



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



2026-0121

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1451 E. 219th St., Euclid,
OH 44117, Cuyahoga County

Investigative Activity: Involved Officer Interview
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 02/26/2026
Activity Location: Diemert and Associates Co L.P.A.
1360 Som Center Rd., Mayfield Heights, OH 44123
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher

Narrative:

On Wednesday, February 25, 2026, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher and SA Joseph Lamping interviewed Euclid Police Department (EPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney Tom Hanculak (Hanculak) from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at Hanculak's office located in Mayfield Heights, Ohio. The interview was audio and video recorded.

[REDACTED] read, understood and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Any time references made will correspond with the video recorded interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: Unknown
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt. Reed #103
Radio Channel Utilized: Primary main band and TAC channel	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: Chevy Tahoe	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating

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equipped with overhead lights, siren, and police emblems	Positions: N?A
Assignment: Southside of city	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Operational & Utilized	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 5-6	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Black jacket with department patches on each shoulder, outer carrier vest, duty bely	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Taser, pepper spray
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: Semi-auto pistol instructor, SWAT, Active shooter response course	OPOTC Certification: [REDACTED]
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: Annual department training
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: American Defense	Model: UIC Model Rifle
Caliber/Gauge: 5.56 mm	Serial: Unknown
Type: Rifle	Method of Carry: Sling
Magazine Capacity: 30	Total Rounds as Carried (including

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	chamber): 28
Extra Magazines: None	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: N/A
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Backup
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Approx 20	Number of Rounds Fired: Approx 7-10
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Personally Owned
Last Qualification Date: Prior Fall	Type of Holster, if any: N/A

Video Reviewed:

Prior to the interview, [REDACTED] watched his body camera video footage and another unknown officer's body camera footage. He estimated he watched the videos approximately 12 times.

What he observed in the videos was primarily what he recalled happening during the incident.

Narrative:

On the evening of the incident, [REDACTED] was on routine patrol on the south side of Euclid when he responded to a dispatch regarding a domestic violence situation at 1451 East 219th Street. While en route, he reviewed call notes indicating the female victim had fled the residence and reported being "beat almost half to death." He also learned that a three-year-old child remained inside the home with the involved male (Robert Riddlebarger). The seriousness of the injuries described, combined with the presence of a child still in the residence, created an immediate sense of urgency for [REDACTED]. He activated his lights and siren and proceeded to the location.

When he arrived, several officers were already on scene or arrived moments later. They encountered the adult female victim at a neighbor's residence a few doors down. She was visibly injured, crying, frantic, and bleeding. She repeatedly told officers that the suspect had "tried to kill her" and that her young daughter was still inside the home. Officers asked the female victim for permission to enter the residence to locate the child. The female nodded her approval and notified officers that the male (Riddlebarger) had access to numerous firearms inside the home.

Based on this, officers retrieved their rifles, set a perimeter around 1451 East 219th Street, and made PA announcements ordering the male (Riddlebarger) to exit the

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home. Officers observed the male through a bay window at the front of the home. [REDACTED] recalled making eye contact with the male through the window on the front door. After numerous commands to exit the residence, the male failed to comply. Given the risk to the child, officers planned a forced entry.

The front storm door handle snapped during the initial attempt, so officers moved to the south side door near the driveway. While standing at the side door, [REDACTED] recalled hearing one of the officers on scene mention something about a rifle.

Officer Wolk used a ram to breach the door, and [REDACTED] entered the house first, followed by multiple other officers in a single stack formation. [REDACTED] ascended a few stairs and entered the kitchen area with his rifle at a low ready and while announcing "police."

As [REDACTED] took several steps inside the kitchen, he saw the muzzle of a rifle appear from a hallway. While continuing to issue commands, he quickly realized the suspect was raising a rifle toward him. [REDACTED] described the moment, and stated,

I just remember going, my, my memory went, I went muzzle, to his eyes, and then back to the gun. And I, like, I, I just remember bracing myself like, as hard as possible. 'cause I thought I was getting shot and I thought I was gonna die. And, um, that's when I just started shooting at him. And then I, as I fell off the ground and then I, I, I still saw his face and he looked like, he just looked so angry and determined and I'm, I, I thought I was gonna die right there in that kitchen [28:22].

Believing he was about to be shot, [REDACTED] fired several rounds while stepping back and stumbling over a garbage can, eventually falling to a kneeling position. From the ground, he fired additional rounds until he perceived the threat was stopped. He estimated firing 7-10 rounds total. [REDACTED] was unsure if the subject had fired his gun at the time.

After the suspect fell to the ground, officers moved in, secured the rifle on the ground, and observed loose live rounds scattered in the kitchen. An officer who was also a registered nurse (Officer Cassie Mason) arrived on scene and immediately began rendering aid.

Officers continued clearing the residence and located the three-year-old child unharmed in the back bedroom.

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██████████ then exited the home, removed his ballistic vest to check for injuries, and confirmed he had not been shot.

At the time ██████████ fired, he was approximately 15 feet away from the subject and aimed at the subject's center mass. He was unsure where his rounds hit but believed they likely hit where he aimed. He described how the subject looked and stated the following,

I remember seeing his mouth was kind of open and his teeth were clenched shut. And I just remember something was weird with his, with his, uh, with his face. Like his teeth were, uh, I mean, no disrespect, his teeth just looked messed up. Um, and I just remember seeing that and I was like, this guy, is this guy gonna kill me? [33:27].

When asked if he feared for his safety, ██████████ expressed that he "genuinely thought [he] was gonna to die" [28:22]. He also feared for the safety of the other officers on scene and the juvenile who had remained inside the house.

██████████ believed he experienced auditory exclusion and did not recall hearing his own rifle. He also believed he likely experienced time distortion recalling the incident occurring over a longer period rather than the few seconds it actually occurred in.

██████████ believed his actions were consistent with his training. He did not believe he had any other options available to him other than using deadly force. He feared that if he did not shoot and engage the subject, he or other officers on scene would have been shot. He had no prior knowledge or contact with the subject involved in the shooting incident.

██████████ consented to the review of any reports he may complete in the future and any body camera footage where he may be speaking with a supervisor.

The interview concluded at approximately 1042 hours.

The interview was audio-recorded. The audio-recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

Reference Item G - Involved Officer Interview - Stored in Axon Justice

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Attachments:

1. 2026-02-25 - Criminal Investigation Notification [REDACTED]

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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).


Printed Name of Interviewee

 2/25/26 1000
Date / Time


Signature of Interviewee

 #184
BCI Agent (Printed)

 #184
BCI Agent (Signature)