



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



2026-0745

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10810 Brookpark Rd.,
Brooklyn, OH 44130, Cuyahoga County (L)

Investigative Activity: Parma Police Department (PPD) Witness Officer Interviews
Involves: Parma Police Department (O), Officer Chris Smith (W),
Ricardo Yuuki Davis (S)
Activity Date: 03/24/2026
Activity Location: 10147 Royalton Rd., North Royalton, OH, 44133, Ohio
Patrolmen Benevolent Associations Office (OPBA)
Authoring Agent: SA Douglas A. Burke #162

Narrative:

On Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 1001 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Douglas Burke (SA Burke) and SA Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) interviewed Parma Police Department (PPD) Officer (Ofc.) Chris Smith (Smith), who was accompanied by his attorney, Dan Leffler, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at 10147 Royalton Rd., North Royalton, OH 44133. The interview was audio and video recorded.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the audio recording. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions or responses. It is suggested that the reader refer to the audio recording in its entirety.

Ofc. Smith was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the February 24, 2026, Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred in the area of 10810 Brookpark Rd., Brooklyn, Ohio. Reportedly, Ofc. Smith did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by Ofc. Smith.

Ofc. Smith stated his radio call sign on February 24, 2026, was 568. He has been employed by the PPD for about fifteen (15) years. He has been a police officer for a total of eighteen (18) to nineteen (19) years. During the incident, Ofc. Smith wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove PPD unit #169, a Chevy Tahoe, marked

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



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with PPD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. Ofc. Smith's current assignment is with the Traffic Unit of the PPD. Ofc. Smith stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

SA Burke asked Ofc. Smith if he had watched or reviewed any of his Body Worn Camera (BWC) or his cruiser Dash Cam Footage which pertained to the OICI on February 24, 2026. Ofc. Smith stated he had not watched or reviewed any of the BWC or Dash Cam Footage which pertained to the OICI on February 24, 2026. Throughout this investigation, it had been learned that the name of the subject, who had been involved in the OICI, was Ricardo Yuuki Davis (Ricardo).

SA Burke asked Ofc. Smith how he had received information about the welfare check of Ricardo prior to the traffic stop which led to the OICI. Ofc. Smith stated he had overheard the radio traffic about the welfare check at the Knollwood Apartments for an individual (Ricardo). This welfare check had been called into the PPD by a friend of Ricardo's. Upon hearing that information, Ofc. Smith himself, volunteered to respond to the area. It should be noted, Ofc. Smith had been on his normal assignment with the PPD Traffic Unit.

Upon PPD Dispatchers conducting an emergency ping of Ricardo's phone due to the underlying circumstances, Ofc. Smith had arrived in the area of Brookpark Rd., where the second (2nd) phone ping had indicated Ricardo might be located. Ofc. Smith stated he had been eastbound on Brookpark Rd., and PPD dispatch had given the vehicle description which Ricardo could have been driving over the radio. Furthermore, Ofc. Smith stated the vehicle was to be a **"bright red sedan and he (Ofc. Smith) could not miss it"** (5:14).

At that time, Ofc. Smith had been stopped at a traffic light, eastbound on Brookpark Rd. A vehicle matching the description of Ricardo's, had just pulled out of the parking lot of WalMart and started traveling westbound on Brookpark Rd.



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



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Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10810 Brookpark Rd.,
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(Image #1, marker above, Ofc. Smith's Front Cruiser Dash Cam locating Ricardo's vehicle to attempt to conduct a welfare check on Ricardo.)

Ofc. Smith stated he then turned his marked PPD Cruiser around and got behind the vehicle Ricardo might have been driving. Next Ofc. Smith verified the registration plate of the vehicle. Once the plate had been verified (JSF-3645, red Toyota Corolla), Ofc. Smith stated this had to be the subject (Ricardo) in question driving the vehicle who PPD Ofcs. had been attempting to locate for a welfare check.

Ofc. Smith stated there had been another officer in the area. Ofc. Smith believed this other officer to be [REDACTED]. Ofc. Smith then initiated his overhead emergency lights. Ofc. Smith stated the vehicle had been **"slow rolling and was not stopping and he (Ricardo) kept looking in the mirror back at me"** (6:21). Furthermore, Ofc. Smith stated Ricardo kept "slow rolling and slow rolling," then finally stopped. Next, Ofc. Smith opened his cruiser door, but he did not want to approach due to the fact there had been information of Ricardo possibly being in possession of a **"firearm or just bought a firearm or something light that"** (6:47). Ofc. Smith said he knew there was a **"high probability he (Ricardo) had a firearm on him"** (6:52). Ofc. Smith had been informed of this information from other PPD Ofcs.

