



Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Prosecutor Summary

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**Investigative Activity:** Meeting with Prosecutor  
**Involves:** Elizabeth Ann Delano (S)  
**Date of Activity:** 02/10/2023  
**Activity Location:** Officer Involved Critical Incident – 27724 Zuck Road, Howard, OH 43028, Knox County  
**Author:** SA Eric Lehnhart, #84

### Investigative Request

On Monday, August 22, 2022, Lieutenant Craig Feeney of the Knox County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting incident. The incident reportedly occurred on August 22, 2022, in the area of 27724 Zuck Road, Howard, Ohio 43028, and resulted in the death of Elizabeth Ann Delano.

### *Preface:*

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the Monday, August 22, 2022, officer-involved shooting in Knox County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail are not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

### Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent (SA) Eric Lehnhart (Lehnhart) was assigned as the lead SIU case agent. SA Lehnhart received assistance in the investigation from SA John Tingley. BCI Special Agents Aja

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Chung and Chad Holcomb of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident by documenting, preserving and collecting possible evidence. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Jonathan Lieber. Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

### Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview(s) of the one officer who discharged weapon.
- Recorded interviews of three officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information.
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene.
- Interviews of three civilian witnesses to the incident.
- Special agent attendance to postmortem examination (autopsy) of the deceased.
- Obtained and reviewed postmortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports.
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject.
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen).
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) trace on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine ownership history).
- Review of all available dash cameras involved in the incident.
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident.
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting and collecting).
- 3D scans/model of incident area.
- Review of 911 /phone communications related to the incident.
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident.
- Review of the department's reports, photographs and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement.
- Obtained search warrants for the subject's phone and performed an analysis of the data present.
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
  - Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings and bullets
  - Firearm operability testing
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records.
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers.
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of

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- the officer(s) who discharged their weapons.
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review.
- Reviewed medical records of those injured; obtained through a court order.

### Incident Summary/Overview

On Monday, August 22, 2022, Elizabeth Ann Delano (Delano) arrived at 27724 Zuck Road, Howard, Ohio 43028, in violation of a court order. Once on property and refused entry by her two juvenile children, she began beating on the main entry door, to gain access. At 2031 hours, 16-year-old Helen Delano called Knox County 911 to report that her mother was on the property when she was not allowed and was drunk and was forcibly making entry into the residence.

At the request of the 911 call taker, Helen and her younger brother, Pierce, left the residence and made their way to the neighbor's home, where they were again moved further away to safety.

Deputies from the Knox County Sheriff's Office, along with officers from the Mount Vernon Police Department and the Danville Police Department, were dispatched to the area.

Once on scene, Knox County Sheriff's Deputy Sergeant Ramsier made contact with Delano and began attempts to gain compliance and have her step out of the residence. Delano was defiant and appeared to be under the influence of an unknown substance. While calling for her husband, Derek Delano, and for Deputy Collins, she could be heard yelling obscenities and breaking items in the home.

Delano gained access to a Steven's 20-gauge shotgun and ammunition while inside the residence. Once armed, she made her way outside, under the cloak of darkness, and began firing the shotgun towards officers, who had the residence surrounded. After discharging her shotgun several times, Delano was seen making her way from the front of the home toward the front of her vehicle, which sat in the driveway.

As Delano fired her sixth shotgun shell, Deputy Collins ordered her to drop her gun. Delano turned towards the direction of Deputy Collins and began to raise the gun towards Deputy Collins in a threatening manner. Deputy Collins fired one round from his patrol rifle striking Delano in the upper left chest.

Delano fell to the ground immediately. Deputies and officers on scene advanced towards Delano, securing her weapon, and immediately began rendering aid to her injury. Deputies continued to care for Delano until members of the Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District EMS arrived on scene and transported Delano to Knox Community Hospital, where she died of her injury.

### Decedent

Decedent Elizabeth Ann Delano was a 41-year-old female who previously resided at 27724 Zuck Road, Howard, Ohio 43028, with the estranged husband, Derek, and their two children,

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Helen (16) and Pierce (9), prior to some legal trouble, which found Delano ordered out and away from the residence. In the last several months prior to her death, Delano had been known to have lived brief stays in Columbus, Upper Arlington, Granville and Morrow County. It was unknown where she was staying in the weeks before the shooting.

Delano had limited medical history available, but through Knox Community Hospital records, is documented to have experienced [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Through interviews, agents discovered that Delano also suffered from a chemical dependence.

