



**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: Officer Involved Interview
Involves: [REDACTED]
Activity Date: 11/21/2025
Authoring Agent: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On Friday, November 21, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Poole (SA Poole) received a typed statement from attorney, Kelsey Boulay, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The statement was given by [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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 typed statement. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the statement and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the fully typed statement be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

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statement:

Once on scene, I observed a large amount of people that appeared to be in various groups.

Some of the groups intermingled, while other group appeared to be standing off to the side. I was approached by an elderly female who appeared very upset. I quickly learned that the dispute started over a car being parked on private property instead of at the tow yard the driver was at. The dispute intensified when a male, later learned to be Bryan Rothe, drove a tractor towards the vehicle parked on his property to try pushing it into the road.

A male then approached me with obvious signs of injury- he was bleeding from his face and stated he had been punched. The elderly female also reported her son was punched. The male bleeding from his face then told me he had videoed the incident. The video shows a male (Bryan Rothe) with white hair, a white beard and wearing a black t-shirt with writing on it arguing with a male in a brown hoodie. During the argument, Mr. Rothe lunges towards the male in the hoodie and punches him. The male recording then tried to break up the fight and was also assaulted. The injured male and other parties on scene reported Mr. Rothe had returned to his house afterwards. With the video evidence coupled with the signs of injury, I had reasonable articulable suspicion that a crime had occurred and had a duty to further investigate the complaint.

I then went to where I thought Mr. Rothe lived, but it was the wrong house. As I went back to the tow yard, I spoke with [REDACTED]. He informed me Mr. Rothe, who was not identified yet, was at his residence further down the driveway. We approached the residence to gather Mr. Rothe's side of

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the story. As we approached, Mr. Rothe and the female were walking in our direction towards the fence in his front yard.

We made contact with Mr. Rothe and a female in their front yard. There were also several dogs running around the yard. A fence with a closed gate separated us. I asked Mr. Rothe what happened. Mr. Rothe told me that the other party had trespassed on his land so he was going to push their vehicle off his property with a tractor. Mr. Rothe further stated that he then got into an argument with the other party and felt he was being "flanked from two corners" so he "took one". I interpreted that he "took one" as meaning that's when he hit the victim. Mr. Rothe said he was tackled after. I asked Mr. Rothe what words were being exchanged, or if threats were made. Both he and the female stated "no". I told Mr. Rothe I had watched the video and that it showed him punching the other male. He said the male was yelling at him; I asked if he knew what he was yelling. He stated he didn't know.

I then opened the fence and began to chase after Mr. Rothe. I lost sight of him as he entered the home. The female began yelling for us to not shoot her dogs. I requested that she tries to get her dogs. As soon as I finished my request, I saw Mr. Rothe in the doorway of the house. Mr. Rothe was standing in a bladed, shooting stance with a rifle raised and pointed right at me. The rifle was in his right hand with his left hand supporting the rifle. I thought I was going to be killed. I thought [REDACTED] was going to be killed. I worried the victims and other involved parties from the assault would be killed. I knew my body armor was not rated to stop rifle rounds. I was in an open yard with no cover and no ability to retreat safely. I felt severely outgunned in terms of firepower, protection and having to react to Mr. Rothe's action. I've been taught that action is faster than reaction. I instinctively drew my sidearm and began firing to save my life, [REDACTED] fe, and the public's life. Mr. Rothe was also firing. I am not sure who fired first. Due to the immediacy of the threat, there was no chance to give orders or

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Based on the totality of circumstances of video evidence presented, victim's statements and Mr. Rothe's statement that no threats were made, probable cause was established to effect an arrest for assault. Mr. Rothe had his hand placed on the opening gate to keep it closed. I asked Mr. Rothe if I could step into the yard and he said "no". I told Mr. Rothe he was under arrest. Mr. Rothe responded "that ain't gonna happen today. You'll send me a thing." Mr. Rothe, who had been facing me, then turned towards his house and began taking steps further to his house. This escalated the situation to non-compliance and active resistance. Based on my training and experience, given the fence separating us, I decided the Taser would be the best tool to affect the arrest and stop his resistance. As I unholstered my Taser, Mr. Rothe began running toward the house, resisting arrest. I deployed two cartridges from my Taser. [REDACTED] did the same. Mr. Rothe stumbled and yelled, but neuromuscular incapacitation was not achieved. Mr. Rothe continued running toward the house.

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try reasoning with Mr. Rothe. I aimed center mass as training dictates. I fired until Mr. Rothe fell to the ground and was no longer a threat. I fired to protect myself, [REDACTED] and other law enforcement responding and to protect the public. At the time, I did not know how many rounds I fired.

