



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



2026-2448

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 613 Orange Street,
Conneaut, Ohio 44030 Ashtabula County

Investigative Activity: Review of Heather Duva's Statement to ACSO
Involves: Heather Duva (W)
Activity Date: 07/24/2026
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Daniel P. Boerner #135

Narrative:

On Friday, June 26, 2026, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) received three (3) digital recordings from Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office [REDACTED] relative to the officer-involved critical incident which took place on Thursday, June 25, 2026. The recordings consisted of an on-scene interview of Brandon Butts' girlfriend, Heather Duva (Duva). Duva was reportedly in the basement during the beginning portion of the incident and was "rescued" by members of law enforcement after pepper balls had been deployed into the basement. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this individual. In addition to the recorded statement, a written statement was completed by Duva and a copy of the same was attached to this report.

Duva's interview with [REDACTED] and written statement were consistent with Duva's recorded interview with SA Boerner on Friday, June 26, 2026. See Reference Item D - Interview with family members > 2026-06-26 Interview with Heather Duva.

Additionally, Duva made the following statement in her interview with [REDACTED] (2625_0009.MP3, 09:19 mark):

I mean the, the, basically the, the basic point I think of the report is to make sure you guys are did your job right. And he, I feel like with his mental stuff that he was doing what his brain told him, and, and then you guys were doing based on what your jobs, what your brain is telling you. I think everyone did the right thing in the situation that your brain is telling them. And, and

Gonna blame. They're gonna place blame because they don't want to admit, not admit, but they don't want to take, accept that this was Brandon's fault in any way. Uh, I dunno that it was his fault, but I don't think you're not fault either.

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The interview was audio recorded. The recordings were uploaded to Axon Justic as Reference Item G - Ashtabula Co SO Recordings > 2026-06-25 ACSO Interview Heather Duva.

References:

- Reference Item D - Interview with family members > 2026-06-26 Interview with Heather Duva
- Reference Item G - Ashtabula Co SO Recordings > 2026-06-25 ACSO Interview Heather Duva

Attachments:

1. Heather_Duva_Statement

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Ashtabula County Sheriff's Department

William R. Niemi - Sheriff

Statement

Statement of:	Name Heather Diva Pyle	Date Jun 25 ²⁶	Page	Of
Address	245 HIGH STREET CONNEAUT, OH 44030			
SSN	DOB	Phone	Report Number	
[REDACTED]	5-17-1992	[REDACTED]		

I was sleep in the basement + woke up to Sheriff's saying come out. He threw the couch + pallet under the bed in front of the door + nail it shut. he said he had a gun but i didnt see one. he told me to get his mom on the phone + she wasnt answering he told me i set him up + tp the cops this whole time. i got his brother on the phone and they threw pepper bombs down so i start throwing the stuff out of the way + thats when i saw the door nailed shut. they said they were going to open the door to get away from it, so i did. they repeat them selves over + over so i scream help me open the fuckin door. they did + took me out.

Q: DID YOU SEE A FIREARM TODAY?

A: NO BUT BRANDON MADE THREATS TO SHOOT THE POLICE OR HIMSELF HE SAID HE HAD A PISTOL IN HIS HAND BUT HEATHER DID NOT SEE IT DUE TO IT BEING DARK.

Q: DID BRANDON THREATEN TO SHOOT YOU?

A: NO.

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Witness Signature: