



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



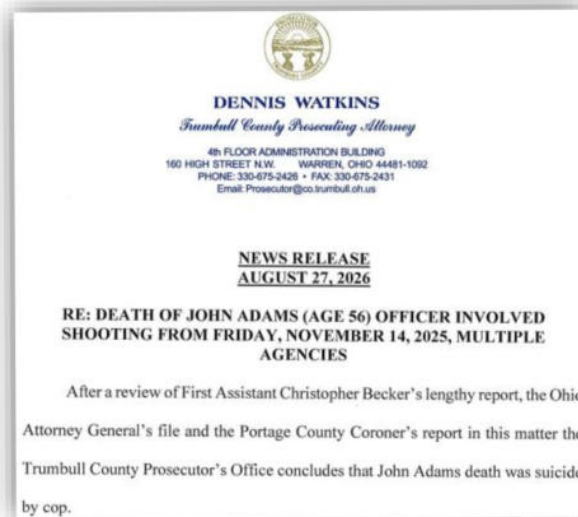
2025-3711

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1363 State Route 534
NW, Braceville Township, OH 44470, Trumbull County (L)

Investigative Activity: Case Closing, Prosecutor Decision, Evidence Returned
Involves: John Adams (S)
Activity Date: 08/28/2026
Activity Location: BCI Boardman – 760 Boardman-Canfield Road, Boardman,
OH 44512
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Thursday, August 27, 2026, the investigation regarding the officer-involved critical incident was determined to be justified by the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office. A forty-one-page letter/press release on the investigation was authored by Prosecutor Dennis Watkins. The document ultimately determined that John Adams committed "suicide by cop":



All evidence in this case has been returned to the appropriate parties, and copies of the evidence receipts have been attached to this report. Special Agent Joe Lamping and Special Agent Supervisor Charles Moran reviewed this investigation and discussed the This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



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



2025-3711

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1363 State Route 534
NW, Braceville Township, OH 44470, Trumbull County (L)

documentation. During this discussion, it was determined that the investigation was sufficiently pursued and all investigative efforts and aspects of this case have been completed. Special agent assistance is no longer required by the requesting agency.

The documents received from the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office are attached to this report. Please refer to those documents for further information.

This case is closed.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. 2026-08-27 - Press Release Braceville and Sheriff's Office OIS November 14, 2025
2. 2026-09-01 - Evidence to [REDACTED]
3. Evidence to Trumbull County Sheriffs Office - Bret Henderson

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.



DENNIS WATKINS

Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

4th FLOOR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
160 HIGH STREET N.W. WARREN, OHIO 44481-1092
PHONE: 330-675-2426 • FAX: 330-675-2431
Email: Prosecutor@co.trumbull.oh.us

NEWS RELEASE
AUGUST 27, 2026

**RE: DEATH OF JOHN ADAMS (AGE 56) OFFICER INVOLVED
SHOOTING FROM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2025, MULTIPLE
AGENCIES**

After a review of First Assistant Christopher Becker's lengthy report, the Ohio Attorney General's file and the Portage County Coroner's report in this matter the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office concludes that John Adams death was suicide by cop.

Incident Synopsis

On November 14, 2025, at approximately 4:51 p.m. [REDACTED] of the Braceville Police Department was dispatched to the area of 1363 State Route 534 in reference to a male that was standing in the roadway, stopping traffic, while armed with a weapon. Trumbull County Sheriff's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were also dispatched to assist [REDACTED].

When officers arrived on scene they located John Adams (Adams) near the entrance to Doll Lumber, located at 1363 State Route 534. Adams was armed with a Glock 43X 9mm pistol. The law enforcement officers, along with two other individuals who knew Adams, tried to de-escalate the situation. Adams refused to cooperate or drop his firearm.

Adams, while still holding his firearm, began to approach Todd Garland, the Braceville Township Fire Chief and friend of Adams. Adams was instructed by law enforcement officers to place the firearm down and once again did not comply. Adams turned away from the officers and began to walk away from them at which time [REDACTED] deployed his taser into Adams' back. Adams began to convulse and eventually turned towards the responding officers. As he turned towards the officers he was pointing the firearm in their direction. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] discharged their firearms at Adams.

Adams was struck by the gunfire and fell to the ground. Medical aid was rendered, and Adams was subsequently transported by the Braceville Township Fire Department to the Portage Medical Center. Adams was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

Chief David Fay of the Braceville Township Police Department and Sheriff Michael Wilson of the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Force Investigations

Unit (FIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the officer-involved critical incident.

BCI Special Agent Joe Lamping was assigned as the lead investigator and was assisted by Special Agents Dan Boerner, Allsion Fletcher, Jesse Bynum, John Saraya, and Jared Prill. BCI Special Agents Chad Doran and Ed Lulla along with Crime Scene Technician Michael Rostocil of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident, documenting, preserving, and collecting possible evidence.

INVESTIGATION

911 & Dispatch Calls

The first call received in reference to Adams was logged at 4:52 p.m. The caller identified themselves as the bondsman that had assisted Adams' girlfriend, Mackenzie Royer, in bonding out of jail. He advised the dispatch center that Adams had called him to say that he had ruined Adams' life.

The caller stated that Adams had been calling him for five (5) hours. The caller stated he had no idea who it was that kept calling him. Adams also told the bondsman that he planned on shooting himself.

Four 911 calls were received regarding Adams. The callers all reported observing Adams in the roadway stopping traffic. Two of the callers specifically stated that Adams was in possession of a gun, and another said that Adams was making suicidal statements.

A summary of the four 911 calls received by the Trumbull County 911 center follows:

The first caller was not identified on the recorded line. The caller stated:

"Uh, I'm at the, on route 534 in front of Doll Lumber at Shanks Phalanx Road. There's a man in the middle of the road stopping traffic with a gun in his hand. He has a pistol in his hand."

The dispatcher asked for the location of the incident again and the caller responded:

"Yep. 534 and Shanks in front of Doll Lumber. He's right in the driveway. He's stopping cars nonstop with a gun in his hand. Right in the middle of the road."

The caller provided a description that essentially identified Adams.

The second caller was not identified during the 911 call. The caller stated that she observed a male stopping cars and running out into traffic on Shanks Phalanx Road.

The dispatcher asked the caller if they observed any weapons on the male and they stated that they didn't see any. The caller told the dispatcher that they planned to leave the area as they were scared.

The third caller was not identified during the 911 call. They advised that they were on State Route 543 in front of Doll Lumber when they observed a male they thought needed help. The caller stated:

"I thought he needed help, so I stopped and he pulled a gun on me."

The dispatcher asked the caller to describe the gun and they described it as an "automatic." The caller also said that they got past the male going North on State Route 534 and then stopped traffic to warn other drivers.

A fourth caller who was not identified during the 911 call. The dispatcher asked for the location of the caller's emergency, and the caller was excited and said:

"Uh, the intersection... What was that, the name of that road? It started with a p... Um, a guy just flagged down my vehicle and asked me to call 911 'cause he is about the shoot himself and..."

The caller attempted to provide further information. However, the information could not be made out as the dispatcher began to talk over the caller to advise them that the dispatcher center already had the information she was providing.

WITNESSES

Lay Witnesses

Four (4) lay witnesses to the events were identified in addition to the law enforcement officers who were on the scene.

