



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



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1451 E. 219th St., Euclid, OH 44117, Cuyahoga County

Prosecutor Summary

INVESTIGATION REGARDING:

Officer-Involved Critical Incident (Shooting)
Involved Subject - Robert Riddlebarger
Involved Officer - [REDACTED]

INVESTIGATING AGENCY:

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

CASE NUMBERS:

2026-0121 BCI Force Investigations Unit
BCI Crime Scene Unit
BCI Criminal Intelligence Unit
26-30331 BCI Laboratory

DATE OF INCIDENT:

January 11, 2026

DATE OF REPORT:

March 2, 2026

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Investigative Request

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by Sergeant Edington of the Euclid Police Department (EPD) to conduct an independent investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved critical incident which occurred at 1451 East 219th Street Euclid, Ohio 44117.

The shooting incident involved a subject, Robert J. Riddlebarger (Riddlebarger), and one officer from the Euclid Police Department. The incident resulted in the death of Riddlebarger.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the January 11, 2026, officer-involved shooting in Cuyahoga 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 every detail have not been 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 officer's actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) was assigned as the original lead investigator.

BCI Special Agents from the Major Case Response Team responded to assist and included Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Matthew Armstrong, SA Tom Verhiley, SA

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Erica Moore, and SA Stacey Fifer.

BCI Special Agents Lurna McClintock and Chad Doran of the Crime Scene Unit (CSU) processed the scene.

Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Charles Moran.

Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during this investigation to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Video-recorded interview of the officer who discharged his weapon
- Canvassed for surveillance video cameras in the area surrounding the scene
- Canvassed for and attempted to interview three neighbors who lived adjacent to the residence (only one resident was present and interviewed)
- Conducted an interview with the Involved Subject's girlfriend/victim of the domestic violence incident that preceded the officer-involved shooting
- Obtained and reviewed body-worn camera recordings of officers involved in the incident
- Obtained and reviewed records of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subject, including criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Processed the crime scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting and collecting)
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Reviewed the dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms and cartridge casings
 2. Firearm operability testing
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officer who was involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for the involved officer

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- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer who discharged their weapon
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding the use of force for prosecutorial review

Incident Summary/Overview

On Sunday, January 11, 2026, at approximately 2219 hours, dispatch received a 911 call from a female who was whispering and attempting to provide an address. Dispatchers were unable to understand statements made by the female but were able to hear a male yelling in the background and the female on the phone crying. The call disconnected moments later.

Dispatchers called the number back. A male answered the phone and declined to provide an address or cooperate with questions from the dispatcher. The male also began using profanity and calling the dispatcher derogatory names. The call eventually disconnected.

A second phone call was made by the female to dispatch who identified herself as [REDACTED] stated she was now safe at her neighbor's house located at 1481 East 219th Street in Euclid. She requested EMS to respond to the location because she was "bleeding everywhere" and her boyfriend (Riddlebarger) had "beat her half to death." [REDACTED] also stated her 3-year-old daughter was still inside the home with her boyfriend.

EPD officers responded to 1481 East 219th Street and met with the homeowner, Herschel Barnes, and [REDACTED] had visible injuries that she sustained from the domestic violence incident.

[REDACTED] informed officers that her residence was located at 1451 East 219th Street. She identified her boyfriend as Robert Riddlebarger (Riddlebarger) and cautioned officers that he had access to guns. She also stated that their shared 3-year-old daughter, who was still inside the home, was in danger.

Officers then responded to 1451 East 219th Street where they made multiple announcements using a PA system for Riddlebarger to exit the house. Officers surrounded the residence and were able to observe Riddlebarger inside the home with a firearm in his hand.

After multiple failed attempts to have Riddlebarger exit the house, officers forced entry into the side door of the home. They utilized a battering ram to gain entry.

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████████████████████ was the first officer to make entry into the home. He was equipped with a rifle. Five other officers formed a single stack line behind ██████████ to make entry.

As ██████████ entered the side door, he went up a small flight of stairs that led to the kitchen. Upon entering the kitchen, he observed the barrel of a rifle coming from the hallway across from him.

██████████ then observed Riddlebarger holding a rifle. Riddlebarger began raising the rifle to point it in ██████████ direction. It was at that moment that ██████████ fired approximately nine times, striking Riddlebarger multiple times.

Officers approached Riddlebarger and began rendering aid. Riddlebarger's rifle was lying on the ground with numerous rounds of live ammunition scattered on the floor.

Officers made a protective sweep of the residence while simultaneously conducting a search for the juvenile female. The juvenile was located a short time later in her bedroom lying in bed. She was visibly distraught.

Riddlebarger was transported to the hospital where he later died as a result of his injuries.

Punckowski was transported to the hospital and treated for her injuries that she sustained from the domestic violence incident.

Crime Scene Processing

The BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) responded to the scene to document, process and preserve items of potential evidence. The process included the search for, documentation and collection of potential evidence. Detailed photographs and crime scene reports were completed with the information below only summarizing some of the more significant findings.

BCI CSU Special Agents Lurna McClintock and Chad Doran processed the scene of the shooting. This included mapping the scene with a Leica BLK360 scanner. The scene was photographed as found and examined for items of suspected evidence. A warrant to search the residence was obtained through Euclid Municipal Court.

The scene was a two-story, single-family residence on the East side of the street. The South entry door led into a small foyer, with access to the basement stairwell and steps leading up into the kitchen, located at the Southeast corner of the first floor.

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1451 East 219th Street (front view)



Viewed by AFletcher (OhioAG.evidence.com) on 29 Jan 2026

1451 East 219th Street (side view)

In the kitchen, suspected blood was observed across the floor. Agents collected twenty-eight unfired GFL .223 REM cartridges (CSU/Matrix Items 1-8, 10-12, 14, 16, 17, 19-31, 41), along with two unfired, damaged cartridge casings (CSU/Matrix Items 13 and 49) found on the West side of the kitchen. One unfired Hornady 9mm Luger cartridge was found near the stove (CSU/Matrix Item 9). Four projectiles were also

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found on the kitchen floor (CSU/Matrix Items 15, 18, 42, 48). In the Northeast corner of the kitchen, Agents recovered eight fired Hornady 5.56 NATO cartridge casings (CSU/Matrix Items 32, 34-40)¹.



Kitchen with suspected blood

¹ CSU/Matrix Item(s) 32, 34-40 were later determined through lab testing to be the rounds fired by [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.



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Damaged/unfired .223 - CSU/Matrix Item 13

A Diamondback DB15 rifle S/N DB2205448 (CSU/Matrix Item 33)² was found on the kitchen floor. The rifle had a ballistic impact in the magazine well and magazine, and one ballistic impact in the rifle stock. The damaged magazine was lodged in the well, and the magazine spring/baseplate (CSU/Matrix Items 43 and 44) were found on the floor. The rifle's chamber was empty.

