



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



2023-2941
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 5230 Douglas Drive,
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070

Investigative Activity: Neighborhood Canvass
Involves: Thomas Knox (S)
Activity Date: 11/7/2023
Activity Location: Multiple – Noted Below
Authoring Agent: SA Nick Valente #139

Narrative:

On November 4, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (Valente) conducted a neighborhood canvass in the area of 5230 Douglas Drive, North Olmsted, Ohio. The purpose of the canvass was to identify and interview potential witnesses to the officer-involved shooting that occurred in the backyard of 5230 Douglas Drive, North Olmsted, Ohio, on November 4, 2023. During the neighborhood canvass, SA Valente made or attempted contact with the residents at the following addresses:

5212 Douglas Drive, North Olmsted, Ohio:

0532 Hours

Rita Fritz (Fritz) gave BCI agents consent to search her property. Fritz signed a “Consent To Search” waiver. A copy of the waiver was attached to this report. Fritz stated she was awake at the time of the incident and called police reporting what she heard and observed. Fritz reported that at approximately 0200 hours, she was lying in bed when she heard gunshots coming from outside her home. Fritz stated the gunshots originally sounded like they were far away from her home. Fritz believed the sound of the gunshots came from east of her home. Fritz stated the sound of gunshots got closer and closer to her home. Eventually the gunshots sounded like they were in her backyard. Between approximately 0200 hours and 0230 hours, Fritz heard people walking outside the west side of her home by her bedroom window. Fritz then looked out the front window of her home and saw two men standing over a third man. The third man was laying down in her front yard near the sidewalk along the west side of her driveway. Fritz called 911 when she saw the men in her front yard. Fritz was unable to describe the men in her yard and could not tell if they were police officers. Fritz heard a lot of yelling but could not recall anything specific that was said. After calling 911 Fritz noticed the men in her front yard were gone. Fritz reported hearing further gunshots from afar after the three men in her yard were no longer there. Fritz did not have any video cameras on her property.

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5230 Douglas Drive, North Olmsted, Ohio:

0533 Hours

No response at the residence which was checked by Special Agent Supervisor Jon Lieber. BCI SA Matt Armstrong later spoke with the resident of this home.

5233 Berkshire Drive, North Olmsted, Ohio:

0608 Hours

Norman Marek (Marek) stated he heard the sound of gunshots but did not witness the shooting. Marek stated what he heard sounded like someone tapping on the glass windows of his home. The sound of apparent gunshots woke him from his sleep. Marek then got out of bed and looked out the windows on the north and east sides of his home. When Marek looked outside he saw police running between his yard and his neighbor to the north. Marek heard five or six shots fired in rapid succession. Marek stated he would guess the sound he heard was one person shooting. After the sound of gunfire, Marek believed he heard someone say "stay down" or something similar thereto. Marek reported seeing first responders pushing a stretcher along the side of his home to his backyard where they picked someone up who they removed from the scene. Marek could not see who was carried out of the area on a stretcher.

Marek's girlfriend Sandy Pehotsky (Pehotsky), was also home at the time of the shooting. Pehotsky stated she had just fallen asleep around 0200 hours, when she was awoken to what sounded like gunshots. Pehotsky believed she heard five or six gunshots. Pehotsky then began to hear people outside and see flashlights in the neighbor's backyard where people were gathering. Pehotsky could not make out what was being said outside or who was speaking with the exception of someone yelling "Hey, what's going on?" Another unknown voice responded to the question, "Get back in your house!" Pehotsky also saw someone being taken out from the side yard on a stretcher. Pehotsky reported seeing someone rip down the neighbor's fence in the backyard just prior to the person being taken out to the ambulance.

5205 Berkshire Drive:

0623 Hours

Agents did not receive a response at the door and a card was left requesting they call SA Valente.

SA Valente later encountered the homeowner, Dennis Nelson (Nelson). Nelson stated he heard at least three or four gunshots fired in quick succession of each other. Upon hearing the gunshots, Nelson went outside and saw the fence along the back of his neighbor's yard to the west was

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knocked down and police were pulling a man out through the yard toward the front of the home and street.

2850 Alden Drive, North Olmsted:

0630 Hours

Agents did not receive a response at the door. Blood was observed on the doorbell and glass entranceway door. SA Valente later located the homeowner, Brenda Carnahan (Carnahan), walking towards her home. SA Valente approached and spoke with Carnahan. Carnahan stated she heard three or four loud "boom, boom, boom" sounds coming from outside her home. Carnahan originally looked out the back of her home and did not see anything peculiar. Carnahan went to the front door of her home about 15 seconds later and saw a sharp light coming from the east. Shortly after that police knocked on her door and yelled at her that she had to leave her home. Carnahan then did leave her home in her car. Carnahan allowed SA Valente to look at the Ring video doorbell application on her phone. SA Valente noted the application logged a record of motion alerts and missed doorbell rings. The application would allow the user to see a live feed of the doorbell camera but access to any potential video recordings could not be accessed as her account was not active. Carnahan allowed SA Valente to take two photographs of her phone showing details of her Ring account and the log of activity earlier that morning. Those recordings were attached to this report.