Jason Brinker

Jason Brinker reported that he and his wife, Tiffany Brinker, were traveling South bound on State Route 534 when they observed vehicles swerving. As Jason made his way closer to the location that the vehicles were swerving, he observed:

"...a man in the middle of the road waving a gun around. I didn't realize it was a gun until we got right up by him and he was pointing it at our vehicle. "

Jason explained that after the gun was pointed at him either he or his wife called 911 to report the incident. While they were on the phone with 911, Jason attempted to locate the male. He was able to observe the male sitting in a driveway on State Route 534. He told investigators:

"Uh, he sat down in the driveway and had the gun to his head, screaming and hollering. Um, then this other car pulled up a few minutes later, uh, Braceville Fire Department pulled up and at that time, he had shot off a couple rounds in the air screaming 'he can't take this anymore'. Uh, Braceville police got here along with two sheriffs, and they tried to deescalate the situation. Uh, he turned around and ran. They tased him when he turned and he fired back at them and then they fired on him and he hit the ground."

Jason was asked if he recalled the male subject firing any rounds towards the law enforcement officers that arrived on scene. Jason stated:

"He, he had turned, he was hollering and screaming and had the gun to his head. And I, I would imagine in my situ... my mind, the officer took the opportunity to deescalate it and tased him. But the taser, he turned around and started shooting at the officers and so they, they fired back."

When he was asked about anything that the man was saying during the incident Jason stated:

“‘I can't take my life anymore. You don't understand.’ I mean, just a, a lot of mumble, we could hear him screaming, but, and when the cops got here, he just kept screaming at them to ‘back up, back up, or I'll kill myself back up, I'll kill myself.’”

Jason told investigators that as soon as the man was tased he swung around and pointed the gun directly at the officers.

Tiffany Brinker

Tiffany was with her husband Jason, and they were travelling on State Route 534 around Doll Lumber. Tiffany told investigators:

“So, we were just traveling down 534 here and noticed a gentleman, uh, walking from this parking lot area. Um, in and out of the traffic area. He was stopping vehicles in front of us. Uh, he was in front of us waving a gun. Um, he, as we were going by him, uh, he stopped a vehicle behind us. So, we pulled over, tried to call 911 through here, but there was like no service. So, we got down further and were able to call. So, we swung back around, pulled in here, uh, so we could try to stop traffic and stuff like that. Um, we noticed, uh, the one car pulled in there and was trying to talk to the guy. Um, and he was yelling. He just, ‘he couldn't do this anymore’. He fired off a couple rounds in the air. He pointed the gun at himself, sat down, stood back up. He was just like all over the place a little bit. Um, the fire guy in the red SUV showed up and was trying to talk to him a little bit too. Uh, but he, you know, nothing, nothing was working.”

Tiffany told investigators that she did not see the deployment of the taser but that she heard it. She further told investigators that heard the gunshots but did not see the event because she was blocked by her truck.

Trisha Reeder

Trisha Reeder explained that she was driving on State Route 534 when she observed Adams, whom she referred to as Johnny, waving his arms. She explained that since she knew Adams she was under the impression that he wanted her to take him into town to buy cigarettes. Reeder turned her vehicle around to meet with Adams and recalled the following:

"I pulled in and I noticed he was sitting on the ground and I noticed he had a gun in his hand and I said, Johnny, what are you doing? He said, 'I want to end it all. He... she took all my money, I want to end it all, I'm done'. And I said, Johnny, no, you don't want to do that."

Reeder explained that Adams did not initially recognize her, and that she had to explain to him who she was. He eventually recognized her as Todd Garland's niece. Adams continued to express suicidal ideations to Reeder, who in turn contacted her uncle, Garland, whom she referred to as Todd. She recalled her phone call with Garland as follows:

"I called Todd, who's my uncle, and he's the fire chief. I said, you need to come down here to Doll Lumber. Johnny has a gun. He was trying to shoot himself."

Reeder went on to detail Adams' actions in greater detail:

"So, as I'm talking to him, he's telling me he's serious. He's gonna do it. And he would take his gun and he would point it to the, over, into the yard and shoot. He did that a couple of times when Todd was coming. And then when Todd got here, he got outta his car and I got outta my car. We were

trying to calm him down and he just said, 'No, I'm gonna end it all. I'm serious. I'm going to do it. I don't wanna go with the police. They know they're gonna arrest me.'"

Reeder said that shortly after Garland arrived, a Braceville Officer arrived on scene, and then a Sheriff's Deputy arrived as well. The law enforcement officers attempted to talk to Adams, but he kept saying that he was serious about ending his life. Reeder recalled a specific statement made by Adams when one of the Deputies had their hand on their weapon:

"The one sheriff came up, and he had his hand kind of on his gun and he said, 'you... I'll shoot myself before you can pull that gun out and shoot me'".

Reeder recalled that she was directed to stand behind Garland's marked Fire Chief vehicle while those on scene continued their attempts to speak with Adams.

She remembered that at one point Adams began to approach Garland:

"Johnny started to walk to my uncle. 'cause he was, he said, 'Todd's my best friend. I'll listen to him. I want to go to him. So, Johnny started walking to Todd and when he did that, the one sheriff was like, 'I don't like that you have a gun. Why don't you put it down? Why don't you put it down?' And Johnny turned around and said, 'No'. Started walking and they shot and they tasered him. And when after they tasered him, he turned around and I'm pretty sure he shot. He shot, I don't know how many times, but then they shot him".

Reeder stated that Adams never put the firearm down at any point during the time she was at the scene.

Todd Garland

Todd Garland is the Braceville Township Fire Chief. Adams was friends with Garland and had a recreational vehicle on Garland's property. Adams had sold his home and was living in the recreational vehicle on Garland's property at the time of this incident.

Garland told investigators that he received a phone call at 4:55 p.m. from his niece, Trisha Reeder. She was reportedly hysterical on the phone while she explained that John Adams was at Doll Lumber with a gun. Garland explained that around the same time he received Reeder's call, he was dispatched to the incident in his official capacity as the Braceville Fire Chief.

He made his way to the scene in his marked Braceville Fire Department command unit after logging himself in service. Once on scene, Garland said that he parked his vehicle between Adams and the road in an attempt to keep citizens on the roadway safe.

Garland noted that when he arrived Adams was sitting on the ground with a gun beside him. He recalled the following about his initial attempts to speak with Adams:

"You know, I said, You know, and I'm, I'm trying to talk to him, you know. I said, 'John, what the hell are you doing?' You know, I said, he goes, ah, 'I can't take it'. 'That crazy bitch, you know', that girlfriend of his took all the money and 'I have nothing to live for now Todd'. And I said, You know, 'shut up.' You know, I'm like, you know, 'shut up.'"

You know? I said, 'dude, you got me. You got your family, you got your mom, you got,' you know, I'm talking. I said, 'John, you got so much.' I said, 'stop.' I said, 'put the gun down.' I said, Let's, you know, and I was talking to him, uh, [REDACTED] from Braceville pulled up. She got out and we were both standing there kind of side by side, probably about, I dunno, 20, 25 feet away from him."

Garland said that he and [REDACTED] continued to speak with Adams. While doing so Adams would occasionally move his firearm towards his head which Garland described as follows:

"And, uh, you know, every once in a while he'd pick the gun up and pointed at his head and he goes, 'Is this where I shoot?'"

Garland continued to try to get Adams to put the gun down, but Adams refused to do so. Eventually a Sheriff's Deputy arrived on scene. Garland recounted the arrival of the Deputy as follows:

"And, uh, you know, and [REDACTED] like, you know, 'Get your hand off your gun'. You know, he come running up there posturing, you know, with his hand on his gun and stuff, you know, and [REDACTED] like, 'Take your hand off your gun'. He goes, and, and, you know, and they started and he started yelling back at [REDACTED] and they were yelling back and forth a little bit."

