



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



2025-3447

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1642 Cherry Ln., Findlay,
Ohio 45840, Hancock County (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Findlay Fire Department (FFD) Firefighter (FF) Derek Ricker

Involves: Findlay Fire Department (FFD) (O), Derek Ricker (W)

Activity Date: 11/04/2025

Activity Location: 1001 Tiffin Avenue, Findlay, OH 45840

Authoring Agent: SA Douglas Burke #162

Narrative:

On Tuesday, November 04, 2025, at 0948 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Douglas Burke (Burke) interviewed Derek Ricker (Ricker), Firefighter (FF) of the Findlay Fire Department (FFD), relative to the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which took place on Wednesday, October 22, 2025. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual regarding their response to the incident scene.

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 audio recording. 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 or responses. It is suggested that the reader refer to the audio recording in its entirety.

SA Burke introduced himself to FF Ricker of the FFD. FF Ricker stated that he has been with the FFD for approximately five (5) years and FF Ricker is also an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic. FF Ricker had been working his normal twenty-four (24) hour shift on October 22, 2025, when the FFD had been called to assist with a possible shooting at 1642 Cherry Lane, Findlay, OH. FF Ricker stated that FFD was told to stage down the street prior to responding to the actual address, due to unknown circumstances which pertained to the shooting.

FF Ricker told SA Burke that FFD had staged approximately four (4) houses to the west of 1642 Cherry Lane and observed Findlay Police Department (FPD) Officers approach the front door of the 1642 Cherry Lane. FF Ricker said that he observed the front door to the house partially open-up and, "shots rang out." Numerous other FPD Officers arrived at 1642 Cherry Lane after the "shots rang out." Shortly thereafter, other FDP

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Officers arrived on scene the house, the house was cleared and FFD were called up to 1642 Cherry Lane.

FF Ricker said he approached the front door, and observed the patient, who was later identified as Robert Norton (Robert), lying on his back approximately six (6) to eight (8) feet inside the front door. Upon FF Ricker entering the front door, FF Ricker observed Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) in progress on Robert by an FPD Officer. FF Ricker took over CPR on Robert from the FPD Officer until Medics from HANCO EMS arrived.

SA Burke asked RR Ricker if Robert had ever been conscious or made any comments while first aid had been rendered to Robert. FF Ricker said Robert was never conscious, nor did Robert make any comments the entire time FF Ricker had been in the presence of Robert. FF Ricker had noticed two (2) gunshot wounds in the abdomen area of Robert and noted Robert's skin color was "ashy" and pale.

FF Ricker confirmed that the medical devices which had been hooked up to Robert to assist with medical treatment in accordance with what HANCO EMS Medics had told SA Burke. FF Ricker had also confirmed there had been electrical activity on the heart monitor Robert had been hooked up to.

SA Burke asked FF Ricker, since FF Ricker had been one (1) of the initial units inside of the house, did FF Ricker observe a firearm Robert may have had in his possession. FF Ricker stated an FPD Officer had placed a firearm on a chair in the area where Robert had been lying. The chair had been moved by other officers to where the firearm had been pointed in the direction of officers and medics working on Robert, so FF Ricker stated that he had turned the firearm in a direction where it was not pointed at anyone who had been rendering aid to Robert. FF Ricker explained there was a magazine in the firearm and decided to remove the magazine from the firearm. This was when FF Ricker realized the firearm was a BB Gun. SA Burke asked FF Ricker if he had gloves on moving the firearm, along with removing the magazine, and FF Ricker said he did.

FF Ricker assisted other EMS Members with getting Robert prepared to be transported to Blanchard Valley Medical Center (BVMC) by HANCO EMS.

FF Ricker had no other relevant information and the conversation concluded at 0957 hours on November 4, 2025.

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The interview was audio-recorded and is located in AXON Justice, Reference Item C-,
Sub Folder, Interview with Findlay FF Derek Ricker

References:

AXON Justice > Reference Item C-Interviews folder > Interview with Findlay FF
Derek Ricker subfolder

Attachments:

None

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