2848 Alden Drive, North Olmsted:

0635 Hours

Homeowners Constance Sheehan and William Sheehan reported at 0147 hours, they received a motion alarm from a Ring camera placed on a shed in the back of their property near the house to the east. After hearing the motion alarm go off Constance Sheehan heard "pop, pop, pop, pop." Constance Sheehan believed she heard 6 "pops" and William Sheehan believed he heard three "pops." Constance Sheehan then got up and looked out the back of her home and could see there was a fire at the back of her neighbor's home. Constance Sheehan then went to the front of her home and observed police were present outside. William Sheehan stated he is an NRA instructor and believed the sound was consistent with a 9mm. William Sheehan showed agents video on his phone that was captured by his Ring cameras on the front and back of his home. SA Valente sent William Sheehan a request for video files through the Community Request feature of the Axon Capture phone application. William Sheehan did locate and send SA Valente a collection of videos from his Ring camera recording and from a second separate DVR system that captured video around the time of the incident.

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Constance Sheehan advised SA Valente the home next door was owned by a woman named [REDACTED] (sp), but she did not live in the home. Rather the home was occupied by [REDACTED] who is the owner's step-son. [REDACTED] moved into the home around September after he was released from Grafton (prison). [REDACTED] is the grandson of [REDACTED]

William Sheehan told agents that he called the non-emergency police number and reported what he knew about the incident earlier that morning. William Sheehan advised agents that [REDACTED] "had three capias' out for him" at the time of this incident.

William and Constance Sheehan reported seeing the homeowner, [REDACTED] parked outside in the area later that morning in a brown Buick SUV that is the equivalent to a Chevrolet Trax.

Attachments:

1. 2023-11-04: Consent to Search 5212 Douglas Drive, North Olmsted, Ohio
2. 2023-11-04: Audio - Interview of Rita Fritz
3. 2023-11-04: Audio - Interview of Dennis Nelson
4. 2023-11-04: Audio -Interview of Brenda Carnahan
5. 2023-11-04: Photo of Brenda Carnahan's phone 1 of 2
6. 2023-11-04: Photo of Brenda Carnahan's phone 2 of 2

Reference Item:

1. Body-worn-camera recording of the neighborhood canvass

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CONSENT TO SEARCH



Date & Time Nov. 4, 2023 AT 0534 HOURS
Location STATE 5212 DOUGLAS, N. RAINES, OHIO

I, RITA FRITZ, having been informed of the constitutional right not to have a search made of the premises, property, or items hereinafter mentioned without a search warrant (and of my right to refuse to consent to such a search), hereby authorize

B.C.I. AND ANY OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AS NECESSARY

- to conduct a complete search of my
 premises, and all curtilage
 any vehicles
 personal property, to wit: _____
 computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device, (including data acquisition, copying, and analysis), to wit: _____

located at 5212 DOUGLAS, N. RAINES, OHIO

These above-named officers/agents are authorized by me to take from my premises, curtilage, vehicles, property, computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device (as specified above) any letters, papers, materials, data, or other property which they desire. I state that I am a person who is authorized to give consent for the search of the above mentioned property.

This written permission is being given by me to the above-named officers/agents voluntarily, of my own free will, without threats or promises of any kind, I am not under the influence of drugs or alcohol that prevent me from understand this document, and I understand this document and the English language.

Rita Fritz 11-4-2023
Signature Date/Time
RITA FRITZ
Printed Name

12:32



Event History

Actions

Cameras ▾

Devices ▾

Events ▾

Preview ▾

Today

Front Door

0:30 AM



Motion



Front Door

6:30 AM



Motion



Front Door

2:08 AM



Motion



Front Door

2:06 AM



Motion



Front Door

2:00 AM



Live View



Front Door

1:55 AM



Live View



Front Door

1:54 AM



Missed Ring



Front Door

1:25 AM

12:32



Account Settings



Brenda Carnahan



Account Information

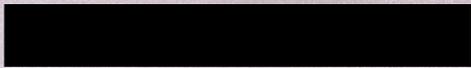


First and Last Name

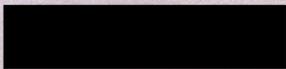
Brenda Carnahan



Email



Phone Number



Account Security



Password



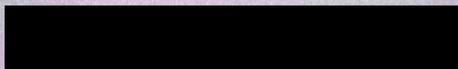
Two-Step Verification



Linked Accounts



Amazon



Sign Out