



**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: Interview with Heather Duva
Involves: Heather Duva (W)
Activity Date: 06/26/2026
Activity Location: BCI – Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Daniel P. Boerner #135

Narrative:

On Friday, June 26, 2026, at 1438 hrs, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Heather Duva (Duva), relative to the officer-involved critical incident which took place on Thursday, June 25, 2026. The interview took place over the phone and was digitally recorded. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this individual.

SA Boerner asked Duva to describe what happened and Duva stated the following:

So, I have videos. I can tell you minute by minute, pretty much what happened. Um, I was still gonna write it down for Jeremy (Jeremy Tor, attorney for the family), um, and give it to him. But so, the whole thing beginning to end, uh, when they put the crime scene tape up, it took like a little over an hour. So, we, I mean, I had just woke up and he was in the next room. Um, he left a note right there and it said, "Get ahold of him when I wake up." Cause he's, you know, he was gonna be in the garage, but he wasn't in the garage. Uh, he was down in the basement. His hot water tank had been leaking. So, he was like, like vacuuming up water. Um, then, uh, we heard Sheriff's office, Jefferson Sheriff's office, Brandon come out and he, uh, shut the door. He put, uh, the couch up next on it.

Um, and then, uh, the pallet from underneath the bed, he put, uh, in front of the door. And then, uh, after that he kept saying, call my mom. Call my mom. So, I called his mom twice and she didn't answer. So, then I looked at my phone, my messages, and his brother, Cain, had said, there's like thirty (30) sheriffs surrounding the house. Have him come out. And I said, 'He,' I said, 'He's not going to listen to me.' You know, he's fight or flight like scared right now. He's trying, you

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know, he's panicking. And, um, so he, he, I called Cain and there's a five-minute video, uh, call that I have recorded, but there's no audio to the video to that one. Anyways, it's a five-minute, like, and you can see me, I point the camera at the door so you can see what the door is like, like blocked.

And then I put the camera, you can see the window behind me that broke to put the pepper spray balls down. Um, and I just said, you know, I, they asked if he had a gun. They asked, you know, they asked me a couple questions, and I said, like, like they can hear him saying that he has a gun. Uh, but he doesn't. I said, 'I'm looking right at him. He does not have a gun.' He, you know, he, uh, he's piling stuff in front of the door. He's like, he's like trying to, I don't wanna even say get away 'cause we're in the basement and he's not getting away. You know, there was no really way out. Uh, they, I mean, he knew he was cornered, but he, his brain told him, we're getting out of here. Like, get out. So, uh, they asked if I was able to get the stuff away from the door 'cause they were putting pepper spray down there. So as soon as they put those, those pepper spray balls down there, I could not breathe. I was like, I panicked. Like, get me outta here. So I went over the door, I took the couch and the pallet and I moved it. And, uh, then I noticed that the door was nailed shut. And he didn't really do that. Like, uh, like he did that all the time. He would, if he felt a certain type of way, he would screw the door shut.

Like, that's not just like, oh, this instance thing. And he, that was a thing he did sometimes. 'cause there's no, the door is not super sturdy. It's like the, there's no, you know, the door handle's not got a lock on it. So, he did that just kind of to lock the door sometimes.

So, yeah. So, there's three doors that would be right there where they were dealing with. So one goes, one is just the side door that's outside. Right. Outside's the door. Then you walk in and you look to your left, there's a door that leads up to the kitchen. And then there's a door that goes that you go down the basement stairs all the way. Right. Then there's that two-bedroom door. It's the basement door. Okay. And that's where the one that was shut.

So, I told them that it's nailed shut. And, uh, they said, okay, well I need you to move away from the door 'cause we're gonna open it. Uh, I

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said, okay, I'm away from the door. But at this point I could barely talk because of the pepper spray. So, I was trying to tell 'em I was away from the door. Then they, they just kept repeating it. 'We're gonna open the door, we're gonna open the door.' And I screamed and I said, 'Open the fucking door.' I'm, I'm away from the door. Open the fucking door, open it. And they hit it with something really hard door opened.

And then, uh, I came up and out of the basement. And then I don't understand why they didn't go down at that point and get him when he's, you know, when I just told him he didn't have a gun and they're all at the door, I, that would've been the time I would think to grab him. So, I go upstairs and I'm putting water on my face, and the ambulance is checking me out. It was another roughly half hour before he was, before they it all. So that's over half hour that that side door was open. They could have gone down there.

So, and I'm not sure what happened. 'cause I'm on the street. I can just see what's going on outside. I don't know if he did go down there. I don't know if really what happened inside from that point, just based just what we were told really. But so we can hear him pounding on the crawl space now, he knows he is not getting outta that crawl space. He probably could not breathe and was panicking. The crawl space leads to the main wall of the house. Like it's not just a piece of wood. You know, he's not getting outta that.