Garland stated that he attempted to distract Adams by telling him about all the things they had to do together, but during that time Adams told the Deputy that he had no intention of shooting him. The Deputy reportedly told Adams to put the gun

down, but he did not. Garland said that occasionally Adams would move the gun away from his head and point it down, and when he would do that the Deputies would yell at Adams to stop pointing the gun at them. Garland stated that another Sheriff's Deputy arrived with a rifle and pointed it at Adams. He stated that when this occurred, he perceived the incident to have escalated.

Around the time the Deputy with the rifle arrived, Adams told Garland that he wanted to talk to him. A Deputy, whom Garland described as bald, grabbed him and moved him away from Adams behind Reeder's vehicle. Garland continued to speak with Adams from the trunk of Reeder's vehicle. Garland described Adams getting up from the ground and walking towards him as follows:

"And John was still sitting there. He goes, 'I need to talk to you, you know, I wanna talk to you'. And he got up and he started walking over towards me, and he's kind of just carrying the gun, you know? And, and I'm yelling at him, 'John, drop it. Please just fucking drop it.' 'You know, they're gonna arrest me'. I said, 'No, they're not gonna arrest you.' I said, 'You're going with me to the hospital.' I said, 'You're gonna be in my ambulance, John,' I said, 'We're gonna take you down and get you some freaking help.'"

Garland continued to assure Adams that he would not be arrested, that he would go with him in the ambulance, and that he would get the help he needs. Adams reportedly continued to walk towards Garland at which time one, or more, of the law enforcement officers on scene yelled at Adams to stop approaching Garland. Garland

recalled the following occurrences after Adams was ordered to cease his movements towards him:

“So, he turned around and he started walking back. And as soon as he turned around, started walking back, one of the officers ran out there and shot him right in his back with the taser, you know? And of course, I mean, you're shot in the back with a taser, you know, he's kind of doing this convulsing thing, whatever. And that's when everything just erupted. They just started sh.. I took off, kind of ran, you know, north a little bit. I ran around the car a little bit 'cause they were shooting like here, and I'm here, you know, they're shooting. And, uh, you know, so I kind of ran over this way a little bit.”

Garland stated that Adams fired his gun one time while Garland was there. Garland stated Adams fired the gun towards a grassy area away from the road and that the shot was not directed at anyone.

Garland told officers that Adams' daughter had died from a drug overdose a few years prior to the incident and that Adams would sometimes drink heavily. Garland also relayed that Adams' had stated that his ex-girlfriend had reportedly stolen \$112,000 from him.

Law Enforcement

All four officers involved were interviewed. All four officers at the scene used some level of force during the incident.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] did not use deadly force during this incident, he did deploy his taser in an attempt to subdue Adams.

[REDACTED] explained to the investigators that he had one prior involvement with Adams earlier in the year. [REDACTED] explained the prior call for service as follows:

"...it was beginning of the year, uh, there's a report on it where his girlfriend took his car, he was reporting it stolen, and then she arrived at home when we were still there. We ended up arresting her with that as well as with some drugs. Uhm, on scene, speaking with him, you know, he kind of explained his story in his life that he wanted to sell his house. He has a drinking problem. He was very pleasant that day and no issues."

[REDACTED] explained that, though he had no additional interactions with Adams, the morning of the incident, day-turn deputies had been dispatched to Adams' residence. Adams was reported to have been suicidal, but the deputies were unable to locate him at the residence. [REDACTED] suspected that they could not locate Adams as he had sold the residence and was no longer residing there.

[REDACTED] stated that he had been advised by the dispatch center that a Braceville officer was out with a male armed with a firearm. [REDACTED] explained his initial response to the scene:

"They sent us the call. As I was responding, I was reading the CAD notes that he had a gun. He was, uh, waving cars down, walking up to people walking down the street."

██████████ and ██████████ arrived first. They marked out. I do believe I remember ██████████ saying that, yeah, he does have a gun. Uh, 534 is a pretty busy street for us out here in the county. When I showed up, I blocked off... I believe it'd be the southbound lane on 534."

After ██████████ exited his patrol vehicle, he stated that he became concerned with how close the officers on scene were to Adams. He estimated that they were as close as five to ten feet and he was worried that an officer would be shot. He told the officers to get behind cover, and he also grabbed ██████████ and guided her towards cover.

After guiding ██████████ to cover, ██████████ noticed Todd Garland at the scene in civilian attire and also identified a need to get him behind cover. He explained his initial interactions with Garland as follows:

"And that's when I also noticed that Todd was there as a civilian and I had to get him back. I didn't know his involvement. I know he owns a gun shop down the street. So initially I thought he was just driving by and saw this and tried to intervene. Um, so I walked up to Todd, I said, 'Hey, we gotta get back.' He kind of like gave me a shrug or he was at least heavy to move. I tried to explain, Hey, we're gonna be all right, get back. He made some sort of mention that he knows this guy that he, he's been dealing with this still wanting to get him back and cover, ultimately just remove him from the situation."

██████████ stated that during the incident Adams was alternatively holding the firearm to his head and then moving it downwards resulting in the barrel pointing at officers on scene.

██████████ explained that he was aware that his reaction time would be slower than Adams' ability to act with the firearm. ██████████ said that the officers on scene told Adams to stop pointing the firearm at them which resulted in Adams yelling at them and the officers yelling back. At one point during their interaction, Adams wanted Garland to come towards him. ██████████ recalled his thoughts about allowing Garland to approach Adams:

"And then he wanted a, uh, he wanted Todd to come to him for some reason. And again, I didn't, in the moment, I didn't understand the relationship that he's living with Todd, that he's at Todd's house, that they've known each other their whole lives. But no situation including that, know him or not, we would provide a civilian to a guy with a gun. Um, I've had training through OTOA [Ohio Tactical Officers Association] with something similar where a guy wrecked his car, took somebody hostage, it just muddies the water. It just creates a bigger issue."

██████████ reported that Adams got up off the ground and began to approach them with the firearm directed towards his head while asking for Garland. ██████████ stated that Adams was ordered to stop his approach. He recalled the following series of events:

"I don't know at what point, but I grabbed my taser in, anticipating him turning away from me as he finally got, uh, I would say five, 10 feet from us. Um, he said, 'okay.' And he started to turn. Now I believed that his finger was on the side of the slide, so I knew if I would taser him and it worked. And for whatever reaction he would have that if he squeezed it wouldn't be on the trigger. And, you know, shooting himself. Um, when he turned, everything we've ever done in taser training is the, the prime spots, the back

with not too many layers of clothing. So, I, in a second there, I thought, okay, this is the perfect opportunity. Probably our only opportunity. We're not in a house, we can't back out. We got cars, civilians everywhere. Um, I actively targeted him with my taser, ECW [taser] and pulled the trigger. I saw it, I believe pop on his shirt indicating that, okay, I have a connection. He reacted to that connection and then it just stopped. Um, I know if you hold the trigger down on an ECW [taser], it doesn't stop. And that was my full intention, is to hold the trigger down until you go down and take the firearm."

