



**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Bernard Park - 1105 Bernard Ave.,
Findlay, OH 45840

To: Sean Abbott, Hancock County Prosecutor
Cc: SAS Scott A. Stranahan, Special Agent Supervisor, Ohio BCI
From: SA Tiffany Najmulski, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
Date: December 9, 2024
Involves: Calvin Darapheth
Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident - Bernard Park - 1105 Bernard Ave
Findlay, OH 45840
BCI Case Numbers: Special Investigations (SIU, CS, CIU): 2024-3413
BCI Laboratory: 2024-23322

Investigative Request

On Monday, October 28, 2024, Chief Mathias of the Findlay Police Department requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved critical incident. The incident reportedly occurred on October 28, 2024 in the area of 1105 Bernard Ave, Findlay, Ohio and resulted in the death of Calvin Darapheth.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the October 28, 2024 officer-involved shooting in Hancock County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail are not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

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Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent Tiffany Najmulski (SA Najmulski) was assigned as the lead SIU case agent. SA Najmulski received assistance in the investigation from SA Josh Rammel (SA Rammel), SA Ryan Emahiser (SA Emahiser), SA Doug Burke (SA Burke) and SA Jason Snyder (Snyder). BCI Special Agent Sarah Taylor (SA Taylor) and Crime Scene tech, Emily Miller (Miller) of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident, documenting, preserving, and collecting possible evidence. BCI Special Agent Ian Wallace (Wallace) of the Cyber Crimes Unit conducted an extraction and analysis of cell phones recovered from Bernard Park. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Scott Stranahan. Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview(s) of one (1) officer who discharged their weapons
- Recorded interview(s) of one (1) officer who was involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Interviews of civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interviews of family members or associates of the decedent
- Special agent attendance to post-mortem examination (autopsy) of the deceased
- Obtained and reviewed post-mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) trace on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine ownership history)
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident

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- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans / model of incident area
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) communications relative to the incident
- Reviewed phone/text records obtained via search warrant from wireless service provider
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Obtained search warrants for the subject's phone and performed an analysis of the data present
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations which may include:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
 2. Firearm operability testing
 3. Chemistry (drug identification)
 4. Gunshot residue testing (GSR)
 5. Fingerprint analysis
 6. DNA
- Obtained search warrant to analyze electronic evidence, to include:
 1. Cellular phones
- Reviewed data obtained from aforementioned items of electronic evidence
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officer involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officer
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Enhancement of audio/video recordings through the assistance of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through court order

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- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered
- Reviewed tips, social media posts, and pertinent statements made in the media regarding the incident

Incident Summary/Overview

On Monday, October 28, 2024, the Findlay Police Department (FPD) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation regarding the investigation of an Officer Involved Critical Incident.

Officers were investigating a complaint of juveniles consuming alcoholic beverages in Bernard Park, 1105 Bernard Ave, Findlay, Ohio. Upon arrival, officers encountered three (3) juveniles. While engaged in conversation, one of the juveniles fled the area on foot with officers giving chase. It was reported the subject brandished a firearm and fired several rounds at officers. None of the officers were struck or injured. One of the officers returned fire which struck the subject.

The subject was taken to Blanchard Valley hospital by Hancock County EMS and later flown by medical helicopter to ProMedica Toledo Hospital where he passed away the following the day.

Decedent

On February 12, 2022, Calvin was charged with Improperly Discharging a Firearm at or into a Habitation. On February 28, 2022, Calvin was charged with Marijuana Possession. On May 1, 2022, Calvin was charged for Assault with another juvenile. On October 27, 2022, Calvin was charged as an Unruly Juvenile. On January 20, 2023, Calvin was charged for Assault with another juvenile. On March 29, 2023, Calvin was charged for Theft of a Motor Vehicle and Receiving Stolen Property. Calvin and another juvenile were charged for stealing a 9mm firearm and a car from the other juvenile's mother. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. On October 10, 2024, Calvin was charged with Theft, shoplifting a bottle of alcohol from a Walmart. Calvin was previously on probation through the Hancock County Juvenile Court for the Assault offense that occurred in 2022.

Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent, (Calvin Darapheth,) has not been completed. The Lucas County Coroner's Office is waiting on the toxicology report.

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Physical Evidence

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting in order to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. Multiple agents responded and processed the scene, to include photographing and mapping the area, as well as the search for, documentation, and collection of items of possible evidence. Detailed crime scene reports were completed with the below information only summarizing some of the more significant findings.

Investigators located eight (8) SPEER .45 caliber cartridge casings in the stone located along the railroad tracks. Each casing was collected and placed into separate manila envelopes and retained as evidence (BCI Items #4-11). [REDACTED] firearm, a Glock 21, Gen. 4, .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun [REDACTED] was placed into evidence (BCI Item #6)

Two (2) additional cartridge casings were located in the brush next to the stone. One (1) cartridge casing HORNADY 9mm LUGER and one (1) cartridge casing Tulammo 9mm LUGER were placed into separate manila envelopes and retained as evidence (BCI Items #12 & 13).

Two (2) additional cartridge casings were found on the southeast side of the railroad tracks. One (1) cartridge casing, HORNADY 9mm LUGER (BCI Item #18) and one (1) cartridge casing, Tulammo 9mm LUGER (BCI Item #19) were placed into separate manila envelopes and retained as evidence.

Five (5) full and two (2) empty 12oz bottles of "Seagrams" alcoholic beverages confiscated by police. All items were placed into a brown paper bag and retained as evidence (BCI Item #21).

