





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



2024-3294

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage Bike Trail near  
 North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

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> [REDACTED]
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> Main channel for PD	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> Present; Not Used
<b>Cruiser Description:</b> Marked for interceptor, "police"	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:</b> Only occupant
<b>Assignment:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Normal Shift:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>In-Car Camera:</b> Operational & Utilized	<b>Spotlight:</b> Present & Utilized
<b>Emergency Lights:</b> Present & Utilized	<b>Siren:</b> Present & Utilized
<b>Shift Day of Incident:</b> [REDACTED]	<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> 7 hours	<b>Consider Self Well Rested?:</b> Yes
<b>Total Length as Officer:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Length at Current Agency:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid):</b> None	<b>Corrective Lenses:</b> Contact Lenses
<b>Uniform Worn:</b> Regular uniform with patches, outer carrier vest, badge patch with name, gun belt.	<b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> Holster with gun, 2 extra mags, rifle mag, body cam. Taser, radio, handcuffs, body camera
<b>Ballistic Vest:</b> External Armor	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Present & Used
<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> Hazmat training, door breaching, stops and approaches, firearms instructor, subject control related classes, less-lethal shotgun instructor, CIT	<b>OPOTC Certification:</b> Kent State Police Academy [REDACTED]
<b>Military Experience/Training:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Use-of-Force Training:</b> Yes, yearly
<b>Prior Shooting Incidents:</b> None while	<b>Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force</b>

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officer, [REDACTED]	<b>Complaints:</b> No
<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident:</b> No	<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview:</b> No
<b>Alcohol in Past 24 Hours?</b> Unknown	<b>Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident:</b> Unknown

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

Weapon #1

<b>Make:</b> HK 45	<b>Model:</b> 45
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> .45 caliber	<b>Serial:</b> Unknown
<b>Type:</b> Semi-Auto Handgun	<b>Method of Carry:</b> Duty belt
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 10	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> 10
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> 2	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> 10 and 10
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> Unknown	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> Less than 10
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> October 2024	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> Safariland holster

**Narrative:**

After obtaining preliminary and demographic information, [REDACTED] provided the following information related to the incident on October 22, 2024.

[REDACTED] was working as the [REDACTED] on the date of the incident. Three other RPD officers were assigned to work patrol [REDACTED] and included [REDACTED] Officer Joshua Twigg (Twigg), and Officer Matthew Meyers (Meyers).

[REDACTED] and Officer Twigg were dispatched to the hike and bike trail near North Freedom Street for a male victim who had possibly been stabbed. Additional information was provided that the victim had been stabbed multiple times in the buttock and arm.

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██████████ began responding to the location due to the nature of the call. ██████████  
██████████ planned on providing scene security for fire personnel while they provided  
emergency medical services to the male victim.

██████████ and Officer Meyers arrived at the location at the same time. ██████████  
██████████ met with fire personnel who began asking questions about the stabbing incident.  
During this brief conversation, ██████████ heard one of the other officers on scene  
state a subject was approaching them with a hatchet or an axe in his hand.

██████████ observed multiple pedestrians and bicyclists on the trail near officers  
and the approaching subject. The three officers were standing in a line spanning the  
hike and bike trail.

██████████ described the hike and bike trail as a narrow-paved path (only a few feet  
wide) with railroad tracks on one side and a split rail fence on the other. A dense wood  
line was behind the fencing.

██████████ ran up to the location of the other officers who had their firearms  
pointed at the subject and were yelling commands to drop the weapons. ██████████  
positioned himself in line with the other officers and pointed his firearm at the subject  
who was approximately twenty-five feet away. ██████████ observed the subject  
holding a double-sided axe in one hand and a knife in the other hand. He began giving  
commands to the subject to drop the weapons. The subject did not comply and  
continued to approach in an aggressive manner.

██████████ described the subject as a white male with a shaved head, dark-colored  
pants, and a swastika tattoo on his chest. As the subject continued to approach  
"aggressively," he would also flex "like the hulk." The subject was using "profanity" and  
explicit language yelling at the officers.

The officers continued giving commands and attempted to back up from the subject.  
However, the stabbing victim and fire personnel were behind the officers, preventing  
them from being able to back up further. There were also pedestrians and bicyclists on  
the trail who were passing the subject in close proximity. ██████████ said one of the  
bicyclists could have brushed elbows with the subject, he was so close to him.

The subject continued to approach and failed to comply with commands given by  
officers. The subject was approximately fifteen feet away from their location. ██████████  
██████████ feared for the safety of himself, the officers, and others who were present at the  
location. At that time, he fired his gun at the subject aiming at his center mass. The  
subject fell to the ground.

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██████████ approached the subject and assisted in clearing the knife and axe away from the subject. He then requested fire personnel who were already present to assist in rendering aid to the subject.

██████████ felt, when the subject was approaching officers in an aggressive manner, he was not only "walking with a purpose," but he was also "preparing to attack" [23:30]. ██████████ felt he did not have any other options available to him other than the use of deadly force.

██████████ fired his gun in a northeastern direction. He believed his rounds struck the subject in the center mass area and possibly the legs. He also believed his actions were consistent with his training.

██████████ described the weather on the day of the incident as a "perfect day." He elaborated by saying it was a perfect day for people to be outside walking and riding their bikes.

██████████ did have two prior encounters with the subject who was later identified as Matthew Fries (Fries). ██████████ said approximately one to two months prior to the incident he responded to a call for service where Fries was one of the parties associated with the call. Fries had set his tent on fire at the same location and was acting belligerent and violent towards responding officers.

The second encounter mentioned by ██████████ was on an unknown date in downtown Ravenna. Fries was at the courthouse because his girlfriend had been arrested on a warrant. ██████████ said his interaction with Fries was very calm. Fries was able to communicate and seemed like a completely different person.

The interview concluded at approximately 1412 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

**References:**

Reference Item G – RPD Officer Interviews

**Attachments:**

1. ██████████ Criminal Investigation Notification
2. 2024-11-05 Audio Interview Involved ██████████

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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

11-5-2024 / 1339  
Date / Time

[Redacted]  
Signature of Interviewee

SA ALLIVON FLETCHER #107  
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA Allivon Fletcher #107  
BCI Agent (Signature)