² CSU/Matrix Item 33 was determined to be the rifle handled by Riddlebarger.

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Viewed by AFletcher (OhioAG.evidence.com) on 29 Jan 2026

Diamondback DB15 rifle



Ballistic impacts observed on the DB15 rifle (Item 33).

In the living room, west of the kitchen, Agents collected a cell phone in a purple case (CSU/Matrix Item 45). A hallway connected the living room and kitchen to the

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bedrooms. A wallet containing Riddlebarger's identification card was collected from a shelf in the hallway closet (CSU/Matrix Item 50).

A penetrating ballistic impact (B.I. 1.0) was found on the North wall in the Northwest corner of the kitchen. A second penetrating ballistic impact (B.I. 2.0) was found in the West hallway wall, to the West of B.I. 1.0. Both were photographed with and without scale. No projectiles were found inside these impacts.

In the Northeast bedroom, Agents recovered a cell phone in a black case (CSU/Matrix Item 46) and a pair of jeans with reddish stains on them (CSU/Matrix Item 47).

All collected items were packaged and sealed with clear tape. SA McClintock transported the evidence to BCI Richfield.

Officers' Firearm Examination

The firearm of the officer who reportedly fired their firearm during the incident was collected by EPD and turned over to SA Doran at the Euclid Police Department located at 545 East 222nd Street in Euclid, Ohio. The firearm and magazine were photographed as they were found and collected as evidence.

The firearm used by [REDACTED] during the shooting incident was a personally owned firearm that was department approved. It was identified as a UIC multi-caliber AR-15 style rifle (S/N: [REDACTED]; CSU/Matrix Item 51). The magazine utilized by [REDACTED] were department owned/issued and were typically loaded with 28 rounds of .556 caliber ammunition.

[REDACTED] rifle was found to contain one unfired cartridge in the chamber and 18 unfired cartridges in the magazine.

For additional information, refer to the Leica scan, crime scene photographs, and Investigative Reports titled *2026-01-11: Preliminary Scene Processing* and *2026-01-12: Response to Euclid Police Department*.

Hospital Response

On January 11, 2026, SA Verhiley responded to Cleveland Clinic - Euclid General Hospital to meet with [REDACTED] who had sustained injuries from the domestic violence incident involving Riddlebarger that proceeded the shooting incident. An audio recorded interview was conducted with [REDACTED]

Victim Interview – [REDACTED]

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SA Verhiley asked [REDACTED] if there have been prior domestic violence incidents involving her and Riddlebarger or if there were other problems. [REDACTED] said there have been other incidents with Riddlebarger but not like the incident that took place earlier. [REDACTED] stated he (Riddlebarger) had been verbally abusive in the past and he would go on several tirades outside of the house, mainly in the garage. [REDACTED] said she has been trying to reconcile their relationship through counseling. [REDACTED] said in the past Riddlebarger would try to intimidate her and push her around. [REDACTED] reiterated that it was nothing like the incident that took place earlier in the evening. SA Verhiley asked [REDACTED] if Riddlebarger had been violent towards law enforcement in the past. [REDACTED] wasn't aware of a specific incident, but she went back to saying that on that evening Riddlebarger beat her up pretty bad and she was bleeding everywhere. [REDACTED] stated Riddlebarger had a pending domestic violence case in Lorain County, which resulted in a disorderly conduct charge.

SA Verhiley asked [REDACTED] if he would harm himself or do this on purpose to the responding officers, [REDACTED] said she didn't know. [REDACTED] explained she hid in the bathroom in order to separate herself from Riddlebarger while she dialed 911. [REDACTED] advised Riddlebarger had been drinking heavily that day which may have affected his anger towards her, however, she's not sure what set him off or why he was so upset toward her. [REDACTED] said Riddlebarger was on the phone talking with an old friend from high school, Amanda Jo, about his demons he's been experiencing. [REDACTED] said Riddlebarger has a drinking problem and has sought counseling to correct it, but it hasn't been working and he continues to drink heavily. [REDACTED] believes Riddlebarger may have also been under the influence of marijuana. [REDACTED] said Riddlebarger's drinking and anger towards her escalated throughout the day and he was out of control. [REDACTED] said that Riddlebarger slammed her head (crushing her head) and continued to beat her while she was on the ground by punching, kicking, and strangling her. [REDACTED] said she thought she was going to die a few times during the violent altercation. [REDACTED] was in fear for her life and was certain Riddlebarger was going to kill her. [REDACTED] was fearful for her daughter, who was in the other room possibly witnessing the violent altercation.

[REDACTED] was asked if Riddlebarger had any prior suicidal tendencies. [REDACTED] stated Riddlebarger had attempted suicide in 2017 with a gun and because of the unsuccessful suicide, he's blind in his right eye. [REDACTED] stated Riddlebarger suffers from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to his service in the military in Afghanistan in 2014. At this time in the interview SA Verhiley's Axon Capture (recording device) stopped recording due to unforeseen circumstances.

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SA Verhiley asked [REDACTED] if Riddlebarger had any firearms in the residence. In summary, [REDACTED] said she knew he had firearms; however, she minimized her knowledge of any true guns that were functionable in the residence. [REDACTED] described Riddlebarger's firearms with having a red tip attached to the gun. SA Verhiley asked for clarification about the red tip, possibly [REDACTED] referring to a safety device on the firearm. SA Verhiley continued and asked if it was an airsoft gun, which is a replica firearm that shoots small plastic pellets using compressed air. [REDACTED] agreed that she had known Riddlebarger to possess an airsoft gun and continued to describe the firearm as possibly being a Nerf Gun or toy gun.

[REDACTED] said Riddleberger has sought treatment with a doctor, possibly "Will" at the Veteran's Administration (VA) for his PTSD. At the conclusion of the interview, [REDACTED] indicated she had nothing more to add and will notify law enforcement with any information in reference to her domestic violence incident.

For additional information, refer to the audio recording and the investigative report titled *2026-01-12: Interview of the victim*.

Neighborhood and Video Surveillance Canvass

While the crime scene was being processed, agents conducted a neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the shooting incident. The purpose of the canvass was to identify and interview potential witnesses to the officer-involved shooting. It was also conducted to identify any potential sources of video surveillance.

There were no residents or subjects identified that observed and/or heard anything relative to the shooting incident.

No surveillance cameras were located in the area that would have captured any portion of the shooting incident due to the incident taking place inside the residence at 1451 East 219th Street.

For additional information, refer to the investigative report titled *2026-01-15: Neighborhood Canvass*.

