



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



2024-3954

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 3487 Belmont Avenue,
Youngstown, Ohio, 44505

Investigative Activity: Initial Scene Processing
Involves: Liberty Township Police Department
Activity Date: 12/16/2024
Activity Location: Harbor Freight Tools, 3487 Belmont Ave, Youngstown,
Ohio 44505
Authoring Agent: S/A Chad Doran #177

Narrative:

On 12/16/2024 at 1506 hrs., BCI CSU Special Agents Larry Hootman and Chad Doran were contacted by Special Agent Supervisor Edward Lulla regarding a request for assistance from the Liberty Township Police Department (LTPD). BCI Crime Scene Unit and Special Investigations Unit were requested to investigate an officer-involved critical incident which occurred in the parking lot of Harbor Freight Tools, 3487 Belmont Avenue, in Liberty Township, Mahoning County.

S/A Doran arrived on scene and made contact with LTPD Captain Ray Buhala. Cpt. Buhala reported that on today's date, LTPD received a notification from their "FLOCK" camera system that a vehicle bearing a stolen license plate had entered their jurisdiction. LTPD patrol officers located the vehicle, a white Jeep Grand Cherokee bearing Ohio registration KMQ4492, in the parking lot of Harbor Freight Tools. Marked LTPD patrol vehicles, as well as two unmarked LTPD vehicles, attempted to block the subject vehicle into a parking stall. The driver of the Jeep Grand Cherokee, subject Jason Cain, reportedly backed the vehicle into the front of Cpt. Buhala's unmarked Chevrolet Suburban, then accelerated forward into the front of a marked LTPD patrol vehicle. At some point during this incident, one LTPD officer discharged his service weapon into the subject vehicle, striking the subject. The subject vehicle ultimately struck the front exterior wall of Harbor Freight Tools and came to rest. The driver was removed from the vehicle and transported to the hospital for medical treatment. A female passenger in the vehicle was not injured. Cpt. Buhala advised none of the vehicles involved had been moved since the incident occurred.

S/A Doran photographed the scene as it was found. LTPD personnel placed evidence markers on cartridge casings found at the scene prior to BCI arrival. S/A/S Lulla and S/A Hootman arrived a short time later.

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Fig. 1: A view of the store front, subject vehicle, and involved LTPD vehicles. View is facing Southeast.

Items of evidence within the scene were located and marked with evidence placards. S/A Doran deployed the Leica BLK360 3D scanner and documented the scene with evidence placards in place.

Three fired WIN 9mm Luger cartridge casings (evidence items 1-3) were found on the ground on the South side of the scene, between marked LTPD cruiser 9 and an unmarked LTPD Dodge Ram pickup. Additional photographs were taken with scale. The cartridge casings were collected into paper envelopes and sealed.

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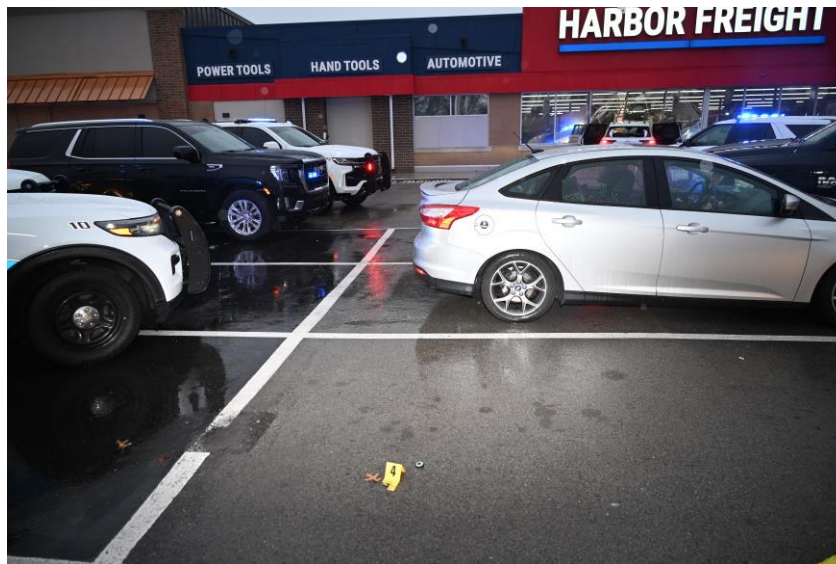
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Fig 2: Three fired cartridge casings located on the South side of scene. Camera view is facing Northeast.