So, we heard him pounding on it. It was so loud. And then they came over to us and they almost, not laughed, but they're like scoffed that Brandon had just broken a little piece, a little window that was part of the box. Uh, you know, like a big thick basement window. He broke the window, the glass in the middle. They're like, I don't know how he thinks he's gonna get out of that. And I said, 'He's trying to breathe. He's, he can't breathe. He's trying to get, he's not trying to escape,' which yeah, he is, but you know, that's not why he broke the window. He's trying to get air; he's trying to breathe. And, um, so for like a half hour after that, they're just around the house. They're standing around the house. I mean, there's so many cops. And we, all three of us were standing there telling him, and I have video of this too, that we're all telling him he's not gonna hurt anybody. He, he's scared, he's



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trying to get away. He has mental issues. Um, where he's, I mean, he's paranoid schizophrenic diagnosed, um, you know,

SA Boerner asked Duva if Butts was on any kind of prescription medication and Duva stated the following:

I know that, uh, he's been diagnosed and he's been treated before, but I'm not, I don't know if he's on anything right now medication-wise. But, um, but he definitely, uh, you know, he's para like, he's, he's, he like, I don't even know how to word it. He was paranoid when there was no, like, he's just being on the run. Just being, having a warrant for his arrest made him so like on edge that he's been running for as long as he is had that, you know, he, like, he, his brain was kind of almost mentally preparing him for this moment, for a long time. And it was finally happening and he was freaking out that we made that clear that like, he's not a threat. Just, we were trying to tell him to deescalate the situation because he's not a threat.

SA Boerner asked Duva if anyone tried to tell Butts to stop saying that he had a gun and Duva stated the following:

Anyone, if anyone tries to do that, then they are working with the cops. They're tipping them off. They're work, they're helping them, not for him on his side. Gotcha. So, I'm very minimal with that because I know everyone around him is constantly go turn yourself in, you know, uh, do this, do that for the cops. And he's always like, no, I'm not do, like, why are you not on my side? Is his, is his point of view on it. So, I tell him how I feel about it once, and then I don't really repeat myself. And, you know, he knows he's grown up. He knows what he should do and, you know. He knows what he was think and what whatever. So, I don't, I don't sit there and hound him about it. But, uh, when the cops first knocked, you know, they, they're like, just come up.

And he said, uh, just like real quick. He said, 'You know, tell him that it is just you down here.' And I said, 'Brandon, you shut the door. How am I supposed to do that?' I can't even get, you know, um, and uh, I said, 'They obviously know you're here.' I was trying to be realistic. Just, you know, you're here. They said your name, they can hear you barricading the door. I said, you know, just trying to state realistic things. Uh, now with the whole him saying he has a gun, his mental

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illness, I feel told him in this moment that he wanted them to shoot him. But I don't think that's really what he wanted. That's why I was trying to make it clear to the officers that, that he's not a threat because when he's scared he's gonna act threatening. That's just the, the, and I said, you know, his mental, he's doing what his brain is telling him to do, but that's not really what he wants. And it's hard to even like, explain that to someone when they don't know him.

Um, just he, like right before the cops showed up, he said, 'I'm tired.' He said, 'I'm so tired.' I said, 'Why don't you go to sleep?' And he said, 'Because I have all this, you know, stuff to do, do this and that.' I said, 'Well, why are you rushing? Like, what's the rush? What are you rushing for? Why has everything gotta be done now?' I said, 'You would be so much more efficient if he got sleep.' You know, and he said, 'My time is limited.' Like, he's been preparing in his head that the cops are gonna come get him and kill him. Pretty much. So, so when, you know, it's like, well, uh, like,

SA Boerner asked Duva if Butts had ever mentioned suicide by cop before and Duva stated the following:

Well, so last time he was in jail, I have video footage of that also because my front door camera was on and my boss lived upstairs in the apartment above me. That's also his box. Um, it's a property manager. He does like stuff work, work on homes for rent and stuff. Um, so the cops were trying to pull him over on the electric bike, and he dropped the bike and ran upstairs into Brian's apartment. And when he was up there, once again, he did not have a gun, but he was saying, you know, I have a gun. You know, and they, they took him and they put him in jail. Um, and then this, right, right now what's happening is he was out on bond. So, he was not even found guilty yet for this, you know, for this felony. He was just, I violated his bond or whatever.

So, I could add that. When the previous thing happened. But I mean, he did his, he did time in jail. He did like, I wanna say, forty (40) days. And then he was out on bond. And, uh, you know, they wanted him to take a dr like he showed up to court, they wanted him to take a drug test, and he said, 'This is not a drug offense. Why do I have to take a drug test? I'm not on probation, you know, uh, why do you want me to

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incriminate myself?' And I've not even been felt guilty. And this is not a drug charge. So, he didn't take the drug test and that's why he had a warrant.

