. Garland recalled the following occurrences after Adams was ordered to cease his movements towards him:

"So, he turned around and he started walking back. And as soon as he turned around, started walking back, one of the officers ran out there and shot him right in his back with the taser, you know? And of course, I mean, you're shot in the back with a taser, you know, he's kind of doing this convulsing thing, whatever. And that's when everything just erupted. They just started sh.. I took off, kind of ran, you know, north a little bit. I ran around the car a little bit 'cause they were shooting like here, and I'm here, you know, they're shooting. And, uh, you know, so I kind of ran over this way a little bit". (05:16)

After the shooting had ceased Garland detailed his intention of rendering medical aide to Adams:

"And, uh, when they stopped shooting, he's laying on the ground over there, and two officers ran over there, you know, so I'm like thinking I'm gonna grab my EMS equipment out of my car and stuff. My ambulance was sitting, my crew and my ambulance was sitting, I don't know, 150 feet up the street, you know, waiting. And I'm like, I need to get them in here, get the EMS stuff going. I need to get over there and do this. And I'm, I'm like, trying to go over there. And that's when the, the, the big canine cop, he pushes me, 'You ain't going nowhere'. And I'm like, I'm going over there to render care. I'm the paramedic. I'm the only paramedic. I said, I need to go over there and take care. 'You ain't going nowhere. If you don't stop, you don't calm down. I'm gonna arrest you'. And I'm like, uh, that kind of pissed me off. And I'm like, Dude, I'm the fucking medic. You know? And that's why I kind of got loud and I'm like, I'm the fucking medic, dude. 'Well, your medics are here'. I said, No, those are not medics. That is an EMT basic and a fireman. I'm the paramedic. He needs IVs, fluids, you know, cardiac

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monitors, epinephrine, drugs, you know. I said, Dude, I need to get the fuck over there, you know? And he's, that's when they slammed me up against the car and put handcuffs on me..." (05:53)

SA Lamping asked Garland if he observed Adams fire his weapon during the incident. Garland recalled that Adams fired once while he was on scene. He went on to explain that when Adams fired his gun it was directed towards the grass away from the road, and that it was not directed at anyone. He also said that just before Adams fired he said that he was serious about wanting to take his own life.

SA Lamping asked Garland if he observed Adams pointing the firearm towards the law enforcement officers when he had been struck by the taser. He said:

"I did not. He as, uh, it happened so fast, and honestly, as soon as they started shooting, I turned and ran and I turned my back to it. But the last thing I saw, he was walking away and that guy tased him in the back. And I saw him kind of jolt like this type of deal, you know? And then, I mean, within a, a second there was just open fire, you know?" (08:04)

When Garland described Adams "jolt" from the taser he put both of his hands up with his elbows bent roughly 90 degrees vertical mimicking Adams' reaction. Garland also was not sure who the first person was to fire their weapon, once shots were fired.

Garland advised that he could not render aid to Adams as he was detained by the Sheriff's Deputies on scene. He said that two members of the Braceville Fire Department along with [REDACTED] rendered aid while he was detained. Garland described his attempts to have the Deputies release him from custody so that he could render aid as follows:

"And I'm screaming at these guys, let me go, you know, they got me slammed up against the car, and I'm like, Let me go. I need to go over there and do this. I said, This is my job. You know... And they just absolutely wouldn't listen, they were so cranked up on themselves. I'm, I'm, I'm rather frustrated with that..." (09:10)

Garland continued on to explain his understanding that once the scene was safe, he was to take over control as the priority had changed to life saving measures that fell under his scope of reasonability:

"I mean by, by all accounts and standards, once he hit the ground and they kicked that gun away from him, them two officers over there, the

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scene was mine. Because now it's a person that's down, that's shot. So technically I should have been in charge at that point. If, if, you know, if they really want to you, you know what I mean? They should have asked me, is there anything we can do to help you not slam me up against the car and put handcuffs on me? You know?" (09:34)

Garland went on to detail the difference in the level of care he can provide as a medic versus the level of care that an EMT-basic can provide:

"I said, For the love of God, I said, I'm the freaking medic. I said, we have to have a medic. We have to have, oh, those are medics. I said, they are not. And I, I'm yelling, I'm, I said, they're not listen to me. I said, he's an EMT basic. I said, he can put oxygen and a Band-Aid on. I said, he's First aid. Yeah. I said, I'm the dude that does all the ALS stuff, the cardiac rhythms. And, and you know what I mean? I said, I, I said, you guys are killing him. I said, I need to go over there and take care of this. I said, this is my job. He said, Let me do my job. You know, they didn't, didn't want to hear it." (10:14)

SA Lamping asked Garland if he recalled Adams ever struggling with mental health issues in the past. Garland said that he couldn't recall any past suicide attempts, had never been to Adams' residence for any mental health related calls, and could only recall the police being sent there on a few occasions due to Adams' level of intoxication. He went on to detail that Adams' recent ex-girlfriend had reportedly stolen \$112,000 from him, which Adams was upset about. He also recounted Adams' loss of his daughter to a drug overdose several years before in which several individuals filmed her death and sent the video to Adams. Garland believed that incident had an impact on Adams' mental health.

SA Lamping asked Garland about Adams' alcohol consumption. He explained that Adams was known to drink heavily, and sometimes events such as his deceased daughter's birthday would result in him drinking heavily. Garland estimated that Adams may have been slightly more intoxicated than he normally would have been during the course of the incident.

SA Lamping asked Garland if Adams ever gave any indication that he was going to put the firearm down. Garland said that though he tried to get Adams to put the gun down he wouldn't do so. He recalled that each time a law enforcement officer on scene would yell anything towards Adams it would re-escalate the situation.

The interview concluded at approximately 2137 hours.

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The interview was audio recorded. The recording was stored on Axon Justice as part of reference item D - Witness Interviews where it can be reviewed in its entirety.

References:

Reference Item D - Witness Interviews: 2025-11-14 - Interview of Todd Garland;
stored on AxonJustice.com

Attachments:

None

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