Involved Law Enforcement Officer

BCI agents conducted a video recorded interview with the Involved Officer. BCI agents also reviewed the officer's personnel files and training records. Included within this section are abbreviated versions of the officer's account of their actions pertaining to this incident and/or discharging his weapon. A more detailed account

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can be found by reviewing the video recorded interview.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] has been a commissioned law enforcement officer for approximately [REDACTED], and he has been employed with the Euclid Police Department for the [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] appeared to fire his rifle nine times during the shooting incident. His body-worn camera captured the actions of Riddlebarger leading up to the time [REDACTED] fired.

[REDACTED] **Interview**

On the evening of the incident, [REDACTED] was on routine patrol on the south side of Euclid when he responded to a dispatched call regarding a domestic violence situation at 1451 East 219th Street. While en route, he reviewed call notes indicating the female victim had fled the residence and reported being "beat almost half to death." He also learned that a three-year-old child remained inside the home with the involved male (Riddlebarger). The seriousness of the injuries described, combined with the presence of a child still in the residence, created an immediate sense of urgency for [REDACTED]. He activated his lights and siren and proceeded to the location.

When he arrived, several officers were already on scene or arrived moments later. They encountered the adult female victim at a neighbor's residence a few doors down. She was visibly injured, crying, frantic, and bleeding. She repeatedly told officers that the suspect had "tried to kill her" and that her young daughter was still inside the home. Officers asked the female victim for permission to enter the residence to locate the child. The female nodded her approval and notified officers that the male (Riddlebarger) had access to numerous firearms inside the home.

Based on this, officers retrieved their rifles, set a perimeter around 1451 East 219th Street, and made PA announcements ordering the male (Riddlebarger) to exit the home. Officers observed the male through a bay window at the front of the home. [REDACTED] recalled making eye contact with the male through the window on the front door. After numerous commands to exit the residence, the male failed to comply. Given the risk to the child, officers planned a forced entry.

The front storm door handle snapped during the initial attempt, so officers moved to the south side door near the driveway. While standing at the side door, [REDACTED] recalled hearing one of the officers on scene mention something about a rifle.

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Officer Wolk used a ram to breach the door, and [REDACTED] entered the house first, followed by multiple other officers in a single stack formation. [REDACTED] ascended a few stairs and entered the kitchen area with his rifle at a low ready and announcing "police."

As [REDACTED] took several steps inside the kitchen, he saw the muzzle of a rifle appear from a hallway. While continuing to issue commands, he quickly realized the suspect was raising a rifle toward him. [REDACTED] described the moment, and stated,

I just remember going, my, my memory went, I went muzzle, to his eyes, and then back to the gun. And I, like, I, I just remember bracing myself like, as hard as possible. 'cause I thought I was getting shot and I thought I was gonna die. And, um, that's when I just started shooting at him. And then I, as I fell off the ground and then I, I, I still saw his face and he looked like, he just looked so angry and determined and I'm, I, I thought I was gonna die right there in that kitchen [28:22].

Believing he was about to be shot, [REDACTED] fired several rounds while stepping back and stumbling over a garbage can, eventually falling to a kneeling position. From the ground, he fired additional rounds until he perceived the threat was stopped. He estimated firing 7-10 rounds total. [REDACTED] was unsure if the subject had fired his gun at the time.

After the subject fell to the ground, officers moved in, secured the rifle on the ground, and observed loose live rounds scattered in the kitchen. An officer who was also a registered nurse (Officer Cassie Mason) arrived on scene and immediately began rendering aid.

Officers continued clearing the residence and located the three-year-old child unharmed in the back bedroom.

[REDACTED] then exited the home, removed his ballistic vest to check for injuries, and confirmed he had not been shot.

At the time [REDACTED] fired, he was approximately 15 feet away from the subject and aimed at the subject's center mass. He was unsure where his rounds hit but believed they likely hit where he aimed. He described how the subject looked and stated the following,

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I remember seeing his mouth was kind of open and his teeth were clenched shut. And I just remember something was weird with his, with his, uh, with his face. Like his teeth were, uh, I mean, no disrespect, his teeth just looked messed up. Um, and I just remember seeing that and I was like, this guy, is this guy gonna kill me? [33:27].

When asked if he feared for his safety, [REDACTED] expressed that he "genuinely thought [he] was gonna to die" [28:22]. He also feared for the safety of the other officers on scene and the juvenile who had remained inside the house.

[REDACTED] believed he experienced auditory exclusion and did not recall hearing his own rifle. He also believed he likely experienced time distortion recalling the incident occurring over a longer period rather than the few seconds it actually occurred in.

[REDACTED] believed his actions were consistent with his training. He did not believe he had any other options available to him other than using deadly force. He feared that if he did not shoot and engage the subject, he or other officers on scene would have been shot. He had no prior knowledge or contact with the subject involved in the shooting incident.

Employment and Training Records

[REDACTED] was hired by the EPD as a full time Police Officer on [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] attended and successfully completed the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) Basic Training Class [REDACTED] at the Cuyahoga Community College - West Campus from [REDACTED]. He passed his final exam on [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] completed multiple courses directly related to use of force. On February 9, 2025, the officer completed a course titled Use of Force - 2025. Additionally, on May 19, 2025, the officer completed Critical Thinking in Use of Force Situations and BCI Lethal Use of Force and OIS Investigations. A similar course on critical thinking in use of force situations was also completed on August 7, 2023.

[REDACTED] attended tactical training focused on violent encounters. On May 20-21, 2025, [REDACTED] completed Active Shooter Response (Tactical Teams). Additionally, on August 12, 2023, [REDACTED] completed Ohio School Threat Assessment, which addresses identifying and mitigating threats in school environments.

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██████████ completed several courses aimed at improving interactions with individuals and managing crisis situations. These include Vicarious Trauma on August 28, 2025, and CAT and Officer Wellness - 2025 on April 2, 2025. Courses addressing mental health include Dementia and Related Disorders on October 30, 2024, Crisis Mitigation - An Ohio Model on October 29, 2024, Responding to Mental Health Issues on October 16, 2024, and Veterans In Crisis on August 29, 2024. ██████████ also completed Victims' Rights - Marsy's Law on November 30, 2024, and March 24, 2025, which pertains to victim interaction and legal compliance.

Based on the records received and reviewed, it is noted that ██████████ was a duly certified and sworn Ohio Peace Officer at the time of the officer involved critical incident.

For additional information, refer to the audio and video recorded interview, ██████████ ██████████ personnel file, and the Investigative Reports titled *2026-02-25: Involved Officer Interview* - ██████████ and *2026-01-21: Personnel File Review*.