Up until recently, Delano's only contact with law enforcement was through traffic violations. However, beginning with September 29, 2021 and July 27, 2022, Delano found herself charged with criminal violations. The July 27, 2022, violations were eventually dismissed by the Morrow County courts due to her death.

### Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent, Elizabeth Ann Delano, was obtained from the Licking County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

### Physical Evidence

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting in order to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. Multiple agents responded and processed the scene, to include photographing and mapping the area, as well as the search for, documentation and collection of items of possible evidence. Detailed crime scene reports were completed with the below information only summarizing some of the more significant findings.

#### Scene #1

1. (Item #1) – Cardboard box containing Smith & Wesson M&P 15 (5.56), SN: [REDACTED] with EO Tech red dot sight & magnifier, one cartridge removed from chamber & 27 cartridges in seated magazine.
2. (Item #2) – Cardboard box containing Steven's Model 30 shotgun, 20-gauge, SN: 183323K.
3. (Item #3) – Envelope containing fired shot shell, WIN 20GA.
4. (Item #4) – Envelope containing cell phone; Galaxy S9+ with broken screen.
5. (Item #5) – Envelope containing live shot shell; WIN Super X.
6. (Item #6) – Envelope containing fired shot shell, WIN Super X.

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## Scene #2

1. (Item #1) – Paper bag containing bra with suspected blood.
2. (Item #2) – Paper bag containing t-shirt with various logos.
3. (Item #3) – Paper bag containing pants/trousers, blue-in-color.

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

1. (Item #1) (Scene #1) One cardboard box containing firearm (serial # [REDACTED] with sight, magnifier, magazine and cartridges (BCI #1, Scene #1). One Smith & Wesson model M&P-15, 5.56mm, NATO semi-automatic rifle, serial number [REDACTED] with one magazine, 28 unfired 223 REM cartridges, scope and magnifier.
2. (Item #2) (Scene #1) White box containing firearm (serial #183323K). One Steven's model 320, 20-gauge slide action (pump action) shotgun, serial number 183323K.
3. (Item #3) (Scene #1) One manila envelope containing fired shotgun shell (BCI #3, Scene #1). One fired 20-gauge shotgun shell.
4. (Item #6) (Scene #1) One manila envelope containing fired shotgun shell (BCI #6, Scene #1). Four fired 20-gauge shotgun shells.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene. By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

According to Forensic Scientist Andrew McClelland, both Item #1 and Item #2 were determined to be "operable." Item #2 was determined to be "source identification," when compared to Item #3 and Item #4. Source identification is defined as, "The observations provide extremely strong support for the proposition that the evidence originated from the same source and the likelihood for the proposition that the evidence arose from a different source is so remote as to be considered a practical impossibility."

## Officer Interviews

The following paragraphs are extremely abbreviated versions of each officer's account of his or her actions pertaining to this incident and/or discharging their weapon. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview.

### KCSO Deputy Sergeant Jesse Ramsier

Sergeant (Sgt.) Jesse Ramsier (Ramsier) was on station at KCSO when a dispatch call came over the radio for a disturbance on Zuck Road. This call was quickly upgraded to a "12A" burglary

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in progress. On scene, Sgt. Ramsier and Deputy Scoles discovered a Cadillac in the driveway and noticed that a female, identified as Elizabeth Delano, had already made entry to the house. Sgt. Ramsier began giving Delano orders to come out of the home, however, Delano was defiant in her response to Sgt. Ramsier's commands. As Sgt. Ramsier continued to give Delano commands to exit the residence, he heard her say, "I have you in my sights."

Sgt. Ramsier was positioned near Delano's Cadillac, when he heard Delano break out a window and point a shotgun in his direction. Sgt. Ramsier was able to retreat away from Delano's vehicle and retrieve his patrol rifle. On his return to the property, Deputy Scoles stated that he could smell a faint odor of propane. Out of an abundance of caution, Sgt. Ramsier asked all officers to back away from the home and reassemble on Zuck Road. Deputy Scoles then asked Sgt. Ramsier if it was okay to go around to the back of the residence, so he could gather additional information. Sgt. Ramsier approved this tactic; however, Delano spotted Deputy Scoles and fired twice on his position in the weeds. Sgt. Ramsier stated that Deputy Scoles rushed out of the area advising him, "She's shooting at me."

A short time after Delano's confrontation with Deputy Scoles, Sgt. Ramsier stated that he could hear Deputy Collins yell towards Delano to, "Drop the gun." Sgt. Ramsier continued that he heard one gunshot, turned on his tactical light and found Delano on the ground. Once Delano's weapon was secured, Sgt. Ramsier and Deputy Williams began to provide aid to Delano.