██████████ stated that the taser was not effective on Adams. He recalled the following events occurring after the taser was deployed and failed to subdue Adams:

"At that point, he turned with the gun in his hand, covering everybody, and then just ending on me where I can just see the barrel. And then multiple shots rang out. Um, while those shots were ringing out, I know I tried to holster or I did holster the taser, went for my firearm. By that time, I, I think it was already over, um, at that point."

██████████ further described the location of the firearm Adams had in his possession:

"The, the last time I saw the gun was in his hand as he was falling down. I didn't see the gun till after I ran up. Um, and ██████████ was already there at some point. I know I looked at ██████████ to make sure she wasn't shot. I didn't see a gun. And then I, I think it was, I wanna say I saw it then maybe, or she said that he didn't have the gun. But I don't recall. I know, I know at the end, after everything was said and done and he was transported out of there, I know the gun was there. 'cause when I was setting up the crime scene, tape."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] told investigators that he arrived at the scene at approximately the same time as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] described the scene when he arrived:

"As we get there, we all pull up pretty much the same time. The guy's sitting, when we got there, he's sitting in the parking lot of Doll Lumber out by the road, sitting with the gun to his head as we pulled up. There's a fire vehicle there. I think it was the chief. He was already there talking to this guy and there was another female there. So, we get out, we're trying to talk to him. We're not behind cover, obviously. Um, has a gun to his head. We're trying to tell him to put it down. He wouldn't put it down."

[REDACTED] went on to explain that he tried for some time to get Adams, to put the firearm down. At one point in time Adams was reported to have put the gun down, but [REDACTED] said that the barrel of the gun was directed towards the law enforcement officers at that point.

[REDACTED] described what Adams did with the firearm when he was reported to have put it down. [REDACTED] stated:

"... he had it sitting in his lap. Just set. He was sitting like in with his legs crossed. He had hands still on it, but he had it sitting in his lap. So, he didn't have it at his head. He had it sitting in his lap"

[REDACTED] explained that while the firearm was in Adams' lap the barrel was directed towards the law enforcement officers, which is why they moved behind

cover. [REDACTED] advised that, while the law enforcement officers were on scene, Adams did not fire the gun at any point.

Once the gun was pointed at the law enforcement officers on scene they retreated to cover. [REDACTED] recalled that [REDACTED] guided [REDACTED] of the Braceville Police Department and Todd Garland behind cover. [REDACTED] described how Adams pointed the firearm at his head and began to walk around:

"The guy gets up, walks over, got the gun to his head, just talking nonsense. Um, said he would only talk to Todd. He was the fire chief. Um, [REDACTED] pulled him [Garland] back. He said, if you take him away from you, take him away from the scene, I'm gonna shoot myself, I'm gonna do it. So, he sits there and was like, we're not gonna go. [REDACTED] told him to back up."

After [REDACTED] told Adams to back up, Adams turned his back towards the law enforcement officers. [REDACTED] recalled what happened when Adams turned:

[REDACTED] come out behind him with his taser, tasered him. He looked like he was about ready to fall. So, I come from behind cover, I'm walking over. As I'm walking up, he grabs the gun or he raises the gun. He turns, when he turns. I started shooting, um, don't know how many times I shot. Then he walked maybe 50 feet or so..."

[REDACTED] told investigators that Adams was clearly a threat when he began turning towards the officers:

"That he was gonna shoot one of us or shoot [REDACTED] 'cause [REDACTED] was the closest."

[REDACTED] felt that Adams was pointing the firearm directly at him and the other officers. He said:

"I seen it pointed at me first and he got all the way back around. But I think I took my first shot as he was pointing at me. But he made it all the way back around to [REDACTED]"

[REDACTED] stated that he did not feel that he had any other options when the firearm was pointed at him. He went on to detail that the law enforcement officers were not behind cover and why they had moved away from it:

"We had the vehicles, but we were out from the cover because we thought he was falling from being tased. So, we kind of was rushing towards him then the gun come out."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] told investigators that he was in Newton Falls attempting to serve court related paperwork when he received a radio call from TCSO dispatch asking if any TCSO units were near Braceville to assist on a call of a male stopping traffic while armed with a gun.

[REDACTED] initiated emergency response to the call while utilizing his lights and siren. [REDACTED] stated that he and [REDACTED] (arrived on scene at roughly the same time. He described his initial observations of the scene as follows:

"I marked myself and him [REDACTED] out on scene. Uh, I could see the gentleman sitting down, uh, and I could see [REDACTED] starting to walk up to him. And I see Braceville's already on scene. And uh, and I happened to notice the fire chief was already there."

[REDACTED] explained that he went to the rear of his patrol vehicle and obtained his department issued AR rifle. He slowly approached the other law enforcement officers and John Adams. [REDACTED] noted that [REDACTED] of the Braceville Police Department and [REDACTED] were already speaking with Adams. They were requesting that Adams put the gun down, and Adams refused to do so. [REDACTED] stated that he did not talk to Adams, as he did not want to speak over the other law enforcement officers who were already talking to him.

[REDACTED] recalled that when [REDACTED] arrived, he approached [REDACTED] and then the fire chief, Todd Garland, and escorted them behind cover. [REDACTED] described Adams' actions with the firearm as follows:

"... they're talking back and forth and I can see the suspect have the gun. He's going from his head putting it down, putting it back up to his head saying he doesn't want to hurt any of the officers on scene. Uh, and then at one time, I do remember when he came down from his head, the gun went down like this on his leg, which is pointing at me and [REDACTED] I told [REDACTED] said, uh, I don't like this. That gun's pointed at us."

██████████ explained that Adams became upset when he observed ██████████'s rifle. ██████████ moved his position around the vehicle and ultimately decided to return to the front of the vehicle as it afforded a better angle should he have to fire his rifle. While he was at the front of the vehicle, ██████████ ██████████ recalled the following about Adams' actions:

"Uh, next thing I remember is the gentleman getting up, walking over towards ██████████ and the fire chief. He then turns away and that's when I catch ██████████. He extends and I could tell 'cause I was close enough that it was uh, our taser. I listened for the pop, watched the pop, I watched his reaction. He turned around. That gun went straight at ██████████ and the fire chief, uh, fearing for their life, everybody else's life. That was on 534 myself, ██████████ that's when I opened fire. Uh, I shot two rounds. Once I seen the two rounds, uh, I could see the gentleman start falling down and that's when I put my firearm on safe and waited to make sure he's no longer a threat."

██████████ was asked if he could tell if Adams had fired the weapon at any time while the law enforcement officers were on scene. ██████████ said:

"I heard a bunch of gunshots. I don't know if he fired or not."

██████████ was asked what he was thinking when he observed Adams start to turn towards the law enforcement officers after being tased. ██████████ stated:

"When I seen him turn and lower that pistol, apologize for the language, but what went through my head is like, oh fuck, he's going to shoot them."

██████████ told investigators that he felt there was no other option than deadly force at that moment. ██████████ explained why he felt there were no other options:

“Once he pointed that gun and him constantly, 'cause the gun had been pointed at me, uh, and just kind of how irrational he was, that was the only option. Once we, once the taser was ineffective and since he pointed a gun at uh, fire chief and ██████████”

██████████ explained that she was dispatched to call for service in reference to a male armed with a gun who was stopping traffic. She described arriving at Doll lumber and then observing Adams in the entrance, sitting with his legs out in front of him with his ankles crossed. She also noted that the Braceville Fire Chief, Todd Garland, along with his marked Braceville command unit, were on scene. She explained that Garland was speaking with Adams, and she felt that they may be able to talk Adams down. ██████████ described her initial observations of Adams as follows:

“Maybe we can talk the guy down. And his intent was he put the gun up to his head a couple times. He's like, you know, 'I'm gonna kill myself.'”