Subject Information – Robert Riddlebarger

This section contains information about the involved subject, Robert Riddlebarger.

Robert Riddlebarger – Background, Computerized Criminal History

Background information was compiled on Riddlebarger. This information included researching past police reports involving the subject, searching criminal history records, court records (if applicable), open/closed-source database inquiries, and social media posts. The information gathered was obtained from the BCI Criminal Intelligence Unit and the Euclid Police Department.

Prior Police Encounters/Agency Incident Reports:

Riddlebarger was involved in one prior incident with EPD on January 1, 2023. In the incident, Riddlebarger was listed as a victim. EPD Officer James Aoki (Aoki) handled the call for service. The incident was in regard to a former acquaintance of Riddlebarger being placed on a trespass list for Riddlebarger's property.

Computerized Criminal History (CCH) and/or Court Records:

Riddlebarger's CCH indicated ██████████ The nature and outcome of the arrests have been documented in the table below:

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Offense	Date of Arrest	Arresting Agency	Sentencing
[REDACTED]			

In addition to the listed crimes of violence, Riddlebarger had also been [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[Database Searches:](#)

BCI CIU conducted a variety of database searches involving Riddlebarger. One of the searches revealed that Riddlebarger had been investigated for an assault while in the United States Army. The incident, which was reported to have occurred on November 5, 2008, was classified as a mutual assault in which Riddlebarger engaged in a physical altercation with another member of the United States Army.

Riddlebarger's public Facebook page included various information regarding his time in the United States Army. Riddlebarger listed that he was a member of the 27th

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Engineer Battalion as well as the 57th Sapper Company. He also posted various photos alluding to his membership in an airborne unit.

For additional information, refer to the agency incident reports and the Investigative Report titled *2026-01-20: Review of Subject Workup*.

[Robert Riddlebarger – Autopsy](#)

As of the authoring and submission of this report, the autopsy report had not been finalized by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. Once the report is completed, a review and summary of the findings will be included in the case file.

[Dispatch-Related Information](#)

This section contains dispatch-related information associated with the incident. The information reviewed was obtained from the Euclid Police Department.

[Agency CAD Reports](#)

The CAD reports documented times and personnel assigned to the call. The report contains the dispatch, en route and arrival times of the officers who responded to the incident. Below is a summary of the two CAD reports received from EPD:

P1 CAD

The above titled 23-page document contained records relative to the 911 calls and radio traffic for this incident. The notes from the 911 call section were in line with the content of the recordings. The below snippets were taken from the CAD notes that the dispatcher added to the record. They do not encompass all the notes in the report, and are only representative of what SA Lamping deemed to be of the most importance:



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22:30:12 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrakoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments GOING TO BE MAKING ENTRY SHORTLY			
22:30:04 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrakoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments [REDACTED] - 1033 ACTIVE // CHILD IN DANGER AND MALE HAS GUNS PER THE FEMALE			

22:31:17 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrakoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments [REDACTED] - GET RAM TO FRONT DOOR // UNITS ON BACK OF HOUSE // THEN A COUPLE ANNOUNCEMENTS			

22:35:04 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrakoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments FOR SUSPECT			
22:34:51 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrakoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments [REDACTED] SHOTS FIRED GSW			
22:34:37 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrakoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments CALLED OUT BY 7			
22:34:32 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrakoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments BY POLICE			
22:34:28 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrakoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments SHOTS FIRED			
22:33:53 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrakoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments SUSP IN THE KITCHEN **			
22:33:43 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrakoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments E IS IN THE KITCHEN POSS ARMED WITH AN AR15			
22:33:37 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrakoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments 18 - MAKING ENTRY			

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22:35:38 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrkoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments			
HE CAME TO THE DOOR WITH THE AR 15 // ALL UNITS OK // SUSPECT DOWN			
22:35:21 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrkoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments			
SUSPECT IS DOWN MALE HAS MULTIPLE GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO TORSO			

22:40:38 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrkoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments			
65 - MEDIC TWO // TWO EMTS HAVE ENTERED THE RESIDENCE FOR SUSP			

22:51:03 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrkoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments			
47 GOING WITH VICTIM TO EGH // 18 GOING WITH SUSPECT TO EGH			
22:50:50 1/11/2026	QUERY	CVDWardT	CVD1-DISPATCH13
Query Request		Name: IMSubject	
[REDACTED]			
22:50:24 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrkoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments			
CORRECTION - 47 GOING WITH THE SQUAD			
22:48:52 1/11/2026	CMNTS	CVDKrkoraT	CVD1-DISPATCH04
Comments			
18 - SQUAD GOING TO EGH // 18 RIDING WITH			

CADCALL [REDACTED]

The second CAD call record contained an abbreviated version of the information from the first CAD call record. The information was displayed in a narrative style format. No additional information was in this CAD record.

For additional information, refer to the CAD reports, EMS run reports, and investigative reports titled *2026-01-21: Review of Dispatch Records and Recordings* and *2026-01-21: EMS Run Report Review*.

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Dispatch Radio Traffic and 911 Calls

Multiple audio files were provided that were related to the shooting incident. Only audio files that contained evidentiary value have been included below. For a review of all audio files provided, please refer to the radio traffic, phone calls, and Investigative Report titled *2026-01-21: Review of Dispatch Records and Recordings*.

911 Calls

A total of three 911 calls were received at the dispatch center.

CVD1_Vesta06_2026_01_11_22_18_26.wav

The initial 911 call was received at 22:18:26 hours and lasted for 1 minute and 58 seconds.

When the dispatcher began speaking, a loud verbal altercation could be heard on the other end of the call, partially drowning out the dispatcher's attempts to speak with the caller. The dispatcher continued their attempts to obtain information from the caller as the verbal altercation continued. It sounded as though a male was yelling at a female while the female sobbed and repeatedly apologized to the male. The female could be heard crying throughout the call, and at no point did she speak with the dispatcher. As the dispatcher attempted to get the caller to speak with them, the caller stated:

Oh, my goodness. I'm trying to clean up babe. There's... there's so much blood, I'm working, I'm sorry. (01:14)

Shortly after the above quote, the call was terminated.

CVD1_Vesta06_2026_01_11_22_20_53.wav

The second 911 call was received at 22:20:53 hours and lasted for 1 minute and 9 seconds.

The call opened with a dial tone followed by a male answering the phone. The dispatcher identified themselves and asked for the male's address. The male declined to provide the address, and when asked why he would not provide it he stated:

Why? Because, uh, I don't need your 911 for one, and [unintelligible] you can suck my fucking dick (0:29).

The dispatcher asked why the male could not provide his address and the male continued to make additional lude comments to the dispatcher:

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Why? Because I don't know who the fuck you are and you can suck my dick (0:42).