SA Boerner asked Duva if there was any reasoning with Butts and Duva and if Butts was keeping her in the basement and Duva stated "He, he wasn't trying to keep me in maliciously. He was just trying to keep them out. He didn't want me, he didn't want the door open because of them, not because he didn't want me to leave." (21:07 mark)

SA Boerner asked Duva if Butts had any firearms, replica firearms, or anything that looked like a firearm in the basement and Duva stated the following:

No? Uh, so he had, um, a pipe, uh, I don't know if, like, I know absolutely nothing about like homemade firearms or whatever, but like, I don't know if he would've used, like, I don't know if he had that or not, but I've seen it before in the past. Okay. It's just a pipe. It's a pipe. There's no trigger. You know, it's just a, a pipe. But, uh, uh, someone, someone had made a statement, or someone had said something about, you know, that, uh, pipe, the, the pipe that maybe they thought that was, but when I was in the basement, I didn't see that either.

SA Boerner asked Duva what happened once she came out of the house and Duva stated the following:

He was trying to get in the crawl space. He was like not focused on that area. Like there's two rooms in the basement. There's not, there's three rooms. The main room, that's his bedroom, then the room next to that, which is where the crawl space is, and then there's like a, like a small bathroom in there. And then there's the front room, uh, which is a laundry room. So, he was in the next room over with, and I know the door, that door was open, there's no lock on that door. Um, he was in there, he wasn't really, he was trying to get away. He wasn't really trying to engage in the other cops at that point. He was trying to get away. So, uh, when the door had opened, even if he shut it, he would've had to nail it to like lock it. So, I just don't, I don't see him dropping everything he's doing to go re do, do that. I don't, I don't a hundred percent know for sure, but I don't think so. Because right after I came out, I could hear him banging on the crawlspace break in the back window, and that would've been all away from the door.

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SA Boerner asked summarized what happened prior to the shooting and Duva stated the following:

Yeah. And we, I was standing pretty close to the house. I mean, I could see everything. I didn't get like a hundred percent of like the video, but all the audio's there and like, they kept telling me to back up or to go over here, go over there. And I said, I need to see him because I need to see him come out. I need to make sure he's okay. They kept trying to get me to move and, you know, not be there, which I'm sure they can say was because they didn't want me to get hurt, bullets, whatever. But I was not, I was not moving. And the, his mom and his brother were, um, understandably upset. Absolutely. But they were, you know, yelling like, Brandon 'Come out,' just Brandon just come out and then they're yelling things like, 'He doesn't have a gun. Do not shoot my brother. Do not shoot my brother.' Like, he's, he's not gonna hurt anybody. He's not a threat. Like they were all saying things like that. I had also, you know, they were asking questions about what happened down there, and I told them I didn't, I didn't see a gun.

Um, okay. And then, so we were standing in front of the house, and it sounded to me, now you can watch it and make your own, uh, conclusion, but it sounds like you hear a single shot and then everyone kind of is quiet like, what was that? And then all of a sudden like boom. Like just, it sounds like twenty (20) or thirty (30) shots, like rapid fire all at once, really loud. And then, and then it's like his mom screamed and then you hear me say, 'Is that guns?' Because I just could not even believe that that was, that was wow. How they shot him. Like the, the situation that was happening versus like, versus what we heard the shots sound like was just completely like, unreal. And from what I understand, there was like sixty (60) shell casings that they collected and the, the video, I mean, I have the audio from right when he was shot.

So, and it just, there was no, uh, there's bullet holes in the basement door. There's bullet holes in the basement floor. So, after they shot him and he's laying on the floor, they shot him more. I mean, she's, it's like I read the report and everything. It's like he went out on the floor for seven hours and he's little like, no, there was no reason for that.

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During the interview Duva reported that Butts had multiple surveillance cameras at the residence. Duva reported that one camera was in the basement window, one camera was in the basement near the stairs, and that one camera was in the light on the garage. Duva reported that the cameras recorded and that video went to Butts' phone. Duva stated that she did not know the type of camera or application used to view the videos.

While speaking with Duva, SA Boerner requested that Duva send him a copy of any photographs, still images, and/or recording she captured during the incident. SA Boerner subsequently send a "Community Request" to Duva via Axon Justice. SA Boerner received the requested items on Thursday, July 2, 2026, and uploaded them to Axon Justice as Reference Item D – Interview with family members > Photos-Recordings from Heather Duva.

The interview concluded at approximately 1515 hrs.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording was uploaded to Axon Justice as Reference Item D – Interview with family members > 2026-06-26 Interview with Heather Duva. Please see the recording for further details.

References:

- Reference Item D – Interview with family members > 2026-06-26 Interview with Heather Duva
- Reference Item D – Interview with family members > 2026-06-26 Interview with Heather Duva > Photos-Recordings from Heather Duva

Attachments:

None

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