██████████ felt that she was having some success in approaching Adams. She recalled that several TCSO Deputies arrived and noted that one of the deputies

had to pull her back to cover. [REDACTED] described the first time she noticed that Adams' firearm was pointed at her:

"Something I didn't realize until one of the guys drug me back is that when he's sitting there, he's got the gun like this and he, it's on his lap. And the barrel's pointed right at me. But again, at that time, um, I didn't feel any kind of threat from him because it was all about him just killing himself. And again, I, again, I, it didn't feel any kind of anything from him. My concern was, you know, maybe we can, can help this guy. And I'm, I feel we're talking him down, talking him down."

[REDACTED] also said that at some point in time after the arrival of the TCSO deputies, Adams' behavior escalated, he got up off the ground and began walking around. She advised that while Adams was walking around, he kept moving the firearm around. Due to his behavior, they moved behind the vehicles on scene. At some point she said a tow truck driver stopped on scene and she asked him to block the road with his vehicle as things were, "going South rather quickly".

[REDACTED] said that she could not recall the exact location of each officer on scene as she was more focused on Adams. However, she recalled that one of the deputies deployed a taser. [REDACTED] described the following after the deployment of the taser:

"And when the taser went off right after that, I heard one pop, which I was assuming was his gun shooting at us. And then that's when I shot. And I believe I shot two rounds, but then once he went down, you know, I put my gun away, went over, I saw that the gun was laying there, checked for

a pulse, and then we started, I helped EMS work on the guy."

██████████ provided details on Adams' actions at the time she fired her weapon. ██████████ stated:

"Well, he had, um, his gun had been, when we were finally retreating back, his gun had been pointed at, um, one of the deputies and, um, after they tased him and his, um, I believe it was him, 'cause the taser didn't work. At least I didn't think it worked on him. And he put one round off and then that's when we shot."

██████████ was asked if she could recall the orientation of Adams's firearm and if it had been pointed at a specific person when it was discharged. She stated that she knew it had been pointed at officers prior to it being discharged, but that she did not recall the exact orientation of the weapon. ██████████ did not feel that she had any alternative to the use of lethal force after Adams fired his weapon. She also stated that she did not feel that Adams was specifically shooting at her, but that he was shooting at one of the deputies on either side of her. She also noted that Adams would have been able to strike her from her mid torso and above, even though she was partially behind a vehicle.

Other Witnesses

Adams Family Members

Investigators met with Adams family members, Marguerite Adams (Adams's mother) and Amy Vasbinder (Adams sister). The purpose of the interview was to obtain any relevant information related to Adams' history.

Agents asked the family members if they could provide some background on Adams' mental health history. Marguerite explained that Adams was known to have a temper, but she also said that he would calm down and have a lot of fun as well. She noted that Adams struggled with alcohol use as well. Vasbinder interjected and stated:

"But yeah, he's always kind of been just, uh, you know, I don't, I guess you could say suicidal, but it's always been talk, you know, he never ever acted on anything. I mean, everything he said, we were all, you know, cry wolf. Yeah. You know, this time it wasn't so, yeah. But mental. Oh yeah. He was mentally unstable."

The family advised that Adams had never been officially diagnosed with any mental health conditions. Marguerite explained that Adams began using alcohol with friends in high school. She didn't feel that Adams truly had an issue with alcohol until a few years prior to his death. She said that in December 2020 Adams daughter passed away from a drug overdose. She believed that this may have been a triggering event for Adams to increase alcohol use.

The family was asked about any prior suicide attempts that Adams may have had. The family explained that though Adams would talk about harming himself he never did so. They said that when a crisis occurred Adams would become upset,

make statements about self-harm, and then not act on them. Once the crisis was resolved, he would no longer make any statements of self-harm.

Marguerite provided the following thoughts on Adams' self-harm related remarks:

"We thought he wanted attention. You know, Amy, Amy would always say, mom, he's just trying to get your attention. And he didn't need to do that 'cause I was with him forever. And, uh, uh, you know, I think we had a really good relationship."

They were asked if they recalled Adams doing anything out of character over the preceding six months. Marguerite recalled Adams selling his home and traveling in a recreational vehicle with his girlfriend:

"Yeah. No, he, he sold his house, uh, and he had a girlfriend, uh, and they took off. He bought an RV. And they took off. They were gone. The whole, I never thought he'd come back. I thought he'd find some place out there he really loved and he would stay there. But that didn't happen to him and her, you know, I, and I, well, she was crazy. Now I gotta tell you that she was in the psych ward several times and we kept saying, Johnny, it's a red flag. It's a, but it said they had the best time of his life going out there out west. And then, uh, and then he got sick of her. I don't, well, all she wanted to do was eat and sleep. And so, he dropped her off at grandma's in Tennessee and he came home and that they were gone, what, two and a half months?"

Marguerite noted that though Adams sold his house over the summer, he was in a great mood. She advised that he was retired and would work part time as a

machinist at various shops. The family was asked if they were aware of what happened to the money from the sale of Adams' residence.

Marguerite provided the following background:

"I think she stole most of it. That was a big deal. Uh, and that did, that did set him off. Yes. And he even went over to the bank because he didn't know she was taking it. And I, and I don't know if how she did it, unless he was sleeping and she took his card. I don't know. She did take his, she did steal his car and his phone one day. And, uh, he called the police and they came and they arrested her and then he felt guilty and he bailed her out. And we kept saying, Johnny, look at what you're doing. But he didn't wanna hear it. He was in that love mode. You know, he thought he loved her. I said, she's, and she was so young, she was only 25 and, and we got a 56-year-old man here, you know, and he thought that was great. He could get a 25-year-old. Well, she used him. She got everything she could. I don't know what to tell you about him. Like I said, I think I never recognized it and I never heard anything from teachers. I think he was bipolar. I really do in this later life, Amy. And I thought he might be bipolar. 'cause he was up and he was down. He was up and he was down. I don't know. I don't know. I just wished it wouldn't have went down like that."

The family provided additional background on events that would precipitate self-harm statements from Adams. They advised that when he would be faced with a financial hardship, such as owing back taxes on his residence, he would make statements about harming himself. They specifically recalled Adams saying that he would barricade himself in his residence and burn it down in reference to back taxes

he owed. They also noted that Adams never expressed the intent to harm another person during these episodes and he only wanted to harm himself.

The family stated the incidents that led to Adams wanting to harm himself were mainly caused by financial hardships. Marguerite and Vasbinder advised that was usually the main cause. Vasbinder explained that Adams had exhibited this type of behavior for the last 15 to 20 years.

They were asked if Adams had reached out to the family in the weeks preceding the incident. Vasbinder said that Adams came to the residence the Monday before the incident and asked her to notarize a couple of titles for him. She noted that he was in a good mood and laughed and joked while at the house. Vasbinder and Marguerite recalled that when Adams left, they noted that his behavior was odd.

Vasbinder even said:

“Monday when he came over, it was weird. And it kind of felt like it was like the last goodbyes.”

Vasbinder explained that Adams’ good mood on that day was out of the ordinary as he typically complained about something. They were not sure what he planned to do, and Adams never told them what he planned to do.