From his training and experience, Ofc. Smith stated, with the information Ofc. Smith had been informed of, Ofc. Smith was going to stay at his cruiser and attempt to call Ricardo out of Ricardo's vehicle. As Ofc. Smith opened his cruiser door, Ofc. Smith stood at the threshold of his cruiser door, Ofc. Smith demonstrated to SA Burke and SA Lamping how he observed Ricardo reach into the backseat of Ricardo's vehicle.

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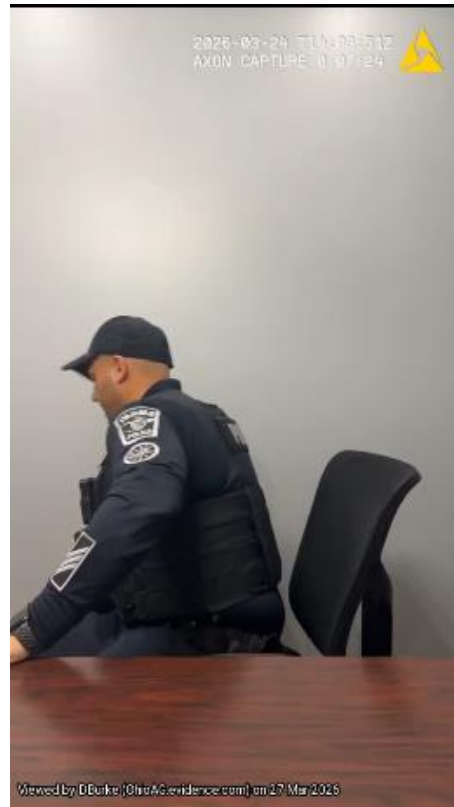


**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report**



2026-0745

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10810 Brookpark Rd.,
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(Image #2, marker above, Ofc. Smith illustrated Ricardo reaching the rear of Ricardo's seat during the traffic stop, before Ricardo exited his vehicle {7:24}).

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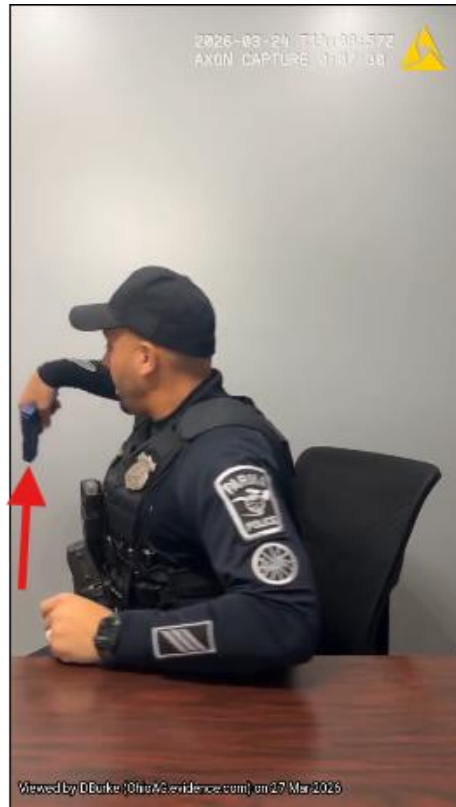


Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2026-0745

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10810 Brookpark Rd.,
Brooklyn, OH 44130, Cuyahoga County (L)



(Image #3, marker above, Ofc. Smith demonstrated using a blue training gun, Ricardo taking possession of a firearm from the backseat of Ricardo's vehicle {7:30}).

According to Ofc. Smith, he could tell the firearm was a **“two-toned gun, I think it was like tan or whatnot and I’m like oh shit this isn’t good”** (7:34). Ricardo had still been in the vehicle and Ofc. Smith could no longer observe the firearm, but knew Ricardo was now in the possession of a firearm. Ofc Smith then got onto the radio and transmitted to the other PPD Ofcs., **“I think he (Ricardo) just grabbed a firearm out the backseat”** (7:55). The driver side door of Ricardo’s vehicle then, **“pushed open aggressively”** (8:01) according to Ofc. Smith. Then Ofc. Smith stated, **“he (Ricardo) pops out really fast, and the gun is just right out at me”** (8:11). **“He (Ricardo) starts to aggressively coming towards me with it (gun)”** (8:14). **“From that point, from his demeanor and the way he’s pushing towards me, I’m figuring he’s (Ricardo) just gonna start shooting rounds off at me”** (8:22).

