



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 Trisha Reeder
Involves: Trisha Reeder (W)
Activity Date: 11/14/2025
Activity Location: 1363 State Route 534 Northwest, Braceville Township,
OH 44471
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Friday, November 14, 2025, at 2059 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) interviewed Trisha Reeder (Reeder), 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.

Reeder explained that she was driving on State Route 534 when she observed John Adams (Adams), whom she referred to as Johnny, waving his arms. She explained that since she knew Adams she was under the impression that he wanted her to take him into town to buy cigarettes. Reeder turned her vehicle around to meet with Adams and recalled the following:

"I pulled in and I noticed he was sitting on the ground and I noticed he had a gun in his hand and I said, Johnny, what are you doing? He said, 'I want to end it all.' ' He... she took all my money, I want to end it all, I'm done'. And I said, Johnny, no, you don't want to do that." (0:46)

Reeder explained that Adams did not initially recognize her, and that she had to explain to him who she was. He eventually recognized her as Todd Garland's (Garland) niece. Adams continued to express suicidal ideations to Reeder, who in turn contacted her uncle, Garland, whom she referred to as Todd. She recalled her phone call with Garland as follows:

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"I called Todd, who's my uncle, and he's the fire chief. I said, you need to come down here to Doll Lumber. Johnny has a gun. He was trying to shoot himself". (01:17)

Reeder went on to detail Adams' actions in greater detail:

"So, as I'm talking to him, he's telling me he's serious. He's gonna do it. And he would take his gun and he would point it to the, over, into the yard and shoot. He did that a couple of times when Todd was coming. And then when Todd got here, he got outta his car and I got outta my car. We were trying to calm him down and he just said, 'No, I'm gonna end it all. I'm serious. I'm going to do it. I don't wanna go with the police. They know they're gonna arrest me'". (01:27)

Reeder said that shortly after Garland arrived, a Braceville Officer arrived on scene, and then a Sheriff's Deputy arrived as well. The law enforcement officers attempted to talk to Adams, but he kept saying that he was serious about ending his life. Reeder recalled a specific statement made by Adams when one of the Deputies had their hand on their weapon:

"The one sheriff came up, and he had his hand kind of on his gun and he said, 'you... I'll shoot myself before you can pull that gun out and shoot me'". (02:14)

Reeder recalled that she was directed to stand behind Garland's marked Fire Chief vehicle while those on scene continued their attempts to speak with Adams. She remembered that at one point Adams began to approach Garland:

"Johnny started to walk to my uncle. 'cause he was, he said, 'Todd's my best friend. I'll listen to him. I want to go to him. So, Johnny started walking to Todd and when he did that, the one sheriff was like, 'I don't like that you have a gun. Why don't you put it down? Why don't you put it down?' And Johnny turned around and said, 'No'. Started walking and they shot and they tasered him. And when after they tasered him, he turned around and I'm pretty sure he shot. He shot, I don't know how many times, but then they shot him". (02:41)

SA Lamping asked Reeder if she was aware of Adams having any mental health issues. She explained that though she was not sure if Adams was ever suicidal she did know that he had been through *"some tough times"*. (03:37). She went on to explain that some months ago Adams went through a breakup with either a girlfriend or a fiancé.

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SA Lamping asked Reeder if Adams' behavior during the incident was out of the ordinary for him. She explained that though Adams is known to consume alcoholic beverages he is usually a polite individual, so she classified the behavior she exhibited from Adams as unusual.

SA Lamping asked Reeder to provide more detail about the moments immediately after Adams had been tased. She stated:

"Because I was behind the, the fire chief's car, so I had kind of a blocked view. I just, it all happened so fast. I saw the taser be deployed. I saw him kind of turn around, I heard the shots and then I heard more shots". (04:43)

SA Lamping asked Reeder if Adams was responsive to her attempts to connect with him while on scene. She said:

"When I first got here and I was talking to him, he was talking to me like this summer, a couple at the end of September, we were all at our, my family's cottage in Canada. And I said, Johnny, we were just in Canada. And you said how much fun you had. And he said, 'Yeah, you guys made me feel like I was a part of the family'. And I said, Yeah, so we are your family. We'll help you. Like, 'cause he kept saying he didn't have anybody and I said, 'No, you have us'". (05:05)

Reeder stated that Adams did not put the firearm down at any point in time during the incident. She recalled that at times he would point the gun into the grass or have it by his side.

The interview concluded at approximately 2105 hours.

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 Trisha Reeder; stored on AxonJustice.com

Attachments:

None

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