Marguerite provided some additional background on Adams’ girlfriend, Mackenzie Royer. She noted that Royer looked very similar to Adams’ daughter:

“And I said, ‘you love her ‘cause she looks like your daughter’. And he said... She kind of looked, when we were sitting here the first time we brought her over, we

were sitting at the table, were eating or something, and I, I seen him walk by, 'cause I have a front door over there. And, and I looked at this young girl behind her and her hair was flying and she was shaking and she looked just like my granddaughter."

Additionally, family members told members of the Portage County Coroner's Office that Adams had struggled with alcohol abuse and mental health issues for some time. They also advised the Portage County Coroner's Office that the death of Adams daughter had accelerated his alcohol and mental health issues.

Physical Evidence

Suicide Note

Investigators were advised by Todd Garland of the existence of a suicide note located in Adams recreational vehicle that he had kept on Garland's property.

Investigators located in the recreational vehicle a shotgun on a chair, an assortment of ammunition was lined up along the counter, several photographs of a young woman (whom Garland identified as Adam's deceased daughter), and a three-page note expressing Adams intent to commit suicide was left on the counter.

Adams began the letter by writing, "*Hey Brother I have to go see my daughter.*" He wrote that Garland had been a good friend to him and expressed his gratitude for his assistance. He then explained that he wanted his motorcycle to be given to a cousin, and that he did not care what Garland decided to do with the recreational vehicle.

Towards the bottom of the first page of the letter Adams wrote, *"Makenzie Royer destroyed my life but I cant [SP] live without my daughter you have no idea the pain everyday losing a child."*

On the back of the first page Adams wrote, *"I did it in Jim Dolls parking area because I wouldn't bring that shit to your house. You only did the best thing a friend could –Helped me."*

Adams then wrote a paragraph blaming Makenzie Royer (Royer) for his death. He alleged that Royer had stolen \$115,000 him and that she should be in prison. Adams also wrote, *"Im [SP] not afraid my friend Ashley [SP] gone is unbearable [SP] but Kenzie took it over the Top! mom's # 330-727-2933 DNR! Just let me go! Love you Guys!"*

Evidence from the Scene

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was dispatched to the scene that night and arrived at approximately 7:30 p.m. Special Agent Chad Doran conducted a preliminary scene walkthrough and photographed the crime scene as it was found. Items of evidence were identified, and evidence placards were placed in the scene.

Additional photographs were taken with the evidence placards in place. Special Agent Doran deployed the Leica BLK360 scanner to further document the scene.

Four (4) fired .40 S&W cartridge casings and two fired WIN .223 cartridge casings were found at the East edge of the lot, near the roadway. Nine fired WIN 9mm Luger cartridge casings and a Taser cartridge blast door were found under and to the immediate West of a red Braceville Fire Department SUV.

In the Southwest corner of the lot, near the business entrance South gate, four fired JAG 9mm Luger cartridge casings, a fired Taser probe (Item 21), and a Glock model 43X 9mm handgun serial number AKSC987, containing one unfired JAG 9mm in the chamber and one unfired JAG 9mm in the magazine were recovered.

A large, reddish stain, best described as a “pool,” was also found in this area. A ballistic impact was noted on the South gate frame, with a copper jacket embedded in a piece of rubber hanging over the gate lock.

A gray Chevrolet Malibu bearing Ohio registration EPY8572 was parked near the middle of the lot. An additional Taser blast door and a copper jacket were found to the immediate West of the Chevrolet Malibu.

The officers firearms were collected and documented as follows:

Item 26: Glock model 23 .40 pistol, S/N [REDACTED], one unfired cartridge in the chamber and five unfired in the magazine, plus two spare magazines with ammunition.

Item 27: Springfield Armory Echelon 9mm pistol, S/N [REDACTED], 1 unfired cartridge in the chamber and 12 unfired in the magazine, plus two spare magazines with ammunition.

Item 28: Aero Precision .223 rifle, S/N [REDACTED], 1 unfired cartridge in the chamber and 25 unfired in the magazine.

All evidence was packaged, and custody was released to BCI S/A John Saraya, for transport to BCI Richfield Temporary Evidence Storage. The scan data and crime scene photographs were uploaded to Axon Evidence Library.

Laboratory Analysis

BCI Forensic Scientist Regan Wetzel examined the recovered firearms, cartridge casings and bullet fragments recovered during the investigation.

Relevant to this case was the fact that four (4) fired 9mm cartridge casings at the scene were identified as having been fired from the Glcok 9mm Luger semi-automatic pistol that Adams had at the scene.

This evidence coupled with the various witnesses who stated Adams had fired his weapon confirmed that he fired at least four (4) shots at the scene.

DNA

DNA analysis was conducted by BCI Forensic Scientist Michelle Matozel. She issued a report finding that John Adams DNA was on swabs from the

trigger/trigger guard, grip and back slide area of the 9mm firearm he had in his possession when he was shot.

The estimated frequency of occurrence of the major DNA profile from Adams was rarer than 1 in 1 trillion unrelated individuals.

Body Cams

Only one officer was equipped with a body cam. [REDACTED] video footage was reviewed and did not show any material inconsistencies with the statements provided by the witnesses and officers at the scene.

Autopsy

The autopsy was performed by Dr. Kaitlin Weaver of the Portage County Coroner's Office. During the autopsy Dr. Weaver noted [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Toxicology results [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Portage County Coroner's Office listed the suspected cause of death as

[REDACTED]. The official cause of death was listed as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LAW

The Supreme Court has instructed courts to use the following factors to determine whether an officer used unreasonably excessive force: (1) “the severity of the crime at issue[;]” (2) “whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others[;]” and (3) whether the suspect was “actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.” *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396, 109 S.Ct. 1865, 104 L.Ed.2d 443 (1989) (citing *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1, 8–9, 105 S.Ct. 1694, 85 L.Ed.2d 1 (1985)).

The reasonableness of the officers’ use of force is assessed under the “totality of the circumstances.” *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1, 8-9 (1985).

The evaluation of excessive force claims is done under an “objective reasonableness” standard, judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene. *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396-97, 109 S.Ct. 1865, 104 L.Ed.2d 443 (1989); see also *Pauly v. White*, 874 F.3d 1197 (10th Cir. 2017).

In conducting that analysis, the Court “focuses not on the officers’ particular motivations, nor on the arrestee’s perception of the intrusion, but on whether the officers’ actions were ‘objectively reasonable’ in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them.” *Fisher v. City of Las Cruces*, 584 F.3d 888, 894 (10th Cir. 2009) (internal citation omitted).

In this case all three Graham factors are overwhelmingly present.

First Graham factor

With respect to the first Graham factor Adams clearly was committing crimes. First he was intoxicated and using cocaine while not only in possession of a loaded firearm, but a firearm that he fired at least four times.

His actions in pointing the firearm at the officers on the scene and in firing the weapon at least four times clearly indicate his intention to cause the officers to shoot him and commit suicide by cop as noted in the Portage County Coroner's report.

His suicide note clearly expressed his intent to end his life. Further, his preparation in having his vehicle titles notarized and his desire not to commit suicide on his friend's property coupled with his behavior in having and firing a loaded firearm on a public roadway all clearly show the severity and violence he was prepared to engage in to fulfill his suicide ideation.

The first Graham factor is clearly satisfied by all of Adams's actions leading up to and during the events.

Second Graham factor

The second Graham factor is, "whether the suspect posed an immediate threat to the safety of officers or others[,] is the most important factor in determining the objective reasonableness of an officer's use of force." *Pauly*, 874 F.3d at 1215-16

"Deadly force is justified under the Fourth Amendment if a reasonable officer in Defendants' position would have had probable cause to believe that there was a

threat of serious physical harm to themselves or to others.” *Sevier v. City of Lawrence*, 60 F.3d 695, 699 (10th Cir. 1995).