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2026-0745

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10810 Brookpark Rd.,
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At this point, Ofc. Smith had his service weapon drawn from the holster and in his right hand and retreated to the rear of his PPD Cruiser for cover. Upon getting to cover behind Ofc. Smith's PPD Cruiser, Ofc. Smith said all he then heard was, **"Pop, pop, pop"** (8:35). According to Ofc. Smith, he did not know who was shooting and Ofc. Smith then indicated he felt, **"It was him (Ricardo) shooting at me"** (8:43). Ofc. Smith continued to look for Ricardo by peeking out from around his PPD Cruiser and could not locate Ricardo anywhere and immediately thought, **"I have no visual on this dude"** (8:52). According to Ofc. Smith, Ofc. Smith continued to look around for Ricardo and then overheard on the radio, **"Suspect is down"** (9:03).

Upon hearing that information, Ofc. Smith continued to clear around his PPD Cruiser and then observed Ricardo lying on the ground (Brookpark Rd). Ofc. Smith said he then approached Ricardo, assessed Ricardo for injuries and started to administer first aid on Ricardo (9:16) for gunshot wounds until Parma Fire Department (PFD) arrived on scene to take over medical aid.

SA Burke asked Ofc. Smith if he could recall the number of gunshots he thought he heard and Ofc. Smith stated he could not put a number on the number of shots Ofc. Smith heard. Ofc. Smith stated prior to the gunshots, Ofc. Smith heard other PPD Ofcs. yelling, **"Put the gun down, put the gun down, put the gun down, and then just heard rounds going off"** (10:09). According to Ofc. Smith, he had been processing in his mind when Ricardo had exited his vehicle. Ofc. Smith observed the gun as Ricardo "charged" towards Ofc. Smith and had been waiting for the gunfire, but it was not happening. Ofc. Smith then stated, **"Why am I not hearing the shots yet"** (10:25).

Ofc. Smith explained to SA Burke that he had been trying to get his best line of cover because in Ofc. Smith's perspective, Ricardo's direction had been directly towards Ofc. Smith. Furthermore, Ofc. Smith told SA Burke, prior to the actual traffic stop, Ofc. Smith had started to process the area where the traffic stop was possibly going to be occurring. Ofc. Smith stated the area of Brookpark Rd. was a highly congested area, so Ofc. Smith started looking at backstops and vehicles all around the area. Noticing Ofc. Smith's surroundings, Ofc. Smith explained to SA Burke, **"I can't even fire my weapon that way because if one (1) bullet goes outta the way, you know, someone's gonna get hurt"** (10:48). Ofc. Smith said, **"I did not have a good shot"** (10:59) and **"I could not rationalize throwing a round out with that being my backstop"** (11:03). Ofc. Smith stated he was going to attempt to get to a better angle if he was going to discharge his service weapon at Ricardo. However, by the time that had happened the incident was over.

SA Burke asked Ofc. Smith if he had realized [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived on scene at that time. Ofc. Smith stated he had been

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2026-0745

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10810 Brookpark Rd.,
Brooklyn, OH 44130, Cuyahoga County (L)

positioned directly behind Ricardo's vehicle facing west on Brookpark Rd., and [REDACTED] had been directly south of Ofc. Smith's cruiser also facing west on Brookpark Rd. [REDACTED] had then parked his PPD Cruiser southwest (45-degree angle) of [REDACTED] PPD Cruiser to where Ricardo would be "boxed" as though it was a felony traffic stop. Ofc. Smith stated he felt [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had better shooting backstops from their angles as Ofc. Smith stated his backstop was, **"open air and civilians"** (11:56).

SA Burke asked Ofc. Smith if Ofc. Smith recalled ordering Ricardo to drop the weapon during the incident. Ofc. Smith stated, **"I didn't get a chance to cause it happened so fast, I'm just like bullets are gonna start flying outta that gun at any second and you need to find better cover"** (12:18). Ofc. Smith explained to SA Burke that he had recently been through training where, if possible, Ofcs. should seek better cover than behind a door to a vehicle due to bullets being able to penetrate through a door easily. That would have been Ofc. Smith's reasoning for retreating to the rear of his PPD cruiser.