The dispatcher attempted to obtain information about the happenings at the residence; however, the male on the line denied anything occurring at the residence. When the dispatcher told the male that she had heard that assistance was needed at the residence the male responded:

Oh, there ain't nobody in the background. You can suck my dick. Fucking pig, uh, fucking pig bitch (0:56).

The dispatcher asked the male for his name and he stated, "my name is, uh, you can suck my dick" (01:04)

The dispatcher advised the male that officers would be en route to the residence and then terminated the call.

CVD1_Vesta01_2026_01_11_22_22_50.wav

The third and final 911 call occurred at 22:22:50 hours and was 6 minutes and 2 seconds in length.

As the call was answered and the dispatcher asked for the location of the emergency, a frantic sounding woman reported that she had been assaulted by the father of her child. She began to plead for assistance and yelled that her baby was still in the residence with the father. She reported that she had run away from her residence and was approximately two houses away. The caller then identified herself as [REDACTED] and provided further details about the incident:

[REDACTED]... [REDACTED] (inaudible) my face is a little bloody, he tried to kill me... please don't let him hurt my baby (0:39).

[REDACTED] continued to plead for assistance as she provided information about Robert Riddlebarger (Riddlebarger). She stated that she felt she had a concussion. When asked if she needed an ambulance she stated:

Yes, I need an ambulance right now. I've been beaten, I've been bleeding from everywhere and my daughter's in the house (1:21).

[REDACTED] was still frantic and described the assault in further detail:

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He just started beating the crap outta me. I called in the garage talking on the phone with some chick and then he tried to get me [unintelligible] he started flipping out on me (1:50).

██████████ reported that her three-year-old daughter was still in the house. She also stated that Riddlebarger had been on top of her and assaulted her in various locations around the house. The dispatcher asked ██████████ what precipitated the incident, and she said:

He was on the phone in the garage with this chick from high school or some shit, and he wanted me to call her and he was really mad because, I, I told him, he was saying intimate stuff with her and wouldn't talk to me. He just kept saying he hated me and he started beating me like, I please just help (2:39).

██████████ continued to ask the dispatcher to assist her child. She expressed concern for the child's wellbeing. ██████████ continued to talk with the dispatcher and stated:

I can't believe he fucking did this, he was really trying to kill me (3:41).

██████████ continued on to provide further information about the occurrences in the residence prior to her fleeing:

Oh my God... And my phone is at the house. I just called, this old one I have. Unfortunately, I called 911 on his phone and I believe they called him back as I was running outta the house (4:02).

██████████ told the dispatcher that she was bleeding from her nose, mouth, and ears. The dispatcher asked ██████████ if she felt that her daughter was in danger with Riddlebarger. ██████████ told the dispatcher that she felt that her daughter was in danger and explained that she had to run from Riddlebarger as she felt that he was going to beat her to death.

The call was terminated after ██████████ began conversing with other individuals on scene, possibly first responders.

Radio Traffic

Elapsed Time	Unit	Transmission
0:06:38	Dispatch	Officers were dispatched to the Riddlebarger residence and informed that Riddlebarger was intoxicated, had beaten ██████████ and had their three-year-old child in the house.
0:09:03	Dispatch	Dispatch advised the responding officers that ██████████ felt that her

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		child was in danger.
0:10:27		Unit [REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] stated that Riddlebarger had firearms and her child was in danger, he planned to make announcements and then make entry into the residence.
0:11:05	Unknown	An unknown officers asked that an ambulance be sent for [REDACTED] and he reported that she was "really injured." The officer also advised they were surrounding Riddlebarger's residence and confirmed the address.
0:11:36	Unknown	An officer asked if the units were ready for announcements to be made via loudspeaker.
0:12:42	Unknown	An officer asked dispatch to note that announcements were commencing.
0:13:52	Unknown	An officer stated, "Pretty sure he's got a gun. Long rifle."
0:14:06	Unknown	An officer stated, "yeah, AR-15, he's in the kitchen now, back side."
0:14:12	Unknown	An officer stated that Riddlebarger was moving around a lot in the residence and that officers were going to make entry.
0:15:11	Unknown	An officer stated, "shots fired." Additionally, transmissions were made by other officers at approximately the same time also advising that shots had been fired.
0:15:30	Unknown	An officer once again advised shots had been fired and requested an ambulance for the suspect.

Agency Incident Report

Euclid Police Department provided a copy of the incident report completed by the following EPD officers:

- Officer Timothy Ramos (#65)
- Officer Allan Garbaloff (#18)
- Detective George Harper (#23)
- Officer Kassie Mason (#47)
- Sergeant Nate Reed (#103)
- Captain D. Holden (#391)
- Detective David Carpenter (#02)

Below is a summary of the contents of the report that directly related to the shooting incident:

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Officer Timothy Ramos (Ramos) was on scene at the time of the shooting incident. He authored the incident report for EPD with an incident number [REDACTED]. The report was titled "DV/OIS" and dated January 11, 2026, 23:00:00.

Officer Ramos was the officer who spoke with Punckowski and provided quotes of what she said prior to the incident. Officer Ramos wrote that officers responded to a domestic violence call involving [REDACTED] and Riddlebarger. [REDACTED] stated she was waiting at a neighbor's home after the purported domestic violence. [REDACTED] also added that her daughter was still inside the residence with Riddlebarger, and that Riddlebarger had access to firearms.

[REDACTED] was reported saying:

"I'm here! My babies at 1 4 5 1, please!" "He started beating the shit outta me. He's trying to kill me!" "He's my baby daddy".

I asked if he (Robert) had any guns? She replied "Yes".

Officer Ramos also detailed the commands issued by Officer Wolk as the following:

1st warning (22:32:21) "Occupant of 1851, come to the front door with your hands empty."
2nd warning "Occupant of 1851 E 219 St, come to the front door, slowly open it with your hands empty."
3rd warning "Occupant of 1851 E 219, this is the Euclid Police, open the door with your hands empty."
4th warning "Occupant of 1851, this is the Euclid Police, open the door with your hands empty."

After being corrected;

5th warning (22:33:21), 1st with the correct address. "Occupant of 1 4 5 1 E 219 St, come to the front door with your hands empty. This is the Euclid Police."
6th and final warning. "Occupant of 1451 E 219 St, this is the Euclid Police, final warning, come to the front door with your hands empty now."

Officer Ramos was outside when he heard gunshots. He observed a muzzle flash and more shots. He then entered the house to assist officers.

Officer Ramos located and removed the female child from the residence.

Officer Allan Garbaloff (Officer Garbaloff) was on scene at the time of the shooting incident, and he authored a supplement in the EPD Investigative Report titled "SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT" which was dated January 12, 2026, 01:41:39.