The Ohio Supreme Court has reiterated the common law privilege to use force in the discharge of a police officer’s official duties. In *State v. White*, (2015), 142 Ohio St. 3d 277, 29 N.E.2d 939, the Court quoted the Supreme Court of Iowa in *State v. Smith*, (1905), 127 Iowa 534, 103 N.W. 944: “An officer, in the performance of his duty as such, stands on an entirely different footing from an individual. He is a minister of justice and entitled to the peculiar protection of the law. Without submission to his authority there is no security, and anarchy reigns supreme. He must of necessity, be the aggressor, and the law affords him special protection.”

The United States Supreme Court has stated, “[w]here the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a threat of serious physical harm to the officer or others, it is not constitutionally unreasonable to prevent escape by using deadly force.” *Tennessee v. Garner* 471 U.S. 1 at 11, 105 S.Ct. 1694, 85 L.ed.2d 1 (1985).

Further, the United States Court has stated, “the ‘reasonableness’ of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight...The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgements-in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving-about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular

situation.” *Graham v. Connor*, (1989), 490 U.S. 386 at 396-397, 109 S.Ct. 1865, 104 L.Ed.2d 443.

When someone points a gun at a law enforcement officer, the Constitution “undoubtedly entitles the officer to respond with deadly force.” *George v. Morris*, 736 F.3d 829, 838 (9th Cir. 2013).

Officers are also not required to delay their fire until a suspect turns his weapon on them.” *George*, 736 F.3d at 838. Officers shouldn't have to “wait until a gun is pointed at [them] before [they are] entitled to take action.” *Anderson v. Russell*, 247 F.3d 125, 131 (4th Cir. 2001). “If the person is armed—or reasonably suspected of being armed—a furtive movement, harrowing gesture, or serious verbal threat might create an immediate threat.” *George*, 736 F.3d at 838.

The officers were reasonably justified in taking Bailey's threats at face value. *Cf. Blanford v. Sacramento County*, 406 F.3d 1110, 1116 (9th Cir. 2005) (finding it objectively reasonable for officers to attempt to “secure the weapon first” when confronting a suspect who might be “mentally disturbed or under the influence of a controlled substance”). After all, misplaced trust in this circumstance could be fatal for the officers or others.

The facts in this case show that Adams repeatedly ignored officer's requests to drop the weapon. He pointed the weapon at them numerous times. Although he didn't fire the weapon at the officers he fired the weapon at least four times.

Even after being tased by [REDACTED] he turned and leveled the weapon at the officers and according to some of the witnesses he fired a shot at some point during the time he was being tased.

The immediate threat he posed to officers and others is apparent by the fact that he was committing these acts on and near a public roadway. The danger was readily apparent to the four different individuals who called 911 to report his actions.

The second factor under *Graham* is completely satisfied by the totality of Adams's actions.

Third Graham factor

Finally, under the *Graham* analysis, the Court considers whether there is any indication that the suspect was actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest at the time the officers decided to use deadly force. *Graham*, 490 U.S. at 396, 109 S.Ct. 1865.

Adams repeatedly refused to put his gun down between threatening to kill himself and pointing the weapon at the officers on the scene.

As he was being tased witnesses described him as turning and leveling the weapon at officers and the others at the scene. Multiple witnesses described him as firing the gun as he was being tased and it was confirmed that he fired at least four shots during his encounter with the officers.

Without doubt the Defendant was actively resisting and attempting to evade arrest at the time the officers used deadly force.

CONCLUSION

The particular facts in this case by Adams make the decision as to whether any officer should be charged in this incident an easy one.

This is a classic case of suicide by cop. While it is tragic that Adams was not able to obtain the psychological help he needed after his daughter's death, nor treatment for his addiction issues and was further affected by other factors including his allegation that his former girlfriend stole over one hundred thousand dollars from him, the fact of this case is that he was hell bent on committing suicide by cop.

Because this office finds that there can be no conclusion other than the fact that the officers' use of force was reasonable there will be no presentment of this matter to a grand jury and this investigation will be closed with no action against any of the officers involved.

Because there is often civil litigation regarding officer involved shootings the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office will have no further statements regarding this matter.

This office gives special thanks to the Ohio Attorney General's Office and Special Agents Dan Boerner, Allison Fletcher, Jesse Bynum, John Saraya, Jared Pril, BCI Special Agents Chad Doran, Ed Lulla, Crime Scene Technician Michael

Rostocil of the Crime Scene Unit, Forensic Scientists Michelle Matozel, Joshua Barr and Regan Wetzel for their thorough investigation and work in this matter. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Charles Moran.

Prosecutor Watkins acknowledges and thanks the assistance of First Assistant Christopher Becker in leading the prosecutor's office role in the investigation and preparation of this report. His leadership combined with his interviews with investigators and thorough review of the evidence was invaluable to this office Mr. Becker always dedicates an incredible amount of time and detail to put these public reports together and does so with clear legal and professional analysis.

A copy of this report was sent by mail/e-mail to Ohio Attorney General Andy Wilson's BCI Office, Trumbull County Sheriff Mike Wilson, and Braceville Township Chief of Police David Fay. The Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney's Office deems the BCI report a public record including most exhibits and documents not subject to public record exemption.



DENNIS WATKINS
Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney



EVIDENCE RECEIPT



Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Case Number

2025-3711

Case TitleOfficer Involved Critical Incident - 1363 State Route 534
NW, Braceville Township, OH 44470, Trumbull County (L)**Transfer Date**

9/1/2026 2:43 PM

RELEASED FROM**RECEIVED BY****Releasing Agency**Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal
Investigation**Receiving Agency**

N/A

Case Number

2025-3711

Released By

SA Joseph Lamping

Case Number**Received By**

[REDACTED] (Subject)

RELEASE REASON

Returned to Agency

EVIDENCE026 - [REDACTED] Firearm - Handgun - Glock 23 Serial [REDACTED] - P00020-
1045679, 026 (Weapon) in Cardboard Box C00020-1026715**PACKAGING****Cardboard Box C00020-1026715 - Sealed**

- 026 [REDACTED] - Handgun - Glock 23 Serial [REDACTED]

SIGNATURESX *SA Joseph Lamping*

9/1/2026

Released From

Date

9/1/2026 / 15:46
Date HOURS



EVIDENCE RECEIPT



Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Case Number

2025-3711

Case Title

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1363 State Route 534
NW, Braceville Township, OH 44470, Trumbull County (L)

Transfer Date

9/2/2026 9:23 AM

RELEASED FROM**Releasing Agency**

Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal
Investigation

RECEIVED BY**Receiving Agency**

Trumbull County Sheriffs Office

Case Number

2025-3711

Released By

Alexandria Querin

Case Number

Not Entered

Received By

Bret Henderson

RELEASE REASON

Returned to Agency

EVIDENCE

001 - Fired cartridge casing - WMA 22 - P00020-1045650, 001 (Weapon) in
Envelope C00020-1026740

002 - Fired cartridge casing - WMA 23 - P00020-1045651, 002 (Weapon) in
Envelope C00020-1026739

003 - Fired cartridge casing - Winchester .223 - P00020-1045652, 003
(Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026738

004 - Fired cartridge casing - Winchester .223 - P00020-1045653, 004
(Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026737

