



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



2024-3294

Investigation - Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage
Bike Trail Near North Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio:

Investigative Activity: Phone Interview with Jessica Kotecki
Involves: Jessica Kotecki (W)
Activity Date: 10/24/2024
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher #187

Narrative:

On October 24, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) conducted an audio recorded phone interview with Jessica Kotecki (Jessica), who was the girlfriend of the involved subject, Matthew Fries (Fries). The interview was conducted to obtain relevant information about the officer-involved shooting that occurred on October 22, 2024, on the Hike and Bike trail near North Freedom Street in Ravenna, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded, and the audio recording has attached to this report.

The following is a summary of 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. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Jessica began the conversation by discussing her relationship with Fries. She met Fries approximately eleven years ago at a friend's house. Jessica had recently ended a violent relationship with her ex-boyfriend who had allegedly stabbed her multiple times. While at the friend's house, she observed Fries playing with knives which "scared her" due to her recent victimization. Fries "put the knives away" and began to "comfort" Jessica. Jessica and Fries became friends and would not begin a romantic relationship until August 15, 2024.

Jessica was originally from Streetsboro, Ohio and Fries was originally from an unknown city in Alabama. Fries did not have any permanent residence after coming to Ohio and would often sleep at different friend's houses or hotels when he could afford them. When Jessica and Fries began their relationship, they would often stay at hotels or friends' houses together.

Jessica was able to provide additional background information on Fries which included some of his medical diagnoses and prescribed medications. According to Jessica, Fries was diagnosed with schizophrenia, "split personality" disorder, anxiety, depression, This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



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and bi-polar disorder. He was also prescribed six or seven different medications, although Jessica could not recall specific medication names. She did recall Fries taking a "night terror" medication every night before bedtime to help with his night terrors. Fries was not known to be suicidal and never made any suicidal statements to Jessica. Fries would often make comments about wanting to be a "better person," or feeling "like a failure."

Jessica mentioned Fries' love of knives and how he always had a knife on his person. She also recalled a few altercations that involved Fries carrying a knife.

The first incident occurred at an unknown date at "Kurt's" house where Fries was temporarily staying. Fries was "playing with his knives" and allegedly dropped one of his knives on the floor. An unknown person "stepped on" the knife causing Kurt to kick Fries out of the house. Kurt did not allow Fries to gather his personal belongings prior to leaving, including his prescribed medication. This caused Fries to become very upset and stressed.

The second incident occurred a few weeks prior to the shooting incident. Fries got into a physical altercation "at the tents" (referring to the tent encampment that was located near the hike and bike trail off of North Freedom Street) with a male named "Carl." During the altercation, Fries had a knife on him. Jessica did not know if the knife was used during the altercation. At some point, one of the tents caught fire and the police responded. Jessica could not provide any additional details on the incident.

A few days prior to the officer-involved shooting incident, Fries relapsed and began using drugs. He also was not taking his prescribed medications. Jessica told Fries to get help and said she could not be around him until he was sober. This caused Fries to become very upset and irate.

The day prior to the shooting incident, Fries began sending "threatening" text messages to Jessica stating he was going to come to her place of work to see her. Fries continued to text Jessica but never showed up. Jessica talked to him the next day (10/22/24 - day of the shooting incident) at 0400 hours. During this conversation, Jessica and Fries made plans to see each other later that day. After the phone call ended, Fries sent a text message to Jessica stating he loved her, that he was sorry, and that he would see her later that day.

That was the last time Jessica heard from Fries. She was then notified by friends of Fries' involvement in the officer-involved shooting incident.

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References:

None

Attachments:

1. 2024-10-24 Audio Interview with Jessica Kotecki - Girlfriend of involved subject

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