Officer Garbaloff was near the rear of the residence where he was able to observe the interior of the home and Riddlebarger holding a rifle. Officer Garbaloff described his view of the incident as the following:

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As verbal commands started over the patrol car loudspeaker, I observed Riddlebarger walk up to the front door and look outside the door. I put this observation on the radio to alert officers located at the front of the residence. I then observed Riddlebarger walk away from the door and come back with what looked like a longer barrel-style rifle to look outside the front door again. This was also put over the radio to alert officers. At this time, Riddlebarger turned around and walked near the kitchen, which is when I gained confirmation that Riddlebarger was holding an AR-15 style rifle. This was also put over the radio. Riddlebarger then exited my view and did not return until the officers at the side door were about to make entry into the home.

Officers who completed a supplemental report but were not present at the time of the shooting incident were not included in the summary above.

There were no interviews completed with witness officers. The officers who were on scene completed detailed incident reports recounting their involvement and observations while on scene. It was believed no additional information would be learned from interviews with any of the officers who were on scene, due to none of the officers being present inside the home at the time of the shooting.

For additional information, refer to the agency incident report and the Investigative Report titled *2026-01-21: Agency Incident Report Review*.

Video Recordings

A review was completed of all video footage collected throughout the investigation. This included a review of body-worn camera worn by the involved officer and witness officers and dash cam video.

Body Worn Camera Review

BWC and in-car/dash camera videos were collected from the following officers:

- [REDACTED] - BWC/dash cam
- Officer Allen Garbaloff - BWC
- Officer Joseph Ramos - BWC

Some of the videos were determined to have captured footage of the actual shooting incident. Other videos only audibly captured the sound of gunfire in the background but did not portray the origination of the sound.

To the extent possible the percussive sounds believed to be gunfire have been identified as such in this report. It should be noted that those references are based on the totality of corroborating information and evidence gathered throughout this investigation.

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██████████ BWC

Two videos were provided by EPD for ██████████. After an initial review, the videos were determined to be duplicates.

The video began at 22:25:03 on 01/11/26, with ██████████ driving in his patrol vehicle. The video did not capture any sound until 22:26:03. At that time, sirens could be heard in the background and ██████████ could be heard stating "█████'s en route."

- At 22:28:34, ██████████ stopped his police cruiser on the street and exited the vehicle.
- At 22:29:07 ██████████ approached a white house and began speaking with a black male, who was identified as Herschel Barnes (Barnes). A female could be observed in the front doorway. The female was later identified as ██████████
- Barnes began speaking with ██████████ and stated that he (Barnes) knows ██████████ because she is a neighbor down the street. Punckowski could be observed speaking with another officer. She stated that "he" (i.e. Robert Riddlebarger (Riddlebarger)) had access to guns.
- Multiple officers could be observed on scene at Barnes' residence.
- At 22:29:32, ██████████ appeared to walk to his patrol vehicle and retrieve his rifle.
- At 22:29:40, an officer (likely ██████████) could be heard stating there were guns in the house and a child was in danger. The officer then stated they would be "making one or two call outs" and then "making entry" into the residence. This was likely ██████████ updating dispatch.
- Officers could then be observed walking towards the residence where Riddlebarger was located.
- At 22:30:56, ██████████ appeared to approach the front door of the residence to 1451 East 219th Street.
- At 22:32:13, someone could be heard stating "he's right there." This was likely the officer referring to Riddlebarger's position inside the house.
- At 22:32:15, someone could be heard giving commands for the "occupant" of 1851[sic] (East 219th Street) to exit the residence. The command was repeated multiple times.
- At 23:33:06, the officer, who could be heard giving commands, corrected themselves on the house numbers and began using 1451 E. 219th Street for their commands. The command was given multiple times.

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- At 22:33:22, the officer giving commands could be heard stating “final warning” to the occupant.
- At 22:33:43, an officer could be heard stating, “I got a breach.” An officer could then be observed using a breaching tool to make entry into the front door of 1451 East 219th Street.
- [REDACTED] rifle could be observed on his BWC and he was standing near the front door during the attempt to breach the door. The breach attempt appeared to be unsuccessful.
- At 22:33:52, [REDACTED] began moving across the front of the house towards the driveway. As [REDACTED] rounded the corner of the house, an officer could be observed approaching the side door of the residence.
- At 22:34:02, [REDACTED] opened the exterior side door of the house and appeared to look through the window of the interior door.
- At 22:34:16, an officer could be observed approaching the side door with a breaching tool. A loud crash could be heard, which was likely the moment the door was opened with the breaching tool.
- At 22:34:17, [REDACTED] began entering the house through the side door with his rifle. A small set of stairs could be observed with a door partially open to the right [REDACTED] BWC 1).
- At 22:34:18, [REDACTED] went up the small set of stairs and through a doorway [REDACTED] BWC 2).
- At 22:34:19, [REDACTED] entered what appeared to be the kitchen of the residence. He could be observed pointing his rifle towards the wall where the kitchen table was positioned [REDACTED] BWC 3).
- At 22:34:20, [REDACTED] continued to walk through the kitchen towards the kitchen table. The muzzle of a rifle could be observed behind the refrigerator [REDACTED] BWC 4).
 - [REDACTED] continued moving through the kitchen and the barrel of the rifle could be observed [REDACTED] BWC 5; [REDACTED] BWC 6).
 - As [REDACTED] approached the refrigerator, Riddlebarger’s left leg and hand could be observed holding a rifle [REDACTED] BWC 7).
 - Riddlebarger then appeared to point the muzzle of the rifle in the direction of [REDACTED] BWC 8).
- At 22:34:21, Riddlebarger could be observed next to the refrigerator pointing the rifle towards [REDACTED]. Someone could be heard yelling “police department, put your hands up” [REDACTED] BWC 9).
 - [REDACTED] appeared to move to the right and a gunshot could be heard [REDACTED] BWC 10).

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- There were approximately nine gunshots in total. Riddlebarger could not be observed at the time of the gunfire due to [REDACTED] rifle obstructing the camera angle.
- At 22:34:24, the gunfire ended and a large black object could be observed on the floor near the refrigerator. This was likely Riddlebarger lying on the ground after he was shot [REDACTED] BWC 11).
- At 22:34:28, someone could be heard stating "radio, shots fired, shots fired."
- At 22:34:31, [REDACTED] approached Riddlebarger and began giving him commands to show his hands.
- At 22:34:42, [REDACTED] began walking through the house. This was likely when the officers were "clearing" the remainder of the home and searching for the juvenile.
- At 22:34:59, someone could be heard asking "Where is the baby at?" Someone then responded, "Over here, back right."
- At 22:35:08, someone could be heard stating, "Radio, suspects down, start EMS."
- At 22:35:20, [REDACTED] exited the house through the side door where he originally entered.
- The remainder of the video was scene management after the shooting incident.
- At 22:39:04, an officer, who appeared to be a sergeant, could be observed exiting a vehicle and approaching [REDACTED]. The remaining 14 seconds of the video were not reviewed due to possible Garrity statements being made.

