



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: Civilian Witness Interview
Involves: Wesley Rothe
Activity Date: 10/26/2025
Activity Location: 371 SR 180, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
Authoring Agent: SA Amanda North

Narrative:

On Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 1845 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Amanda North (SA North) interviewed Wesley Rothe (Wesley), relative to the officer-involved critical incident which took place on Sunday, October 26, 2025. The interview took place at 389 SR 180, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

Wesley indicated that when the gunshots were heard, he was in the yard between his property (located at 393 SR 180) and the tow yard property. Wesley indicated that an altercation had taken place, and deputies from the Ross County Sheriff's Office responded. While officers were taking his statement, other officers went to the residence at 371 SR 180 looking for his dad, Bryan Rothe (Bryan).

Wesley heard the gunshots and he, his sister, and the other officers went running toward the house. Wesley indicated that he saw two officers firing their weapons into the house. Wesley indicated that his mother, Tonya Rothe (Tonya) was "almost getting in the way" so he and sister went to get her away. Wesley indicated that Tonya was on the left side of the tree in the yard.

As Wesley turned to run toward the residence at 371 SR 180, he heard his dad yell something about being hit. Wesley indicated that officers were still firing when Wesley got to the fence.

Wesley stated that after the gunshots, one officer put Tonya in handcuffs.

SA North asked if Tonya was part of the altercation that had taken place with the people from the tow yard. Wesley stated that he didn't know, but that she had gone with the officers to the residence to locate Bryan. Wesley heard Tonya screaming as the gunshots were heard.

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Wesley stated that following the shooting, more officers showed up as well as an ambulance. Wesley couldn't recall anything further and stated that he was focused on keeping his mom back because she was trying to run to Bryan to check on him.

When asked what he heard his mom yelling, Wesley said Tonya was yelling "you shot him, you killed him."

SA North asked if Wesley had heard anything prior to the gunshots such as loud voices or yelling. Wesley said he heard one gunshot and then there was a delay and then rapid fire shooting. Wesley stated that he didn't think anything of the first shot because "people shoot around here all of the time."

SA North asked Wesley to describe how the first shot sounded. Wesley indicated that it was a "pop, like a rifle." Wesley said that once the ambulance arrived, everybody was brought up to the house at the front, near the road. Wesley then said, "I know they tazed him but I didn't see any of the tazing. There was taze things all over the ground."

Wesley said that he was focused on his mom, and "because I didn't know if my dad was firing back, I just wanted to get everybody away."

The interview concluded at approximately 1855 hours.

Following the interview, SA North was advised by a deputy on scene that Wesley had made a statement that his dad was at fault.

SA North re-engaged Wesley at approximately 1942 to inquire about the statement. SA North asked Wesley if he remembered stating that his dad was responsible for the incident. Wesley questioned, "which incident?" SA North clarified that the purpose of the question was to determine what Wesley had been referring to when that statement was made. Wesley stated that he did not remember saying that and did not believe that his dad had any fault in the situation.

The interview was audio recorded. The recordings are attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

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References:

None

Attachments:

1. Wesley Rothe interview
2. Wesley Rothe follow up

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