



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



2025-3298

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4134 Rush Blvd.,
Youngstown, OH 44512, Mahoning County

Investigative Activity: Involved Officer Interview
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 10/21/2025
Activity Location: Youngstown City Hall – 26 S Phelps St, Youngstown, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA Darien Spann #158

Narrative:

On Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 0959 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Darien Spann (SA Spann) and SA Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) interviewed Howland Police Department (HPD) [REDACTED], who was accompanied by his attorney, Daniel Leffler, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at Youngstown City Hall. The interview was audio and video-recorded and uploaded to Axon Justice.

[REDACTED] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

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

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: None
Radio Call Sign: None	Immediate Supervisor: Brian Brooks
Radio Channel Utilized: non-recorded channel	Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present
Cruiser Description: None	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: N/A

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Assignment: Training Day	Normal Shift: Did not ask. – The day of OICI was a training day.
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Not Present
Emergency Lights: Not Present	Siren: Not Present
Shift Day of Incident: Training Day	Duty Status: [REDACTED]
Days Off: Unknown	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: No
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Well Rested	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Vest with police patches	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: None
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Not Present
Other Recording Devices: No	Partner: No
Injuries: Cuts and bruising to the hands, arms and leg	Equipment Damage: No
Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT Training	OPOTC Certification: [REDACTED] at Kent State University
Military Experience/Training: No	Use-of-Force Training: 01/01/2016, 01/26/2022, 11/26/2023
Prior Shooting Incidents: No	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: No
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? No	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: Unknown

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Glock	Model: 26
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Right hip holster, with one in the chamber.
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 18
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 34
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 4	Number of Rounds Fired: 14
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Unknown at time of interview	Type of Holster, if any: level 1 retention

Narrative:

[REDACTED] stated that he first learned of an officer being shot while he was in training. [REDACTED], as well as the rest of the Mahoning Valley Crisis Response Team, responded to the scene. As [REDACTED] and his team arrived, they started to formulate a plan and narrow down what house was involved. When [REDACTED] arrived on scene he made contact with the original caller who requested YPD to respond to the residence. While speaking with the original caller, she provided a description of the male subject. "Um, she did say that she thought he was wearing jeans, and then she said he was wearing like a gray hoodie, but it was like cinched over his face, so you couldn't tell. Um, she said she noticed him because, and in her exact words were he was walking but wasn't moving." (05:56 Minute Marker)

Once officers were able to narrow down the house to 4134 Rush Blvd., [REDACTED] stated he received intel that the subject was inside a shed located at the rear of the property where the initial shooting occurred. At this point, they decided to drive an armored vehicle down the driveway of the residence to obtain a better view of the shed but could not get a good visual of the building. A plan was created in which they would first check the residence and then the shed, after the residence was clear.

After they entered the residence, [REDACTED] assisted with clearing the second floor. While clearing the second floor he discovered an attic access inside of a bedroom

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closet. [REDACTED] called for a drone operator to use a drone to gain visual access to the attic space, but the drone was unable to fly in the attic.

After the drone failure [REDACTED] decided to use a handheld mirror to visually inspect the attic space. [REDACTED] stated he was able to clear approximately ninety percent of the attic using the mirror. The ten percent he could not see were obstructions he described as piles of insulation. These piles of insulation were obstructing his view enough that he wanted to climb into the attic and physically check them. [REDACTED] stated. "I can't look this guy's family in the face and say that I checked this and I didn't check it." (17:32 Minute Marker)

As [REDACTED] was climbing in the attic he was repeating, "Police announce yourself if you're up in the attic", to elicit some kind of reaction from someone in the attic. After hearing no reaction, [REDACTED] climbed completely into the attic, where he moved the closest pile of insulation and found nothing of importance. He then walked to a second pile of insulation, and pulled away a top layer of insulation, leaving another layer to be inspected. He then pulled the second layer of insulation, but it felt as though it was stapled down. He pulled again, and the second time he felt the pile pull back. After feeling the resistance, [REDACTED] began taking steps back and saw Arthur Mitchell (Mitchell) throw the rest of the insulation off himself. At this point, [REDACTED] was standing at arm's reach of Mitchell's left shoulder. [REDACTED] continued:

"So just, just as that installation comes across and over him, I saw him and I don't know if he was expecting me to be right to his right, but I saw him look over And then again, my pistol light was on and I, I saw him look over and then kind of look up. He had a pistol. I remember specifically it was oriented like right, essentially right this way. Just, as he looked up his pistol followed, I saw a flash, And I know this is physically impossible and I probably sound silly saying this, but I saw the flash and it felt like it was like five seconds later that I heard the pop. And I remember my initial reaction. Like I was mad 'cause I was like, this fucking guy just tried shooting me." (24:20 Minute Marker)

After the initial gun fire from Mitchell, [REDACTED] began retreating backwards as he returned fire approximately 4-6 rounds back at Mitchell. [REDACTED] stated he fell on his back as he was retreating while attempting to get back to the attic access. At this point, [REDACTED] maintained his focus on the area where he last saw Mitchell. [REDACTED] continued to see movement within the insulation, followed by a muffled popping sound. [REDACTED] stated:

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"I saw insulation kind of like swing up and over. Um, and I saw him rolling and I heard like a muffled pop. Um, when I heard that, I was like, fuck, he's actively, he's still trying to shoot me." (27:26 Minute Marker)

██████████ stated:

