



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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

**Investigative Activity:** Interview of Involved Officer  
**Involves:** Officer [REDACTED] (S)  
**Activity Date:** 05/22/2024  
**Activity Location:** North Ridgeville Police Department, 7070 Ranger Way, North Ridgeville, OH 44039  
**Authoring Agent:** Special Agent Nicholas Valente #139

**Narrative:**

On May 22, 2024, at approximately 1000 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente and SA John Tingley interviewed North Ridgeville Police Department (NRPD) Officer [REDACTED], (Officer [REDACTED]) who was accompanied by his attorney, Danielle Chaffin, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the NRPD located at 7070 Ranger Way, North Ridgeville, Ohio. The interview was audio and video recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report and the video recording was saved as Reference Item F.

Officer [REDACTED] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form prior to beginning the interview. The BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form signed by Officer [REDACTED] was also attached to this report.

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. 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:**

<b>Name:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Rank:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Badge Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Cruiser/Vehicle Number:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Radio Call Sign:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Immediate Supervisor:</b> Lieutenant West
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> NRPD Dispatch	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> Present & Utilized
<b>Cruiser Description:</b> Ford Explorer with NRPD graphics and lettering.	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:</b> Solo
<b>Assignment:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Normal Shift:</b> [REDACTED]

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.



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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

<b>In-Car Camera:</b> Operational & Utilized	<b>Spotlight:</b> Present; Not utilized
<b>Emergency Lights:</b> Present and utilized to respond to the scene.	<b>Siren:</b> Present; Not Used
<b>Shift Day of Incident:</b> Night shift, 1900 hours through 0700 hours	<b>Duty Status:</b> On-Duty
<b>Days Off:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:</b> None
<b>Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:</b> 6 to 8 hours and an hour nap.	<b>Consider Self Well Rested:</b> Yes
<b>Total Length as Officer:</b> 6 years in June 2024. Previous experience with Cedar Point Police (2 to 3 months) and Medina City Police (6 months)	<b>Length at Current Agency:</b> Approximately 5 years.
<b>Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid):</b> None	<b>Corrective Lenses:</b> No Corrective Lenses
<b>Uniform Worn:</b> Standard issue marked NRPD patrol uniform with department patches on shoulders, badge on chest, large police patch on back.	<b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> Taser and pepper spray.
<b>Ballistic Vest:</b> External Armor	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Not Present
<b>Other Recording Devices:</b> None	<b>Partner:</b> None
<b>Injuries:</b> None	<b>Equipment Damage:</b> None
<b>Training or Areas of Specialty:</b> Current SWAT team member. Member of team for one year.	<b>OPOTC Certification:</b> Current
<b>Military Experience/Training:</b> None	<b>Use-of-Force Training:</b> Received but could not recall last training. Described as included with range date training.
<b>Prior Shooting Incidents:</b> None	<b>Prior Discipline related to Use-of-Force:</b> None
<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident:</b> None	<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview:</b> None

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.



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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

**Officer's Firearm(s):**

**Weapon #1**

<b>Make:</b> Aero Precision	<b>Model:</b> Not asked (MFE1).
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> Not asked.	<b>Serial:</b> [REDACTED] (from collection photos)
<b>Type:</b> Rifle	<b>Method of Carry:</b> Magazine inserted without a round chambered.
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> Reported - 28 cartridges loaded into the magazine	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> 28
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> 3 in cruiser and none on his person.	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> N/A
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> Not asked	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 1
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> With SWAT team in March or April.	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> No holster.

**Narrative:**

After obtaining the above preliminary information, Officer [REDACTED] provided the following information:

Officer [REDACTED] had not watched any body-worn camera (BWC) or security /surveillance video recordings of the incident prior to his interview with agents.

Officer [REDACTED] is assigned a take-home marked patrol vehicle. On May 8, 2024, while driving into the city of North Ridgeville in his assigned patrol vehicle to begin his shift, Officer [REDACTED] reviewed the call screen of active and pending calls on the mobile data terminal in his patrol vehicle. At this same time, NRPD Lieutenant Pat West (Lieutenant West) advised all incoming NRPD officers to be on the lookout for a vehicle wanted out of Tennessee and to review the call screen on the mobile data terminal. Officer [REDACTED] noted that the subject associated with the vehicle was wanted in connection with a murder and was from Tennessee. Officer [REDACTED] recalled he had prior law enforcement interactions with people living on James Drive who were also from Tennessee. Based on the previous interactions with the residents of the home on James

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.



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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

Drive and their connection to Tennessee, Officer ██████ traveled to James Drive to look for the wanted subject and vehicle.

Officer ██████ found the wanted vehicle parked and unoccupied in the driveway of 4802 James Drive, the residence where he had responded to calls of service before and knew the occupants to be from Tennessee. Officer ██████ passed the house, turned around in a cul-de-sac just past the home and traveled back down the street in the opposite direction. Officer ██████ notified dispatch of his findings and requested additional NRPD officers begin to respond to his location via the police radio in his vehicle. Officer ██████ then parked at the end of James Drive facing the subject house near the intersection of James Drive and Paula Drive. Officer ██████ held this position and watched the subject vehicle until other officers arrived at his location.