The entire incident, from the moment [REDACTED] arrived on scene, until the last gunshot, was approximately 6 minutes.

The duration of time between [REDACTED] entering the residence and the time of the first gunshot was approximately 7 seconds.

The duration of time between the moment Riddlebarger could be observed pointing the rifle in the direction of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] firing his gun was approximately 1 second.



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██████████ BWC 1



██████████ BWC 2

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██████ BWC 3



██████ BWC 4

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██████████ BWC 5



██████████ BWC 6

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██████ BWC 7



██████ BWC 8

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██████████ BWC 9



██████████ BWC 10

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██████████ BWC 11

Dash camera video that was received for ██████████ did not capture anything relevant to the shooting incident.

For additional information, refer to the Investigative Reports titled *2026-01-22: Involved Officer BWC Review* and *2026-01-23: Review Dash Camera Video*.

Officer Allen Garbaloff BWC Review

One video was provided by the EPD of video that was captured by Officer Garbaloff's body-worn camera. The video did not capture the shooting incident but rather captured the moments after the shooting incident. Below is a summary of the video.

The video began on January 11, 2026, at 22:38:35 hours, and began with Officer Garbaloff walking towards a residence.

At approximately 22:29:12 hours, Officer Garbaloff arrived in the area of 1481 East 219th Street, Euclid. Other unknown officers are seen speaking with a black male, who was a resident at 1481 East 219th Street.

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After a few moments, Officer Garbaloff and other officers began moving towards the residence at 1451 East 219th Street.

At approximately 22:29:35 hours, the audio was activated on Officer Garbaloff's BWC.

At approximately 22:29:38 hours, Officer Garbaloff contacted another officer and asked if there were firearms present in the residence at 1451 East 219th Street. The other officer replied that there were firearms present.

Officer Garbaloff then moved to an area where he could observe and cover the side of the residence at 1451 East 219th Street.

At approximately 22:32:15 hours, an unknown officer, using the public address (PA) system on a cruiser, began calling out that EPD Officers were present and directed the occupant of the residence at 1451 East 219th Street to come to the front door with his hands empty. This unknown officer repeated the instructions a number of times.

At approximately 22:33:16 hours, Officer Garbaloff notified other officers that the subject (Riddlebarger) was in the kitchen of the residence. However, Riddlebarger cannot be seen on the video.

At approximately 22:34:16 hours, officers can be heard making entry into the residence.

At approximately 22:34:21 hours, shots are fired.

Officer Garbaloff then moved towards the side door into the residence where officers had made entry.

At approximately 22:34:34 hours, Officer Garbaloff entered the residence. An AR style semi-automatic rifle can be seen lying on the floor. Officers are also seen attending to Riddlebarger.

Officer Garbaloff then went to the basement with other officers and checked and cleared the basement. Once the basement was checked and was found to be empty of any other individuals, Officer Garbaloff returned to the first floor of the residence.

At approximately 22:35:06 hours, an unknown officer notified EPD Dispatch:

"Radio. Suspect is down. Start EMS. Male with gunshot wounds. He came to the door with a rifle. He has multiple gunshot wounds to the torso."

The remainder of the video captured scene management after the shooting incident.

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For a full review of the provided video, refer to the Investigative Report titled 2026-01-23: Review BWC Video – Officer Garbaloff and the BWC video.

[Officer Joseph Ramos BWC Review](#)

One video was provided by EPD of captured footage from Officer Ramos' body-worn camera. The video did not capture the shooting incident but rather captured the moments after the shooting incident. Below is a summary of the video.

The video began on January 11, 2026, at 22:22:19 hours and starts with a dark screen and no audio.

At approximately 22:23:18 hours, the audio was activated.

At approximately 22:28:33 hours, Officer Ramos notified EPD Dispatch that he was out at 1481 East 219th Street, Euclid.

At approximately 22:28:42 hours, Officer Ramos contacted [REDACTED] the caller who reported that she was a victim of domestic violence [REDACTED] told Officer Ramos that her daughter was still at the residence at 1451 East 219th Street, which was the scene of the domestic violence incident.

Officer Ramos had [REDACTED] go back into the residence. Once inside, he asked [REDACTED] what was going on.

At approximately 22:28:57 hours, [REDACTED] replied:

"...He started beating the shit outta me... He's trying to kill me..."

Officer Ramos then asked [REDACTED] if the male subject in the domestic violence incident (Robert Riddlebarger) had any guns. [REDACTED] said:

"Yes."

At approximately 22:29:23 hours, Officer Ramos asked [REDACTED] why she thought her daughter was in danger.

At approximately 22:29:29 hours, [REDACTED] stated:

"Because he's drunk as shit. He started beating the crap out of me...and I was bleeding...tried to kill me."

Shortly thereafter, Officer Ramos notified other officers that firearms were present at the residence at 1451 East 216th Street. Officer Ramos then exited the residence at

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1481 East 216th Street and began moving with other officers towards 1451 East 216th Street. Officer Ramos also told other officers that there was a baby in the residence.

Officer Ramos then notified dispatch that [REDACTED] needed a squad and that officers were surrounding the residence at 1451 East 216th Street.

At approximately 22:31:10 hours, Officer Ramos arrived at 1451 East 219th Street and took up a position where he could cover the rear of the residence.

At approximately 22:32:15 hours, an unknown officer is heard using a cruiser's public address (PA) system identifying themselves as the police and instructing Riddlebarger to open the front door with his hands empty. This instruction was given multiple times over the PA system.

At approximately 22:34:16 hours, officers were heard entering the house through the side door.

At approximately 22:34:20, an unknown officer is heard announcing:

"Police Department. Put your hands up."

At approximately 22:34:21 hours, shots were fired.

At approximately 22:34:32 hours, Officer Ramos entered the residence through the side door with other unidentified Officers.

At approximately 22:34:37 hours, Officer Ramos went to the basement to check and clear the area.

After clearing the basement, Officer Ramos went back upstairs, passing the area where Riddlebarger was lying and receiving first aid from an Officer, and assisted in checking on the status of the child, who was located in a bedroom safe and uninjured. He then assisted in checking and clearing the remainder of the residence.

For a full review of the provided video, refer to the Investigative Report titled 2026-01-26: Review BWC Video – Officer Ramos and the BWC video.