Ofc. Smith indicated that it "sucked" because Ofc. Smith wished **"He (Ricardo) would have just talked to us, he (Ricardo) didn't even give us a chance to talk to him"** (12:54). SA Burke asked Ofc. Smith if Ricardo had made any comments to Ofc. Smith or any of the other PPD Ofcs. on scene that Ofc. Smith could make out. Ofc. Smith stated there was nothing Ricardo said, **"He (Ricardo) just come out of the car with that gun and just started going right towards me"** (13:04).

SA Burke asked Ofc. Smith, while rendering first aid to Ricardo, whether Ricardo ever made any comments to Ofc. Smith or any other PPD Ofcs. Ofc. Smith said Ricardo never said anything that he could hear. Ofc. Smith stated the only thing he really noticed was that Ricardo would try to pull away when Ofc. Smith applied pressure to Ricardo's gunshot wounds, as though Ricardo did not want to be treated.

SA Burke asked Ofc. Smith if the gun which Ricardo had in his possession was a handgun or a long gun. Ofc. Smith stated it had been a handgun but did not know what type of handgun. Ofc. Smith again stated he did not recall whether or not Ricardo had discharged the handgun which Ricardo had in his possession. Furthermore, Ofc. Smith stated he could hear gunshots. However, Ofc. Smith stated, **"I could hear shots going off, but I couldn't see where they were coming from"** (16:17).

SA Burke asked Ofc. Smith if he had been familiar with or had any prior contacts with Ricardo. Ofc. Smith stated he had never dealt with Ricardo or had no knowledge of Ricardo prior to this incident.

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Investigative Report**



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Brooklyn, OH 44130, Cuyahoga County (L)

SA Lamping asked Ofc. Smith at what point during the traffic stop, did Ofc. Smith have a feeling this was not going to be a normal traffic stop. Ofc. Smith stated it had been during the slow roll of the initiated traffic stop, adding Ofc. Smith felt Ricardo **"was processing something that he (Ricardo) wants to do, and he (Ricardo) just hasn't done it yet. And then as soon as he (Ricardo) stopped and then grabbed the firearm, I knew ok"** (17:19). Being familiar with these types of situations during traffic stops and based on Ofc. Smith's training and experience, the driver could be retrieving a firearm, hiding narcotics, or getting ready to run.

Ofc. Smith said he had been caught off guard because Ofc. Smith stated he was not expecting Ricardo to come out of Ricardo's vehicle as "aggressively" as Ricardo did. According to Ofc. Smith, he felt Ricardo was going to exit Ricardo's vehicle and PPD Ofcs. were going to be able to talk with Ricardo. However, that did not take place. Ricardo exited his vehicle, **"aggressively and then just directed towards me, and I'm like of, shocked me"** (18:36).

SA Lamping asked Ofc. Smith if he felt at that moment Ricardo was going to cause Ofc. Smith bodily harm. Ofc. Smith stated, **"At that moment I'm like, he's (Ricardo) gonna kill me"** (18:44). **"The second he (Ricardo) pulled the firearm, I (Ofc. Smith) saw him with it. I go, either he (Ricardo) is either gonna put that (firearm) on himself or put it towards us"** (18:52). SA Lamping asked Ofc. Smith if he had a different backstop, would Ofc. Smith had fired his service weapon due to being in fear of Ofc. Smith's safety. Ofc. Smith replied, **"a hundred percent"** (19:05).

SA Burke asked Ofc. Smith if he had completed and filled out the Marsy's Law Packet, which had been provided to Ofc. Smith by OPBA Atty. Dan Leffler. Ofc. Smith stated he had filled out the Marsy's Law Packet. He then provided SA Burke with the Marsy's Law document indicating Ofc. Smith was invoking his privilege to Marsy's Law.

Ofc. Smith acknowledged that his Body Worn Camera (BWC) and Cruiser Dash Cam had been activated during the OICI.

Ofc. Smith had no other relevant information and the interview concluded at approximately 1020 hours.

The images in this report are for demonstrative purposes only.

The interview was video and audio recorded. The video and audio recording was placed into Axon Justice/Evidence.com as part of Reference Item M-Officer Interviews > Sub Folder Witness Officer Chris Smith #568.

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References:

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Attachments:

None

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