005 - Fired cartridge casing - WMA 22 - P00020-1045654, 005 (Weapon) in
Envelope C00020-1026736

006 - Fired cartridge casing - WMA 22 - P00020-1045655, 006 (Weapon) in
Envelope C00020-1026735

007 - Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger - P00020-1045656, 007
(Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026734

008 - Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger - P00020-1045657, 008
(Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026733

009 - Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger - P00020-1045658, 009
(Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026732

010 - Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger - P00020-1045660, 010
(Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026731

011 - Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger - P00020-1045661, 011
(Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026730

012 - Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger - P00020-1045662, 012
(Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026729

013 - Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger - P00020-1045663, 013
(Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026728

014 - Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger - P00020-1045664, 014
(Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026727

015 - Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger - P00020-1045665, 015
(Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026726

016 - Taser Cartridge-Blast Door - P00020-1045666, 016 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026725

017 - Fired cartridge casing - JAG 9mm - P00020-1045667, 017 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026724

018 - Fired cartridge casing - JAG 9mm - P00020-1045668, 018 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026723

019 - Fired cartridge casing - JAG 9mm - P00020-1045669, 019 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026722

020 - Fired cartridge casing - JAG 9mm - P00020-1045670, 020 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026721

021 - Taser Probe - P00020-1045673, 021 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026720

022 - Firearm - Handgun - Glock 43 Serial# AKSC987 - P00020-1045674, 022 (Weapon) in Cardboard Box C00020-1026719

023 - Bullet Fragment-copper jacket - P00020-1045676, 023 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026718

024 - Taser blast door - P00020-1045677, 024 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026717

025 - fragment-copper jacket - P00020-1045678, 025 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026716

027 - [REDACTED] Firearm - Handgun Serial [REDACTED] Springfield Armory 9mm - P00020-1045680, 027 (Weapon) in Cardboard Box C00020-1026714

028 - [REDACTED] Firearm - Rifle Serial [REDACTED] - Aero Precision .223 - P00020-1045681, 028 (Weapon) in Cardboard Box C00020-1026713

029 - Suicide note from John Adams - P00020-1045732, 029 (Documents and Files) in Envelope C00020-1026759

030 - Various swabs and samples from autopsy of John Adams - P00020-1045831, 030 (Biological Evidence) in Envelope C00020-1026832

031 - Shirt - P00020-1045832, 031 (Personal Property) in Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026831

032 - Fragment removed from shirt - P00020-1045833, 032 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026819

033 - pants and belt with holster - P00020-1045834, 033 (Personal Property) in Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026830

034 - Underwear - P00020-1045835, 034 (Personal Property) in Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026829

035 - Sock - P00020-1045836, 035 (Personal Property) in Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026828

036 - Sock - P00020-1045837, 036 (Personal Property) in Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026827

037 - Right Boot - P00020-1045838, 037 (Personal Property) in Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026826

038 - Left Boot - P00020-1045839, 038 (Personal Property) in Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026825

039 - projectile fragment from soft tissues - P00020-1045840, 039 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026824

040 - projectile fragments from left neck/base of skull - P00020-1045841, 040 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026823

041 - projectile fragments from R base of neck - P00020-1045842, 041 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026822

042 - projectile from left chest - P00020-1045843, 042 (Weapon) in Envelope C00020-1026821

043 - projectile from left lung - P00020-1045844, 043 (Weapon) in
Envelope C00020-1026820

044 - Blood Standard card from John Adams - P00020-1046131, 044
(Biological Evidence) in Envelope C00020-1027018

045 - DNA swabs from Matrix #22 - P00020-1046217, 045 (Biological
Evidence) in Clear Evidence Bag C00020-1027062

PACKAGING

Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026825 - Sealed
- 038 Left Boot

Cardboard Box C00020-1026719 - Sealed
- 022 Firearm - Handgun - Glock 43 Serial# AKSC987

Clear Evidence Bag C00020-1027062 - Sealed
- 045 DNA swabs from Matrix #22

Envelope C00020-1027018 - Sealed
- 044 Blood Standard card from John Adams

Envelope C00020-1026820 - Sealed
- 043 projectile from left lung

Envelope C00020-1026821 - Sealed
- 042 projectile from left chest

Envelope C00020-1026822 - Sealed
- 041 projectile fragments from R base of neck

Envelope C00020-1026823 - Sealed
- 040 projectile fragments from left neck/base of skull

Envelope C00020-1026824 - Sealed
- 039 projectile fragment from soft tissues

Envelope C00020-1026819 - Sealed
- 032 Fragment removed from shirt

Envelope C00020-1026716 - Sealed
- 025 fragment-copper jacket

Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026826 - Sealed

- 037 Right Boot

Envelope C00020-1026717 - Sealed

- 024 Taser blast door

Envelope C00020-1026718 - Sealed

- 023 Bullet Fragment-copper jacket

Envelope C00020-1026832 - Sealed

- 030 Various swabs and samples from autopsy of John Adams

Envelope C00020-1026759 - Sealed

- 029 Suicide note from John Adams

Envelope C00020-1026720 - Sealed

- 021 Taser Probe

Envelope C00020-1026721 - Sealed

- 020 Fired cartridge casing - JAG 9mm

Envelope C00020-1026722 - Sealed

- 019 Fired cartridge casing - JAG 9mm

Envelope C00020-1026723 - Sealed

- 018 Fired cartridge casing - JAG 9mm

Envelope C00020-1026724 - Sealed

- 017 Fired cartridge casing - JAG 9mm

Envelope C00020-1026725 - Sealed

- 016 Taser Cartridge-Blast Door

Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026827 - Sealed

- 036 Sock

Envelope C00020-1026726 - Sealed

- 015 Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger

Envelope C00020-1026727 - Sealed

- 014 Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger

Envelope C00020-1026728 - Sealed

- 013 Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger

Envelope C00020-1026729 - Sealed

- 012 Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger

Envelope C00020-1026730 - Sealed

- 011 Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger

Envelope C00020-1026731 - Sealed

- 010 Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger

Envelope C00020-1026732 - Sealed

- 009 Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger

Envelope C00020-1026733 - Sealed

- 008 Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger

Envelope C00020-1026734 - Sealed

- 007 Fired cartridge casing - WIN 9mm Luger

Envelope C00020-1026735 - Sealed

- 006 Fired cartridge casing - WMA 22

Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026828 - Sealed

- 035 Sock

Envelope C00020-1026736 - Sealed

- 005 Fired cartridge casing - WMA 22

Envelope C00020-1026737 - Sealed

- 004 Fired cartridge casing - Winchester .223

Envelope C00020-1026738 - Sealed

- 003 Fired cartridge casing - Winchester .223

Envelope C00020-1026739 - Sealed

- 002 Fired cartridge casing - WMA 23

Envelope C00020-1026740 - Sealed

- 001 Fired cartridge casing - WMA 22

Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026829 - Sealed

- 034 Underwear

Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026830 - Sealed

- 033 pants and belt with holster

Brown Paper Bag C00020-1026831 - Sealed

- 031 Shirt

Cardboard Box C00020-1026713 - Sealed

- 028 [REDACTED] Firearm - Rifle Serial [REDACTED] - Aero Precision .223

Cardboard Box C00020-1026714 - Sealed

- 027 [REDACTED] Firearm - Handgun Serial [REDACTED] - Springfield Armory 9mm

SIGNATURES

x 

9/2/2026

Released From Alexandria Querin

Date

x 

9/2/2026

Received By Bret Henderson

Date