#### KCSO Deputy Jarod Scoles

Deputy Jarod Scoles (Scoles) was completing a security detail at the Wilhelm residence when a dispatch call came over the radio for a disturbance on Zuck Road. This call was quickly upgraded to a burglary in progress and Deputy Scoles responded immediately to the area. On scene, Deputy Scoles made contact with a Danville police officer who advised him that both juveniles, who resided in the house, were out of the residence and safe at a neighbor's home. Deputy Scoles, along with Sgt. Ramsier, and the Danville officer made their way down the road to the Delano property. Once there, they began calling Delano out of the residence. Delano appeared in a window of the home with a shotgun. As Sgt. Ramsier tried to make his way towards the Delano residence, she fired one shot. Officers continued to give Delano commands to put down her weapon and exit the home. However, she was defiant with, "No, get off my property." Deputy Collins arrived on scene and took a position of cover with Deputy Scoles near the carport. Officers continued to give Delano commands to stop her actions, but she continued to fire the shotgun in the direction of officers. While near the carport, Deputy Scoles stated that he began to smell a faint odor of propane, which caused Sgt. Ramsier to back officers away from the residence. After retrieving his patrol rifle, Deputy Scoles made an attempt to navigate his way to the back of the residence through overgrowth and high weeds. Deputy Scoles was unaware that Delano had exited the home, and he could hear her say, "I see you," followed by a gunshot. Deputy Scoles was not sure if Delano had fired at him, so he continued into the weeds looking for additional cover. He then heard Delano again say, "I hear you," with another shot fired by Delano. This time, Deputy Scoles could hear the shotgun pellets hitting the weeds near him. Again, Delano yelled out towards him, "I see you," as she fired a third time. Deputy Scoles made his way out of the back of the residence in time to hear a final shot and see Delano fall to the ground. Deputy Scoles went back to his patrol vehicle to

get his medic bag; when he returned, he witnessed Deputy Williams performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on Delano.

#### KCSO Deputy Kevin Williams

Deputy Kevin Williams (Williams) was working a security detail at the Wilhelm residence when a dispatched call came over the radio for a disturbance on Zuck Road. Deputy Williams maintained his post at the Wilhelm residence until he overheard Sgt. Ramsier advise on the radio that a female on Zuck Road had broken out a window of the house and was pointing a shotgun at officers.

On Deputy Williams' arrival, he witnessed several officers backing out into the roadway on foot with concerned looks on their faces. In order to provide cover for the officers, Deputy Williams drove his patrol vehicle near the end of the Delano's driveway to offer additional protection to those officers. Deputy Williams exited his patrol vehicle and was getting briefed on the situation by Sgt. Ramsier and Deputy Scoles, when Delano fired multiple shots inside the residence. As officers were positioned around Deputy Williams' vehicle, he could see Delano had attempted to block out the windows of the house with what he believed to be either cardboard or some type of paper. He stated that he initially believed that Delano was firing a handgun, until she appeared outside, and he could see the muzzle flash from the shotgun. Deputy Williams indicated that the muzzle flash from Delano's shotgun showed she was firing the weapon in their direction, as well as he heard something fly over the top of his patrol vehicle. Deputy Williams continued to advise that he could hear Delano speaking off towards the wooded area and then she fired additional shots in that direction. Deputy Williams recalled Deputy Collins yell to the back of the house, "Turn your light off." It wasn't until later that Deputy Williams realized that Deputy Scoles went to the back of the home to try and see activity inside the house. Deputy Williams advised, at one time he believed that Delano was closing distance between herself and the responding officers. However, he wasn't confident of that as there was no external artificial lighting in the area to aid officers. Deputy Williams observed Deputy Collins flash his light on and off. As Delano turned towards the area of the light, Deputy Williams heard a gunshot. Another officer on scene then stated, "She is down." Deputy Williams explained that they moved up towards Delano to secure her. Once officers felt that Delano was no longer a threat, Deputy Williams began rendering aid and CPR until EMS arrived to assume care of Delano.

#### KCSO Deputy Michael Collins

According to Deputy Michael Collins (Collins), a dispatched call went out over the SO42 frequency advising of a "12" or burglary. As the call location was not in his patrol area, he was not planning on responding to this particular call. However, a brief moment later, the dispatching center changed the call to a "12A" or burglary in progress. The change in the call status prompted Deputy Collins into responding from the sheriff's office.