Once Mr. Rothe had fallen back and collapsed, I radioed to dispatch that shots were fired. The female began walking towards the house as the dogs were running around the yard. I ordered her to get on the ground, but she did not. She continued walking around in a panic. Fearing she may try approaching the house to retrieve a firearm or interfere, I ordered "someone" to secure her in handcuffs. Deputy Weaver went and secured her towards the fence where we first spoke with Mr. Rothe. [REDACTED] and I moved to better positioning. Given I did not know many rounds I fired, I reloaded my firearm and retained the magazine. Deputy Weaver joined us. I asked [REDACTED] if he was okay and checked myself the best I could for injuries. Deputy Weaver repositioned himself to try getting a better angle to see where the gun was. He reported the gun was laying on the ground, pointed towards him near a dog that was sitting at the doorway. Dispatch asked if they should send an

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I called out several times asking if Mr. Rothe could hear us. He did not respond. I first planned to have us approach the house with a shield in the event Mr. Rothe continued fighting or tried to ambush us. Deputy Weaver repositioned himself again and reported the gun was not in Mr. Rothe's hand. I then heard a "gurgle". The gurgle, commonly referred to as a "death gurgle", suggests serious injury. I holstered my firearm and began putting on gloves to begin rendering aid. [REDACTED] and Weaver then made a tactical approach into the residence with me in the back. [REDACTED] continued giving commands for Mr. Rothe not to move. [REDACTED] picked up the rifle which was laying in the doorway, pointed towards the front door. I took possession of the rifle and placed it outside of the residence, still within eyesight of other deputies for scene preservation.

Once inside, I began looking over Mr. Rothe. I noticed blood on the floor. I requested a deputy to get an IFAK to begin life saving measures. I asked [REDACTED] for his knife to remove his shirt to find the source of the bleeding. Mr. Rothe was still taking short breaths. I cut off Mr. Rothe's shirt and began checking for gunshot wounds. I found one gunshot wound on his stomach. I applied a gauze pad to his stomach and applied pressure to control bleeding to try saving Mr. Rothe's life. Deputy Woodbridge arrived and used shears to remove Mr. Rothe's pants to continue checking for injuries. He also performed a "blood sweep" to check for location of other injuries. Deputy Woodbridge found an additional wound to Mr. Rothe's forearm. Green Twp EMS then arrived responded in to the scene once it was deemed safe for them to do so.

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The typed statement is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.

References:

N/A

Attachments:

██████████ Statement

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STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]

This is my statement regarding my involvement in a critical incident that occurred on Sunday, October 26, 2025 in Ross County when I was dispatched to a call at approximately 1506 hours. I am voluntarily providing this statement as part of the investigation being conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

My name is [REDACTED] I have been with the Ross County Sheriff's Office since [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Prior to being hired, I had an internship through Pickaway Ross Career Technology Center Public Safety class where I worked in the Chillicothe Municipal Court. Since being hired at the Ross County Sheriff's Office, I have worked in dispatch, corrections and transferred to the patrol division in [REDACTED] after earning my Ohio Peace Officer Certificate from Hocking College. In [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] I was promoted to the rank of [REDACTED] I am responsible for the [REDACTED]

In addition to being a [REDACTED] I am also a member of the Emergency Response Team, Crisis Negotiations Unit and I am a Subject Control Instructor, Impact Weapons Instructor, OC Instructor and Standardized Field Sobriety Test Instructor for the Office and the Pickaway-Ross OPOTA Academy. I also served as a Field Training Officer until my promotion in [REDACTED] I also serve as an advisory committee member for the Pickaway Ross Career Technology Center's Law & Public Safety Program for the high school.

My days off rotate each week as we are on a [REDACTED]-hour schedule. I work [REDACTED] One week, I work [REDACTED] The following week I work [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I do not wear glasses, contacts, or wear hearing aids.

On 10/26/25, I was on duty on my regularly scheduled shift. I was wearing my standard Buckeye State Sheriff's Association uniform and cover. I was carrying my agency issued sidearm, a Sig Sauer P320 in 9mm. At approximately 1506 hours, I was dispatched to a fight in progress in the 400 block of SR 180.

At the time of dispatch, I was at our Patrol Division headquarters. As I made my way to my patrol car, dispatch informed me over the radio that the parties were separated and no longer actively fighting. Approximately 4 minutes later, I arrived on scene. I was wearing my department issued body-worn camera and activated it upon arrival to the scene, as is standard procedure.

Once on scene, I observed a large amount of people that appeared to be in various groups. Some of the groups intermingled, while other group appeared to be standing off to the side. I was approached by an elderly female who appeared very upset. I quickly learned that the dispute started over a car being parked on private property instead of at the tow yard the driver was at. The dispute intensified when a male, later learned to be Bryan Rothe, drove a tractor towards the vehicle parked on his property to try pushing it into the road.