Once a group of officers had gathered at Officer ██████'s location, he and Officer Vincent Macy (Officer Macy) drove in their patrol vehicles back down James Drive, traveled past 4802 James Drive, turned around in the cul-de-sac, and parked near the subject residence. Officer ██████ exited his patrol vehicle, removed his patrol rifle from the vehicle and chambered a cartridge into the weapon. Officer ██████ walked to the rear of his vehicle and held this position for a brief period of time while he overheard additional radio traffic pertaining to the subject and the reason why he was wanted.

From his position, which was partially obstructed by bushes in the area, Officer ██████ was able to see the front door of the home at 4802 James Drive open. Officer ██████ relayed this observation to the other NRPD officers over his radio. Lieutenant West advised over the police radio "Do not let that car leave. Don't let, cause' uh, I didn't see this, but the subject was coming out and walking towards the front, or the engine of the vehicle, um. Me and Patrolman Macy sort of just looked at each other. Since he had, he did not have his patrol rifle with him at the time, I believe. So, he jumped in the driver seat of the car. He started to, um, as he was gonna go and follow Lieutenant West's order about trying to get the car blocked in. At that point on, I moved up to my next, not the greatest of cover, but my next piece of cover was a utility pole (12:26)."

Officer ██████ described next observing Officer Macy drive his patrol vehicle towards the subject residence in an attempt to reach the driveway and block the subject vehicle from leaving. At the same time, Officer ██████ moved up to a utility pole in the yard directly to the right of 4802 James Drive and utilized the pole as partial cover. Officer ██████ observed the subject standing in the driveway. Officer ██████ gave the

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.



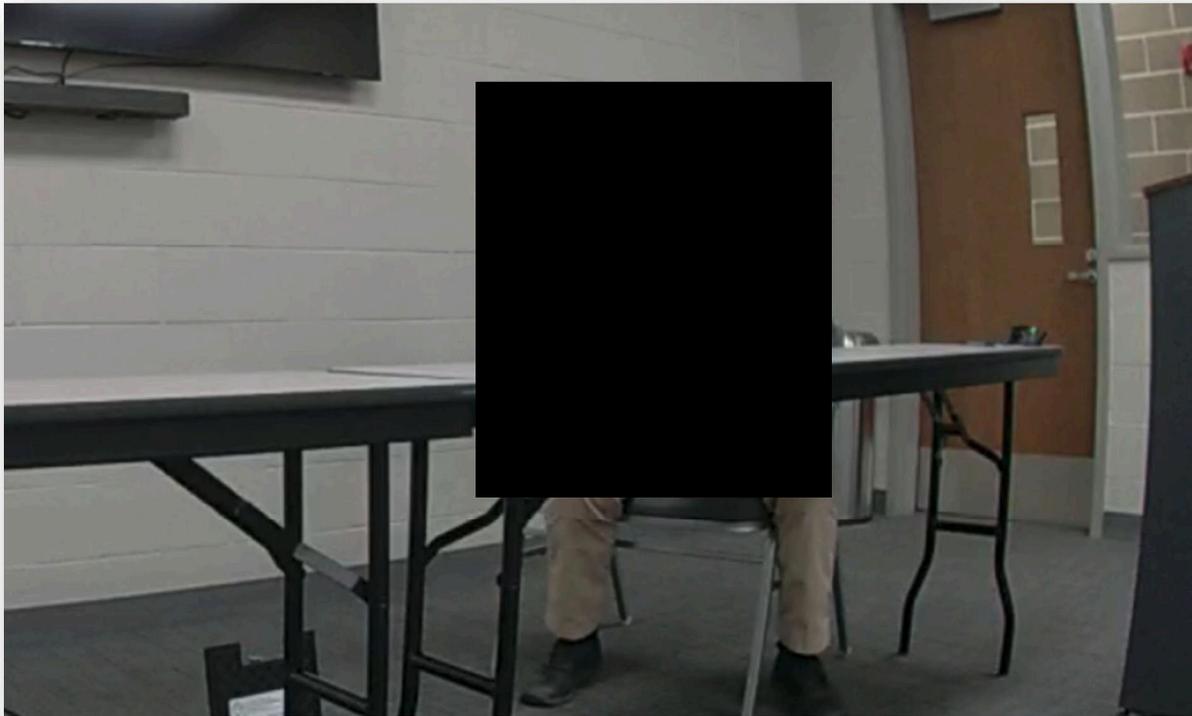
**Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Investigative Report**



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

subject verbal commands "Do not move. Do not move (13:16)." While giving the subject verbal commands, the subject snapped his head around and made eye contact with Officer [REDACTED]. "He's looking at me. Um, had my gun drawn on him at that point. He appeared to pull a firearm from his waistband here. He came up, and now he was more situated behind the Jeep. Came up and turned toward me this way and he fired a round. Um, as I turned around, everything kinda like slowed down. I kinda heard the round, seen like the muzzle flash. I sucked to the pole as much as I could, and then I fired a round back. Um, at that point (Officer) Macy was now by the driveway. The subject, as I fired, the subject dropped. There was a, uh, bush, a line of bushes right in front of him. I no longer had visual on him."