On November 8, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents (SA) Ryan Emahiser, Tiffany Najmulski, and Douglas Burke, returned to the wooded area of 930 McManness Avenue to conduct a secondary search for potential spent shell casings that could have potentially been fired by the decedent Darapheth. Agents thoroughly searched the grassy area and located one (1) 9mm Luger, silver colored, spent shell casing approximately 10 feet northwest of Darapheth's final rest location. The found spent shell casing is listed as evidence #34.

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

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The Glock .45 caliber used by [REDACTED] was found to be the source for all eight (8) cartridges found at the scene. The Smith and Wesson 9mm found near the subject, Calvin Darapheth, was found to be the source for the five (5) cartridges found at the scene.

A swab for DNA of the buttons, base of the magazine and the front gun sight area on the 9mm showed Darapheth was a major contributor. The body of the magazine was swabbed for DNA and showed Darapheth was not a contributor, but an unknown male was.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene, vehicles, and autopsies (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

The 9mm Smith and Wesson was found to be the source of all five (5) 9mm cartridges found at the scene. The .45 caliber Glock was found to be the source for all eight (8) .45 caliber cartridges found at the scene.

Witnesses

A neighborhood canvass was performed, and no one was found to have witnessed the actual shooting except one woman by the name of Jodi Girod (Girod). Girod saw Darapheth run from officers and heard three (3) shots. She then saw the officer return fire.

Teenagers who were at the park during the incident only reported seeing the officer shoot. During the neighborhood canvass it was discovered one of the neighbors had a doorbell video that captured the audio of the shots being fired. That video was obtained and is part of the case file.

Officer Interviews

The following paragraphs are extremely abbreviated versions of each officer's account of his or her actions pertaining to this incident and/or discharging their weapon. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview.

[REDACTED] advised he and Officer Burkholder received a call of juveniles drinking in Bernard Park. [REDACTED] arrived at the park first and pulled up to where he saw three (3) juveniles (two males and one female) sitting at the picnic table. [REDACTED]

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██████████ could see what looked like wine coolers under the table and that some were consumed. ██████████ began to seek the identity of juveniles. One (1) of the juveniles was identified as, Darapheth. ██████████ told Darapheth to call his parents so his parents could meet them at the police station.

After speaking to Darapheth, Darapheth fled, running in a southeast direction. ██████████ ██████████ said he saw and heard Darapheth fire two (2) rounds at him. ██████████ said Darapheth turned and kept running and ██████████ could see the gun in his hand. ██████████ said he was scared for his life as well as the other two (2) juveniles who were still at the picnic table, Officer Burkholder and other people in the park. ██████████ said he fired his duty weapon seven or eight (7-8) times.

Darapheth kept running until he reached a wooded area and collapsed. Officers rendered aid and called for medics to respond to the scene.

Officer Burkholder advised when he arrived, ██████████ was already speaking with the juveniles. Officer Burkholder said he saw Seagram's wine coolers sitting on the picnic table. Officer Burkholder helped identify one (1) of the juveniles while ██████████ ██████████ obtained information on the other two (2) juveniles and then talked to the subject's mother on the phone.

Soon after, the subject took off running and ██████████ gave chase. Officer Burkholder said he stayed with the other two (2) juveniles. Officer Burkholder said he was facing south when the subject ran southeast towards the railroad tracks. Officer Burkholder said the subject turned his head facing back and shot his gun in the general direction of ██████████.

Officer Burkholder went to help ██████████. Officer Burkholder said officers approached the subject, found the firearm underneath the subject's body and saw that the subject had been shot by ██████████. Officer Burkholder did not fire his weapon.

Audio Recording

The initial call for service came to the FPD from an individual identified as Nicole Ansel (Ansel). Ansel advised that three (3) kids, around 16-17 years old, were sitting at a picnic table near the basketball courts drinking alcohol. Ansel indicated that she did not know who the juveniles were. Ansel provided her contact information and described the three (3) juveniles as "two males and a female".

Video Recordings

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██████████ body worn camera (BWC), captured, at 18:48:38, two (2) shots that were fired as Darapheth ran away. A spark was seen on ██████████ BWC indicating that one of the shots came from right behind Calvin and appeared to strike the ground. SA Ryan Emahiser (Emahiser) utilized an "Amped Replay" device to slow down the BWC footage and enhance the screen shots to clear up the BWC images as much as possible. Two screen shots were taken of the footage at the time that Calvin fired two (2) shots while attempting to run from ██████████

Conclusion

The 9mm Smith and Wesson Darapheth used in the incident was found to have been stolen. The gun had been reported stolen on September 19, 2024 by Jacob Houtz who left the handgun in his vehicle over night when it came up stolen. Somehow, Darapheth became in possession of the gun and had it on his person the day of the incident, October 28, 2024. When police confronted Darapheth, after finding him with open containers of alcohol, he ran before he could be arrested.

Darapheth was seen on police body worn camera footage pulling out a handgun and firing 2 rounds at the pursuing officer. The pursuing officer fired 8 rounds back at Darapheth striking him 4 times. During a crime scene search, Darapheth was found to have fired 3 more rounds. The body worn camera did not capture visual footage of Darapheth firing the last 3 rounds, but the shots can be heard on the camera footage.

Darapheth sustained multiple gunshot wounds with multiple hemorrhage sites in the head. He was treated at the scene and transported to Blanchard Valley Hospital in Findlay. He was later flown to ProMedica Toledo Hospital where Darapheth succumbed to his injuries the following day, on October 29, 2024.

SA Najmulski is still waiting on the Ohio Organized Crime Investigation division to clean up the audio on the shots fired as well as the coroner's report. SA Najmulski will forward the reports when they become available.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved critical incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Tiffany Najmulski.

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SA Najmulski can be reached via email at tiffany.najmulski@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at 419-455-5824.

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