On the West side of the scene, near a silver Ford Focus sedan bearing Ohio registration JYP6766, one fired Speer 9mm Luger cartridge casing was located. The cartridge casing was photographed with scale before being collected into a paper envelope and sealed.



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Fig. 3: One fired cartridge casing located on the West side of the scene. Camera view is facing East.

There was visible damage to the front of the unmarked LTPD Chevrolet Suburban which was reportedly parked behind the subject vehicle. There was vehicle debris located under the Suburban, which was later collected and sealed into a paper bag as evidence item 7. There was also visible damage to the front of marked LTPD cruiser 9, which was reportedly parked in front of the subject vehicle. Vehicle debris was observed on the ground in front of cruiser 9.



Fig. 4: Damage to the front of the unmarked LTPD Chevrolet Suburban.

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Fig. 5: Vehicle debris located under the LTPD Chevrolet Suburban (evidence item 7).



Fig. 6: Damage to the front of the marked LTPD cruiser 9.

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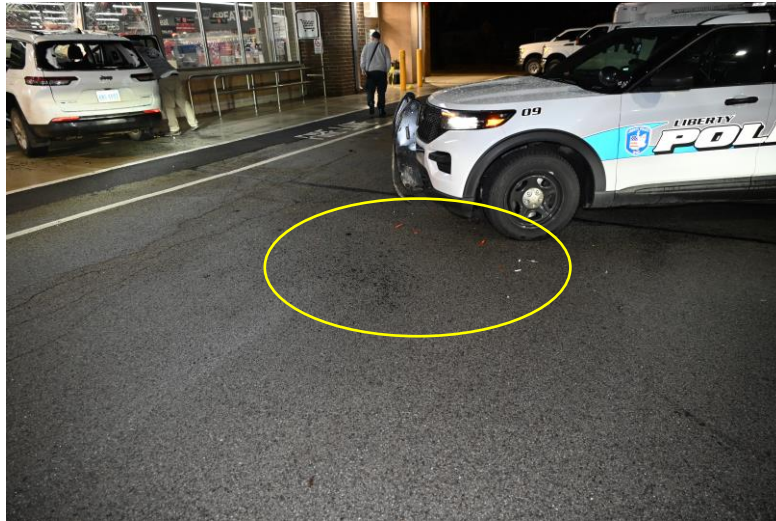


Fig. 7: Vehicle debris on the ground. View is facing Southeast.

The subject vehicle was photographed as it was found. A fired projectile jacket (item 5) and a black ballcap (item 6) were found on the ground on the left side of the vehicle. A ballistic impact was observed on the rear windshield trim (BI 1.0), and the rear windshield glass had fallen from the frame. S/A Hootman placed a trajectory rod in BI 1.0, and additional BLK360 scans were completed.



Fig. 8: A fired projectile jacket and black ballcap located near the rear left tire of the subject vehicle. View is facing Southeast.

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Fig. 9: View of the subject vehicle, facing East. BI 1.0 is circled in red.



Fig. 10: A closer view of BI 1.0 with scale.

Several reddish stains and additional ballistic impacts were observed in the passenger cabin of the vehicle. The subject vehicle was towed from the scene to LTPD for further investigation. An evidence receipt was completed and signed by S/A Doran and SIU S/A Matt Armstrong. S/A Armstrong took custody of all evidence for transport to BCI Richfield for storage.

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The scan data was prepared for viewing using the Leica Cyclone Register360 software. An overhead crime scene diagram was prepared using the Leica Map360 software. The scan data and diagram were uploaded to the shared directory in the "BCI Scanner" folder. The photographs, evidence receipt, and diagram were uploaded to Matrix.

References: None

Attachments: None

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