



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



2025-0854

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 645 Hazen Avenue,
Ravenna, OH 44266, Portage County

Investigative Activity: Case Closing
Involves: Shawn Ware (S)
Activity Date: 07/11/2025
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Goudy

Narrative:

On Thursday, June 5, 2025, the investigation regarding the officer-involved critical incident that occurred in Ravenna, Ohio, on March 16, 2025, was presented to the Portage County Prosecutor's Office. On July 11, 2025, Portage County Prosecutor Connie Lewandowski declined to file criminal charges regarding the actions of Ravenna Police Officer Sergeant Cris Coy and Officer Brock Wise in relation to the death of Shawn Ware.

All evidence in this case has been returned to the requesting agency. Special agent assistance is no longer required by the requesting agency.

The documents received from the Portage 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. Portage County Prosecutor's Office – Declination Letter

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.

CONNIE J. LEWANDOWSKI
PORTAGE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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July 10, 2025

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Special Agent Joseph Goudy
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations
4055 Highlander Parkway
Richfield, OH 44286

**Re: BCI Investigation of Officer Involved Critical Incident
Involving RPD Sergeant Cris Coy and Officer Brock Wise
Case Number 2025-0854**

Dear Special Agent Goudy:

Upon completion of the independent investigation conducted by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation into the officer-involved shooting that occurred on March 16, 2025, I have reviewed the full case file and all associated materials. This letter outlines the findings and legal determination by the Portage County Prosecutor's Office.

Pursuant to BCI investigative file, On March 16, 2024, at 1:30 A.M., the Ravenna Police Department received a 911 call from a man identified as Terrence Conway, located at 645 Hazen Avenue, Apt. 3 in Ravenna Ohio. Conway reported that a male, later identified as Shawn A. Ware, had pushed his way into the apartment, holding a suspected gun. When Ware fell asleep, Conway initiated a 911 call for help.

Officers Brock Wise and Sergeant Cris Coy responded to the call. Officer Wise knocked on the door of apartment 3, and the door opened; Ware was observed lying on the floor inside the domicile in possession of a handgun. It was then, Officer Wise and Sgt. Coy gave verbal commands for Ware to drop his gun. Pursuant to bodycam and other evidence, Ware refused to do so and pointed the weapon at Officer Wise. The apartment door then closed between the officers and Ware. Officer Wise and Sgt. Coy continued to give commands outside the door of the apartment.

Shortly thereafter, the apartment door opened, and Ware exited the apartment, while holding Conway directly in front of him, as evidenced by the bodycam. Moments later, Conway was able to break free from Ware's clutches.

Ware continued to be in possession of the suspected handgun and began walking down the hallway towards Sgt. Coy. Evidence revealed, Sgt. Coy and Officer Wise continued to provide verbal commands to Ware to drop his gun. However, Ware refused to cooperate. Moreover, Ware continued to approach law enforcement, and Ware subsequently pointed his suspected firearm at Sgt. Coy and Officer Wise, hence resulting in both officers discharging their service weapons.

Once Ware was safely secured, life-saving emergency measures were provided, however, Ware eventually succumbed to his injuries.

In their interviews, Sergeant Coy and Officer Wise each reported seeing Ware brandishing the weapon, holding the hostage as a human shield, and failing to heed commands to drop his weapon, this is consistent with their utterances and the depictions on their body-worn cameras, as well as civilian witness Terrence Conway.

The autopsy revealed Ware [REDACTED] The gunfire lasted a matter of seconds. In addition, Ware's toxicology established he [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subsequent investigation revealed that the weapon in Ware's possession was a BB gun designed to appear indistinguishable from a real firearm. While a BB gun could be construed as non-lethal, this gun's appearance, behavior, and use during the incident gave officers every reasonable belief that they were confronting a deadly weapon.

A police officer acts reasonably in using deadly force when the officer has a reasonable belief that the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious physical harm or death to the officer or to others. *Tennessee v. Garner* (1985), 471 U.S. 1, 105 S.Ct. 1694; *Graham v. Connor* (1989), 490 U.S. 386. The Fourth Amendment inquiry is whether the officers' actions are "objectively reasonable" considering the facts and circumstances confronting them, without regard to the underlying intent or motivation. The "reasonableness" of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on scene, and its calculus must embody an allowance for the fact that the police officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force necessary in a particular situation.

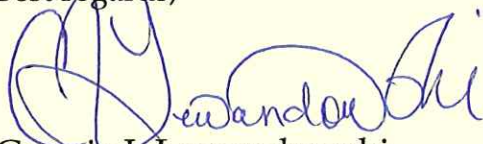
Given the totality of circumstances, including the suspect's use of a realistic-looking firearm, the taking of a hostage and the usage of him as a human shield, the pointing of the weapon at officers and the victim, and the continued failure to comply with lawful commands, it is the conclusion of this office that the use of deadly force by officers was legally justified.

In conclusion, it is clear based upon your investigation, the physical evidence, in conjunction with the audio and video recordings, the forensic findings, witness statements, as well as the law enforcements statements that Sergeant Coy and Officer Wise responded appropriately to this incident. Wherefore, law enforcements actions were justified.

For these reasons, it is the finding of this office that the use of deadly force by Sergeant Coy and Officer Wise was reasonable and justified in each instance. Accordingly, there is no basis for the pursuit of any criminal prosecution against either officer in connection with this incident, and we are closing our file.

Thank you for your extremely detailed investigation and the substantial efforts your office has made in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Best regards,



Connie J. Lewandowski
Portage County Prosecutor's Office



Cc: Chief Jake Smallfield