



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



2025-3488
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe,
OH 45601 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Shawnee Certain
Activity Date: 10/26/2025
Activity Location: 404 State Route 180 in Chillicothe, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA Carrie Ryan

Narrative:

On Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 1838 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Carrie Ryan (SA Ryan) and Ross County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) Detective Heather Crosier (Det. Crosier) interviewed Shawnee Certain (Certain), relative to the officer-involved critical incident which took place on Sunday, October 26, 2025. The interview took place inside Det. Crosier's work vehicle on the road across from ANS Towing - 404 State Route 180 in Chillicothe, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

Certain discussed an altercation that she was aware of earlier that day. Certain explained she is an employee and tow truck driver for ANS Towing. When Certain arrived to ANS Towing, RCSO were already on scene and she witnessed two (2) deputy cruisers present. Certain was told there had been a physical altercation because a customer (someone whose vehicle had previously been towed) had mistakenly pulled into and parked in the neighbor's driveway located at 371 SR 180 in Chillicothe, Ohio. Certain was told the male, who has been identified as Christopher Lemaster (Lemaster), got into a physical altercation with the neighbor, who Certain described looking like "Santa Claus." "Santa Claus" has been identified as Bryan Rothe (Rothe). Certain said she heard Rothe's son and daughter had also been involved. Certain said she did not witness any of the altercation, but noticed that her boss' son, Anthony "Tony" Arthur's face was covered in blood.

While the deputies were on scene and mitigating the situation, she explained they were all looking for missing glasses which were lost during the altercation. During that time, Certain noticed a sheriff's deputy, who she described as "skinny," go around the property to the rear residence (Rothe's residence). Certain estimated approximately seven or eight (7 or 8) minutes after, she started hearing gunfire. Certain explained the first volley of gunfire sounded to be from a ".22" caliber firearm. Certain estimated the

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first volley sounded like it was approximately four (4) shots. Certain then heard loud gunfire which she presumed was from the deputy's firearm. Certain estimated hearing approximately five or six (5 or 6) shots. Certain explained she grabbed everyone and directed them behind cover because she heard gunfire potentially hitting vehicles. Certain described the incident as "terrifying." Certain noted all the gunfire came from the northwest area where Rothe resides.

Certain reported she saw a total of three (3) law-enforcement deputies on scene, including a female deputy, the skinny male deputy and a "chubby" male deputy. Certain believed the two male deputies were the ones that went to Rothe's residence before hearing the gunfire. SA Ryan asked Certain if she heard anyone speak during the gunfire. Certain explained she did not hear anything from law-enforcement; however, heard an older lady screaming and yelling. SA Ryan asked Certain if she ever saw Rothe during the incident. Certain reported she never saw him until he was carried out on a "stretcher".

Certain noted, recently there had been some property disputes with Rothe and his family and things have become tense. There had also been an issue with the dumpster. Additionally, Certain explained a couple of months ago, there had been a fire at Rothe's house, potentially caused by an oil spill and ANS Towing may have been to blame. After that point, Certain stated Rothe had become "crazy."

The interview concluded at approximately 1859 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.

References:

None

Attachments:

2025-10-26 - Interview with Shawnee Certain

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