BCI Laboratory Firearm Analysis

Multiple items of evidence were submitted to the BCI Firearms laboratory for analysis. The firearm utilized by [REDACTED] and the rifle Riddlebarger was observed holding were both submitted for operability testing. Additionally, the eight fired .556 cartridge casings were submitted for source identification. SA

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Fletcher received the results of the analysis on February 5, 2026, and noted the following:

Items Submitted to The Lab

Lab Item #	CS/Matrix #	Item Description
1	32	One (1) fired 5.56x45mm cartridge case
2	33	One (1) Diamondback 5.56X45mm semi-automatic rifle, model DB15, S/N: DB2205448
3	34	One (1) fired 5.56x45mm cartridge case
4	35	One (1) fired 5.56x45mm cartridge case
5	36	One (1) fired 5.56x45mm cartridge case
6	37	One (1) fired 5.56x45mm cartridge case
7	38	One (1) fired 5.56x45mm cartridge case
8	39	One (1) fired 5.56x45mm cartridge case
9	40	One (1) fired 5.56x45mm cartridge case
10	48	One (1) fired bullet
11	51	One (1) American Defense 223 Wylde semi-automatic rifle, model UIC, S/N: [REDACTED] one(1) magazine and nineteen (19) 5.56X45mm cartridges

Testing Results and Conclusions

Item Description	Comparison	Conclusion
Lab Item 2/Matrix Item 33	N/A	Operable
Lab Item 11/Matrix Item 51	N/A	Operable
	Items 1 (Matrix Item 32) and items 3-9 (Matrix item(s) 34-39 & 40): Eight (8) fired 5.56X45mm cartridge cases	Source Identification
	Item 10 (Matrix item 48): One (1) fired bullet	Source Identification

- The Diamondback rifle (Lab item 2/Matrix item 33) used by the involved subject (Robert Riddlebarger) was determined to be operable.

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- The American Defense Rifle (Lab item 11/Matrix item 51) used by the involved officer [REDACTED] was also determined to be operable.
- The source of the submitted eight (8) fired 5.56X45mm cartridges (Lab item(s) 1, 3-9/Matrix item 32, 34-40) was determined to be the rifle fired by [REDACTED] (Lab item 11/Matrix item 51).
- The source of the fired bullet (Lab item 10/Matrix item 48) was determined to be the rifle (Lab item 11/Matrix item 51) fired by [REDACTED]
- It was also noted that there was significant damage to both the stock and magazine of the Diamondback rifle (Lab item 2/Matrix item 33). The damage consisted of significant damage to the magazine that was consistent with the firearm having been struck by gunfire.

It was later learned there was one additional cartridge casing that was collected during crime scene processing (total of 9). The additional cartridge casing was not submitted to the lab for testing due to significant damage on the casing. Based upon the information learned throughout the investigation it is likely that the 9th fired cartridge casing was fired by [REDACTED].

According to the evidence receipt generated from crime scene processing, there were three additional "fired projectiles." After additional examination by crime scene agents, these projectiles were determined to be "damaged" and/or "separated" from the cartridge casing and not fired.

For additional information, refer to the Investigative Reports titled *2026-01-13: Evidence Submitted to BCI Lab* and *2026-02-04: BCI Firearms Lab Report Received and Reviewed*.

Conclusion

Based upon the tangible/physical evidence, video and audio recordings, statements from present law enforcement officers, and the totality of the investigation, it was concluded [REDACTED] called 911 requesting assistance from the Euclid Police Department after she was physically assaulted by her boyfriend, Robert Riddlebarger, at their shared residence located at 1451 East 219th Street in Euclid, Ohio.

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Multiple officers from the Euclid Police Department responded to the area and located [REDACTED] at her neighbor's residence (1481 East 219th Street). [REDACTED] had visible injuries and was distraught while speaking with officers. She indicated that Riddlebarger was at their residence (1451 East 219th Street) with their 3-year-old daughter. She feared for her daughter's safety and said that Riddlebarger had access to firearms.

Officers created a perimeter around 1451 East 219th Street and began giving commands to Riddlebarger to exit the residence. Riddlebarger could be seen by officers inside the home; one officer indicated that Riddlebarger was holding a rifle.

After numerous verbal commands, officers began formulating a plan to force entry into the home based upon the nature of the incident and the safety of the young child still in the home. A battering ram was utilized by officers and entry was gained through the side door near the driveway.

[REDACTED] was the first officer to enter the home; he was equipped with a rifle. Additional officers entered the residence behind him in a single stack formation.

As [REDACTED] entered the home, he ascended a small flight of stairs that led to the kitchen. He was simultaneously giving verbal commands and announcements of police being present with his rifle in a low ready position.

When [REDACTED] entered the kitchen, he observed the muzzle of a rifle coming from around the corner of a hallway that was across from him.

Moments later, Riddlebarger became visible and was holding the rifle; he began raising the rifle to point in the direction of [REDACTED]. It was at that moment that [REDACTED] fired his rifle at Riddlebarger approximately nine times, striking him multiple times. Riddlebarger fell to the ground.

Officers continued to perform a protective sweep of the residence to locate any additional suspects and the three-year-old juvenile female. The young child was located lying in bed and visibly distraught.

Officers began rendering aid to Riddlebarger and EMS personnel were requested to respond to the residence. Riddlebarger was transported to the hospital where he later died as a result of his injuries.

A review of incident reports completed by officers who were on scene indicated that Riddlebarger did not comply with the multiple lawful commands given by

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officers.

During crime scene processing, a total of nine fired 5.56 cartridge casings and four fired projectiles were collected from the kitchen area. Additionally, two rifles were collected and determined to belong to Riddlebarger and the involved officer.

Riddlebarger's firearm sustained damage to the magazine well and inserted magazine resulting in a loss of multiple live rounds (also collected). The damage was consistent with being struck by gunfire. Riddlebarger's firearm was later determined to be operable.

██████████ firearm was determined to be the source of the eight fired cartridge casings and the fired projectile that were submitted to the lab. One additional fired cartridge casing was inadvertently not submitted to the lab. Based upon information learned throughout the investigation, it was reasonable to conclude that the ninth fired 5.56 cartridge casing was fired by ██████████ rifle.

The conclusion was based on the totality of the investigation. Throughout the investigative process, investigators continually evaluated the physical evidence in conjunction with audio and video recordings, forensic findings, witness statements, involved officer statements and other information to ensure all relevant facts and circumstances surrounding this incident were obtained.

This investigation was focused on the officer-involved shooting incident and the law enforcement use of force that led to the death of Riddlebarger.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports, documents, and files 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 Allison Fletcher who can be reached via email at allison.fletcher@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone at 330-217-3605.

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