"I, um, at that point when I heard that muffle pop, I'm probably in this area. Um, I come over and he's again like, looks like he's trying to throw the insulate, like get the insulation off and kind of roll out of it. Um, I stop like four feet from there. Um, and I remember like, I, like, uh, I knew I couldn't get here and not give him a shot, I guess is the best way to put it, so I, I braced myself. I waited till he like, kind of rolled out and just as he like rolled out, I, I fired. I don't, I couldn't even tell you again. Um, and then I, once I, once I I guess felt safe, if that makes sense, once I felt that it was safe for me to do so, and like enough time, I literally like came over here. I remember Daley, I like kind of halfway threw myself down. I remember daily pulling me down. Um, and then I like self-extracted out to the, out to the house, uh, or out to the van." (27:41 Minute Marker)

When asked if there was anything he could have done differently to not use lethal force, ██████████ stated:

"No. No, there was nothing. Uh, again, it was all open. There was, there was physically there was nothing. I, and, and, and again, this is just me beating myself up. I, I don't even, equipment wise, I don't think anything would've. I think the only way to effectively, and that was my thing with this whole thing, and I kept telling on scene. I kept telling Lou and Daley, I cannot look at this dude's family and say I a hundred percent clear that attic. I can't, I physically cannot. Like, there's no way without me going up there and actually physically clearing that attic." (37:42 Minute Marker)



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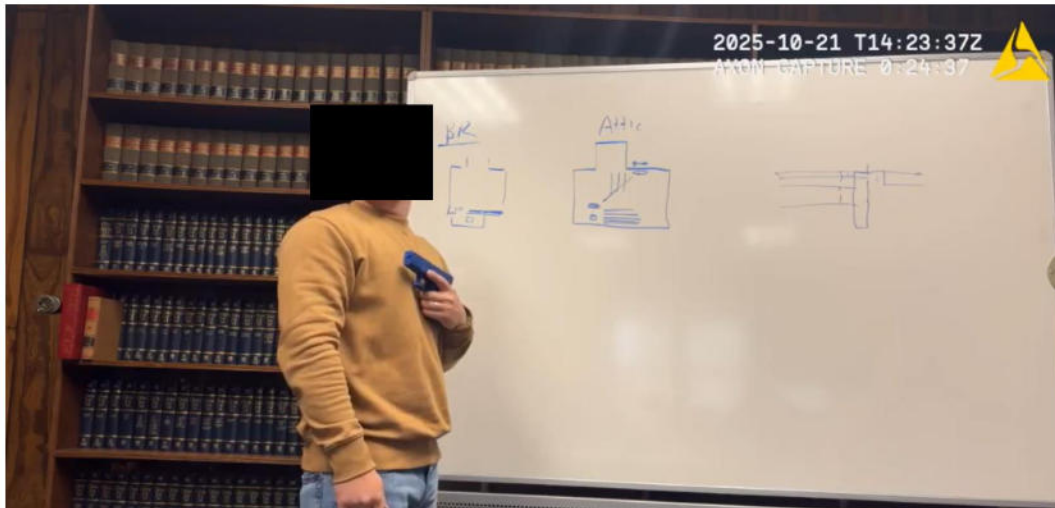


Image 1: [REDACTED] depicting Mitchell pointing the gun before shooting

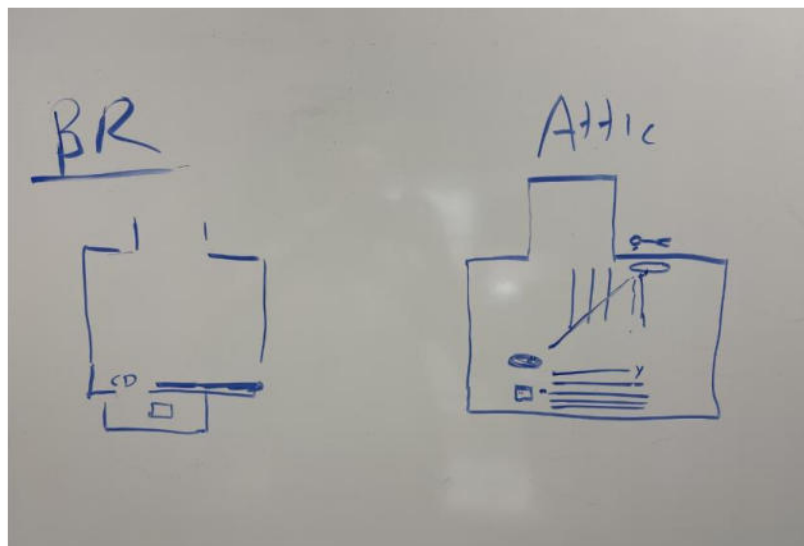


Image 2: [REDACTED] floor plan drawing.

The interview concluded at approximately 1048 hours.

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For further information, please refer to the recorded audio and video file located in Axon Justice, and labeled as Reference Item E Officer Interviews - 2025-10-21 [REDACTED] Interview and Diagrams. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

Reference Item E Officer Interviews - 2025-10-21 [REDACTED] interview
and Diagram - Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. [REDACTED] Criminal Investigation Notification

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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

[Redacted]

Printed Name of Interviewee

10/21/25 1000am
Date / Time

[Redacted]

Signature of Interviewee

Darien Spann #158
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA Darien Spann #158
BCI Agent (Signature)