A male then approached me with obvious signs of injury- he was bleeding from his face and stated he had been punched. The elderly female also reported her son was punched. The male bleeding from his face then told me he had videoed the incident. The video shows a male (Bryan Rothe) with white hair, a white beard and wearing a black t-shirt with writing on it arguing with a male in a brown hoodie. During the argument, Mr. Rothe lunges towards the male in the hoodie and punches him. The male recording then tried to break up the fight and was also assaulted. The injured male and other parties on scene reported Mr. Rothe had returned to his house afterwards. With the video evidence coupled with the signs of injury, I had reasonable articulable suspicion that a crime had occurred and had a duty to further investigate the complaint.

I then went to where I thought Mr. Rothe lived, but it was the wrong house. As I went back to the tow yard, I spoke with [REDACTED] He informed me Mr. Rothe, who was not identified yet, was at his residence further down the driveway. We approached the residence to gather Mr. Rothe's side of

the story. As we approached, Mr. Rothe and the female were walking in our direction towards the fence in his front yard.

We made contact with Mr. Rothe and a female in their front yard. There were also several dogs running around the yard. A fence with a closed gate separated us. I asked Mr. Rothe what happened. Mr. Rothe told me that the other party had trespassed on his land so he was going to push their vehicle off his property with a tractor. Mr. Rothe further stated that he then got into an argument with the other party and felt he was being “flanked from two corners” so he “took one”. I interpreted that he “took one” as meaning that’s when he hit the victim. Mr. Rothe said he was tackled after. I asked Mr. Rothe what words were being exchanged, or if threats were made. Both he and the female stated “no”. I told Mr. Rothe I had watched the video and that it showed him punching the other male. He said the male was yelling at him; I asked if he knew what he was yelling. He stated he didn’t know.

Based on the totality of circumstances of video evidence presented, victim’s statements and Mr. Rothe’s statement that no threats were made, probable cause was established to effect an arrest for assault. Mr. Rothe had his hand placed on the opening gate to keep it closed. I asked Mr. Rothe if I could step into the yard and he said “no”. I told Mr. Rothe he was under arrest. Mr. Rothe responded “that ain’t gonna happen today. You’ll send me a thing.” Mr. Rothe, who had been facing me, then turned towards his house and began taking steps further to his house. This escalated the situation to non-compliance and active resistance. Based on my training and experience, given the fence separating us, I decided the Taser would be the best tool to affect the arrest and stop his resistance. As I unholstered my Taser, Mr. Rothe began running toward the house, resisting arrest. I deployed two cartridges from my Taser. [REDACTED] did the same. Mr. Rothe stumbled and yelled, but neuromuscular incapacitation was not achieved. Mr. Rothe continued running toward the house.

I then opened the fence and began to chase after Mr. Rothe. I lost sight of him as he entered the home. The female began yelling for us to not shoot her dogs. I requested that she tries to get her dogs. As soon as I finished my request, I saw Mr. Rothe in the doorway of the house. Mr. Rothe was standing in a bladed, shooting stance with a rifle raised and pointed right at me. The rifle was in his right hand with his left hand supporting the rifle. I thought I was going to be killed. I thought [REDACTED] was going to be killed. I worried the victims and other involved parties from the assault would be killed. I knew my body armor was not rated to stop rifle rounds. I was in an open yard with no cover and no ability to retreat safely. I felt severely outgunned in terms of firepower, protection and having to react to Mr. Rothe's action. I've been taught that action is faster than reaction. I instinctively drew my sidearm and began firing to save my life, [REDACTED] life, and the public's life. Mr. Rothe was also firing. I am not sure who fired first. Due to the immediacy of the threat, there was no chance to give orders or try reasoning with Mr. Rothe. I aimed center mass as training dictates. I fired until Mr. Rothe fell to the ground and was no longer a threat. I fired to protect myself, [REDACTED] and other law enforcement responding and to protect the public. At the time, I did not know how many rounds I fired.

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I informed them of where the gunshot wounds were located. EMS found no pulse and advised they would be starting CPR. I helped get Mr. Rothe to lay flat to help with CPR. I also continued applying pressure to the gunshot wound in the stomach as requested by EMS. I then assisted EMS with getting

Mr. Rothe onto a “mega mover” bag to help get him loaded onto the stretcher. As I was doing this, I had Deputy Weaver place the wife into the back of a patrol vehicle. This was to prevent any further issues and protect the crime scene. I then helped lift Mr. Rothe and place him onto the stretcher.

As I exited the house, Captain Adair arrived on scene. I informed him I was involved and was returning to my patrol vehicle to await further orders pending investigation. Chillicothe Police, Ohio State Highway Patrol and other Ross County Sheriff’s deputies were also arriving on scene to provide assistance.

To the best of my recollection, I have only had one prior contact with Mr. Rothe. I responded to his residence for a residential structure fire. I spoke with Mr. Rothe and his wife. Mr. Rothe had explained he was burning weeds with a flamethrower when the weeds near his home were on fire, which spread to his home.

11/21/25

[REDACTED]

DATE

[REDACTED]