



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



2023-2059

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 205 US 250, Polk, Ohio 44866

**Investigative Activity:** Receipt and Review of Records – Personnel Files and Training Records  
**Involves:** Deputy Johnie Wilcox (S), Deputy Jacob Hemenway (S), Deputy Brittney Pennywitt (S), Ashland County Sheriff's Department (O)  
**Activity Date:** August 30, 2023  
**Activity Location:** BCI - Richfield  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Nicholas Valente #139

**Narrative:**

On August 8, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (Valente) received a collection of records from the Ashland County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) related to the death of Larry Dunham (Dunham). Included in these records were copies of the personnel files and training records of Deputy Jacob Hemenway (Deputy Hemenway), Deputy Johnie Wilcox (Deputy Wilcox), and Deputy Brittney Pennywitt (Deputy Pennywitt).

SA Valente reviewed the personnel files of the three involved deputies and noted the following:

Re Deputy Hemenway:

- Deputy Hemenway began his career with the ACSO as a part-time deputy working in the jail on January 3, 2019. Deputy Hemenway began work in the enforcement division of the ACSO on February 26, 2022.
- Relevant Training:
  - Use of Deadly Force and Legal Guidelines – Completed December 21, 2022
  - Objective Reasonableness – Completed December 21, 2022
  - Critical Thinking in Use of Force Situations – December 20, 2022
  - BCI Lethal Use of Force and OIS Investigations – Completed December 20, 2022
  - Crisis Intervention – Completed December 20, 2022
  - Mental Health Response – Completed December 19, 2022
  - Effective Communication and Safe Intervention with Persons in Crisis – Completed date unknown
- Weapons:
  - Department Issued Pistol Qualification – Last Qualified August 30, 2022
- Discipline:
  - No relevant discipline records were contained in the file.
- Academy:

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- Deputy Hemenway completed the Sandusky Police Academy on April 19, 2019.
- O.P.O.T.A. Certification:
  - Deputy Hemenway completed the Sandusky Career Center Police Academy as part of class BAS18-075 and was certified in May 16, 2019. Deputy Hemenway received certificate number 190548. Deputy Hemenway was a duly authorized Ohio Peace Officer at the time of this incident.

Re Deputy Wilcox:

- Deputy Wilcox began his career with the ACSO as a deputy working in the jail on September 16, 2019. Deputy Wilcox began work in the ACSO enforcement division on or about April 21, 2022.
- Relevant Training
  - Mental Health Response – Completed November 16, 2022
  - Use of Deadly Force and Legal Guidelines – Completed October 12, 2022
  - Crisis Intervention Team Training – Completed October 7, 2022
- Weapons (Utilized)
  - Department Issued Pistol Qualification – Last Qualified August 31, 2022
  - Taser X-26P CEW V20.2 User Certification Course – Completed November 17, 2018
- Discipline
  - Deputy Wilcox had no discipline in his personnel file relevant to this investigation.
- Academy
  - EHOVE Adult Career Center Police Academy Class BAS17-030 – Completed September 8, 2017
- O.P.O.T.A. Certification
  - Deputy Wilcox graduated from the EHOVE Police Academy as part of Class BAS17-030 on July 26, 2018, and received certification number 172162. Deputy Wilcox was originally hired by the Milan Police Department upon graduating from the police academy. Deputy Wilcox began working as a sworn deputy of the ACSO on April 28, 2021. Deputy Wilcox was a duly authorized Ohio Peace Officer at the time of this incident.

Re Deputy Pennywitt

- Background

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- Deputy Pennywitt began her career with the ACSO on December 18, 2021, as a Deputy Corrections Officer. On October 8, 2022, Deputy Pennywitt transferred to the enforcement division within the ACSO.
- Relevant Training
  - Mental Health Response – Completed November 14, 2022
  - BCI Lethal Use of Force and OIS Investigations – Completed March 1, 2022
  - Crisis Intervention – Completed March 8, 2022
  - Crisis Intervention and Mental Illness – Completed March 9-13, 2020.
- Weapons (Utilized)
  - Taser 7 Conducted Energy Weapon User Transition Course Applicant Certification – Completed January 13, 2021
- Discipline
  - Deputy Pennywitt had no relevant discipline in her employee file.
- Academy
  - North Central State College, Academy Class BAS18-060 190586 – Completed May 30, 2019
- O.P.O.T.A. Certification
  - Certified on May 30, 2019 and appointed by the Richland County Sheriff's Office. Previously worked as a Special Deputy for the Richland County Sheriff's Office (July 12, 2018 through May 17, 2019) and the Mansfield Police Department as a full-time officer (May 20, 2019 through October 28, 2021) Began work as a full time Sheriff's deputy with the ACSO on December 18, 2021. Deputy Pennywitt was a duly authorized Ohio Peace Officer at the time of this incident.

Reference Item: D - Personnel Files and Training Records of Deputies Wilcox, Hemenway, and Pennywitt