*Officer [REDACTED] demonstrating how Jason Norris pointed his pistol just prior to firing at Officer [REDACTED] (13:38 mark of video recording).*

Lieutenant Lee and Officer [REDACTED] then approached the subject. When the officers approached, they found the subject was lying on the ground motionless. Lieutenant Lee found a firearm lying on the ground next to the subject. Lieutenant Lee picked up the gun and threw it into the front yard.

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.



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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North  
Ridgeville, Ohio

Officer Macy and Lieutenant Lee began providing aid to the subject. Officer [REDACTED] was about to join the other two officers in providing aid to the subject when he turned his attention to Donathan Herron (Herron) who was also in the front yard of the home during the incident. Officer [REDACTED] was familiar with Herron and had dealt with him regularly in the past. Officer [REDACTED] ordered Herron to the ground and detained him in handcuffs. After detaining Herron, Officer [REDACTED] asked Lieutenant Lee and Officer Macy if they needed additional help. Lieutenant Lee and Officer Macy stated they did not.

Officer [REDACTED] was then asked to participate in a protective sweep of the home as the officers had a history of trouble at the subject home and were unaware of who might still be inside and what additional weapons they could have. Officer [REDACTED], Officer Metzko and Officer Macy conducted the protective sweep and located the sole occupant, homeowner Ethel Cantley (Cantley).

After clearing the home, Officer [REDACTED] joined other officers outside in checking the surrounding area to confirm no one had been struck by a stray bullet and attempted to locate where the subject's fired bullet struck. Officer [REDACTED] and the other officers did not locate anyone that was struck by gunfire, nor did he and the other officers locate any stray bullets.

Officer [REDACTED] then turned over the rifle he fired in the shooting to Lieutenant West. Officer [REDACTED] was then driven back to the police station and awaited BCI agents' arrival. SA Valente met with Officer [REDACTED] that night and photographed his person and collected his weapon. Refer to the Investigative Report detailing that interaction for further information pertaining to that initial meeting.

When asked, Officer [REDACTED] stated he learned the subject was wanted and the suspect of a homicide based on the information on the call screen on his mobile data terminal in his patrol vehicle.

When asked if there was a plan in place to address the subject prior to him exiting the home, Officer [REDACTED] stated officers intended to call out their SWAT team to respond to the area. Further, officers were taking up positions around the home, and then they intended to give commands to the subject on a public address system (amplified speaker) ordering him out of the home. Officer [REDACTED] stated the subject exited the home prior to officers being able to fully prepare and set their plan into place. Because the subject exited the home prior to the SWAT team's arrival and

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.



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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

officers being able to take positions surrounding the home, the officers were forced to address the subject as he exited the home.

When asked, Officer ██████ stated he had not had any previous encounters with the subject but had responded to the home where the officer-involved shooting took place before. Officer ██████ reported he recalled previously responding to the home due to psychological issues with Herron. Officer ██████ recalled responding to the home on other occasions to deal with additional people who were wanted for felony warrants for felonious assault and other charges. Cantley previously lied to officers regarding these wanted people being in her home. Officer ██████ recalled Cantley's grandchildren seemed to use her home as a hideout when wanted by police.

When asked, Officer ██████ stated he believed the subject was aware he was a police officer when he gave him commands not to move after he exited the home.

When asked what led him to fire at the specific moment he did so, Officer ██████ stated, "The subject come, drawing his weapon, pointing it at me, me hearing the sound of a shot and seeing the muzzle flash as I more or less realized that the male just shot at me and, which caused me to return fire (22:46)."

When asked if he feared for his safety or the safety of the other officers, Officer ██████ stated he did. When asked to describe what led to his fear, Officer ██████ stated knowing the subject was a homicide suspect, ignored his commands, and fired a gun at him.

When asked what he thought was going to happen when the subject fired, Officer ██████ stated "At the time I thought I was gonna get shot probably because I was, like I said I more or less, it something when we debrief it, but I didn't have the greatest of cover."

When asked if he perceived any other options available to him other than the use of deadly force at the moment he fired, Officer ██████ stated he did not.

When asked if he observed the subject firing at any other officers or in any other direction, Officer ██████ stated he did not.

When asked, Officer ██████ stated he believed his actions were consistent with his training.

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.



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

---



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

When asked, Officer [REDACTED] stated he was not aware that Officer [REDACTED] also fired his weapon during the incident.

When asked, Officer [REDACTED] stated he did not observe any actions taken by any other officer he believed were inappropriate or criminal.

**References:**

F - Officer Interview Videos DVD

**Attachments:**

1. [REDACTED] Criminal Investigation Notification
2. 2024-05-22 Audio Interview [REDACTED]

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.



### 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]

5/22/24  
Date / Time

NICK VALENTE #139  
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]  
BCI Agent (Signature)