While responding to the area, he recalled looking at his mobile data terminal (MDT) to see the name Elizabeth Delano. Deputy Collins recalled having responded to another incident about one year ago with Delano and her family. During that call for service, Deputy Collins remembered that Delano also had a firearm within reach. Deputy Collins relayed this knowledge onto the other responding officers.

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On his arrival, Deputy Collins stated that Sgt. Ramsier advised officers that Delano had broken out a window in the home and was in possession of a tactical shotgun. Delano was verbally defiant with Sgt. Ramsier's commands to drop her weapon by responding, "Fuck you." While Deputy Collins positioned himself in a safe spot behind a wood beam near Deputy Scoles, he could hear Delano yelling, "Go get Collins," and, "Go get my ex-husband, I'll take care of that now." That was when he observed Delano appear in a window, "shouldered" the weapon and pointed it toward the front door. Deputy Collins recalled hearing the first gunshot and believed that Delano might have shot herself. Seconds later, Delano fired "one or two additional shots," which he believed were fired inside the residence also. As Deputy Collins moved to a new position of cover, he heard two more gunshots. One of those shots appeared to have been fired in a western direction toward Deputy Scoles, who was positioned in the weeds behind Delano's home. That was when Deputy Collins realized that Delano was outside her residence. Delano then fired again; this time in the direction of Sgt. Ramsier and another officer, who were approximately 20 feet from her. According to Deputy Collins, the shots sounded similar to a rifle slug or double-aught (00) buck shot ammunition.

Deputy Collins then gave Delano a command to drop her weapon. Delano turned toward him, while lifting the shotgun up in a threatening position. Deputy Collins fired one shot from his patrol rifle, striking Delano and knocking her to the ground. Deputies were able to contain Delano; and while Deputy Williams and Sgt. Ramsier provided emergency aid to her, Deputy Collins stepped back and returned to the patrol vehicles near the roadway.

### Dispatch-Related Information

Outside of the documented dates and times of arrivals of those officers who responded on scene, there was no standalone dispatch audio files provided by the Knox County Sheriff's Office. However, due to the use of body-worn cameras (BWC) by deputies on scene, dispatch audio recordings were able to be evaluated. These BWC audio files correspond with the computer-generated reports provided by the Knox County Sheriff's Office.

### Video Recordings

BWC and dash-camera files were provided to the investigative team by the Knox County Sheriff's Office, Mount Vernon Police Department and the Danville Police Department. Of the BWC videos provided, those of Knox County Sheriff's Deputy Sgt. Ramsier, Deputy Scoles, Deputy Williams and Deputy Collins were of beneficial value. In all these video files, the challenges deputies experienced as it pertained to the time of day, lighting conditions, terrain, obstructions and the actions of Delano were captured by these BWC video files.

In multiple BWC video files, Delano's overall defiance to law enforcement presence and the discharging of multiple rounds of ammunition from her shotgun could be heard.

### Conclusion

On Monday, August 22, 2022, deputies from the Knox County Sheriff's Office responded to a burglary in progress call at 27724 Zuck Road, Howard, Ohio 43028, the Derek Delano residence. On arrival, deputies were met with an agitated Elizabeth Ann Delano. Delano was the estrange wife of Derek. Delano was court ordered to remain away from the residence and

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her family. Delano had forced her way into the family home and was verbally abusing her two juvenile children. After calling 911, both children were able to escape the residence and arrive safely at a predesignated meeting spot.

As deputies arrived and began engaging Delano, she became extremely defiant and started breaking items inside the residence. Eventually, Delano made her way to the gun cabinet and took possession of a Steven's Model 320, 20-gauge shotgun and ammunition. Delano would eventually fire six shotgun rounds towards responding officers.

Deputy Collins would order Delano to drop her gun after she fired her sixth round at officers. Delano responded to Deputy Collins by turning in his direction and lifting her shotgun in a threatening manner to him. Deputy Collins responded to Delano's threat by firing his patrol rifle one time, striking her once in the upper left chest.

Delano was treated on scene by deputies before being transported to the Knox Community Hospital by members of the Eastern Knox County Joint Fire District EMS, where she died from her injury.

Due to the time of day and the limited natural or artificial lighting present, there were no civilian witnesses to this incident. However, audio and video files from multiple police body-worn cameras and dash-cam systems corroborate or give support to many of the details recalled by officers on scene.

### **Contact Information**

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Eric Lehnhart. SA Lehnhart can be reached via email at [eric.lehnhart@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:eric.lehnhart@OhioAGO.gov) or by telephone at (419) 408-8042.