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

2026-2566
Officer Involved Critical Incident - State Route 67 and Township Road 8, Republic, OH 44867, Seneca County

Investigative Activity:	Neighborhood Canvass
Involves:	David Kessler (W), Martha Kessler (W)
Activity Date:	07/07/2026
Activity Location:	State Route 67 and Township Road 8, Republic, Seneca County, Ohio
Authoring Agent:	SA Joshua T. Welty, # 173

Narrative:

On Tuesday, July 07, 2026, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Joshua Welty (SA Welty) and John Tingley (SA Tingley) conducted a neighborhood canvass in the area of State Route 67 and Township Road 8, Republic, Seneca County, Ohio. The purpose for the canvass was to identify and interview potential witnesses to the officer-involved critical incident that occurred at State Route 67 and Township Road 8, Republic, Seneca County, Ohio on Tuesday, July 07, 2026. During the neighborhood canvass, Special Agents Welty and Tingley made or attempted contact with the residents at the following address:

950 South State Route 67, Republic, Ohio 44867

SAs Welty and Tingley spoke with David and Martha Kessler, who reside at the corner of State Route 67 and Township Road 8. David and Martha were home when the officer-involved critical incident occurred. David was outside cleaning out his truck when he noticed the sheriff's office presence. He described law enforcement as trying to convince the occupant of the dark pickup truck, on several occasions, to turn off the motor and get out of the truck, as he was under arrest. David did not know the exact number of times law enforcement attempted to convince the occupant but estimated it to be three or four times. He explained one of the officers said, "turn the key off, roll the windows down, we'll go through it step by step."

David explained that law enforcement continued their attempts at getting the occupant of the pickup truck to follow their commands, until the occupant "stepped on the gas." The pickup truck was on the bridge, and David assumed the truck hit the cruiser, in front of the truck. This was when he heard multiple shots. David then believes the truck hit the cruiser again, but was not exactly sure, and explained he did not know if the cruiser behind the pickup truck had hit the truck from behind.

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David stated, "I just don't understand why he didn't give up, there was no way out, I mean it's unfortunate, he made a poor decision."

Martha was able to hear the commands being given by law enforcement, including "turn your car off, open your windows, then let's talk to you." Martha described that law enforcement was attempting to give step by step instructions. Martha added, "I'm like why? Why would somebody, I don't know, they must want a death wish or something."

The interviews conducted were recorded. The recording was uploaded to Axon (evidence.com). Please refer to the recording for further details.

References:

Reference Item D > Neighborhood Canvass 2026-07-07 151829 173

Attachments:

No attachments

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