



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



2026-2448
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 613 Orange Street,
Conneaut, Ohio 44030 Ashtabula County (L)

Investigative Activity: Search Warrant – Matrix Item 060
Involves: Brandon Butts (S)
Activity Date: 07/22/2026
Activity Location: BCI – Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Daniel P. Boerner #135

Narrative:

Search Warrant Obtained

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) drafted a search warrant for a black smart phone, with a red/pink case, BCI Crime Scene Evidence Item #61, Matrix Item 060, with an additional evidence identifier of P00020-1048474 and the information contained within being kept by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation – Richfield Office, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286 relative to the officer-involved critical incident which occurred on June 25, 2026.

On Wednesday, July 22, 2026, SA Boerner met with Summit County Court of Common Pleas Judge Jennifer D. Towell (Judge Towell). Judge Towell reviewed the search warrant and search warrant affidavit. On, July 22, 2026 at approximately 1120hrs, Judge Towell signed / authorized the search warrant.

Search Warrant Executed

On Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at approximately 1222hrs, SA Boerner executed / served the aforementioned search warrant by submitting the cell phone to the Cyber Unit at the BCI Office in Richfield.

During the search, the following items of potential evidence were seized:

- One (1) electronic file containing a file system extraction

Search Warrant Returned

On Monday, August 03, 2026, SA Boerner met with Judge Kelly McLaughlin. Judge McLaughlin reviewed and signed the search warrant return. On August 3, 2026, SA Boerner filed the original search warrant, search warrant affidavit, inventory, and search warrant return with the Summit County Clerk of Courts.

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**



2026-2448
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 613 Orange Street,
Conneaut, Ohio 44030 Ashtabula County (L)

A copy of the search warrant documents and search inventory are attached to this investigative report.

The file system extraction was uploaded to Axon Justice as Reference Item K - Cell Phone Analysis - Matrix Item 060.

References:

- Reference Item K - Cell Phone Analysis - Matrix Item 060

Attachments:

1. 2026-08-03 Search Warrant - Cell Phone - Returned and Filed

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.

TAVIA GALONSKI

2026 AUG -3 PM 12:35

SUMMIT COUNTY
CLERK OF COURT

SEARCH WARRANT
Rev. Code, § 2933.23, .24, .25

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

The State of Ohio, Summit County, ss.

Cm- 2026-08-0461

To: **Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Superintendent Bruce Pijanowski, Special Agent Daniel Boerner #135, any agents/forensic analysts/scientists of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and any law enforcement officers as authorized, GREETINGS:**

Whereas there has been filed with me, an Affidavit, of which the following is a summary:

The State of Ohio, Summit County, ss.

JENNIFER D. TOWELL

Before me, Honorable **Judge Kelly McLaughlin**, personally appeared **Special Agent Daniel Boerner**, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that on or about the **22nd**, day of **July, 2026**, at the County of Summit, **Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation – Richfield Office, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286**, and further described as a law enforcement agency, there is now being kept, concealed, and possessed following records for which search authorization and seizure is sought, to-wit:

a black smart phone, with a red/pink case, BCI Crime Scene Evidence Item #61, Matrix Item 060, with an additional evidence identifier of P00020-1048474 and the information contained within being kept by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation – Richfield Office, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286

There is known to be kept, concealed, and possessed the following:

1. Data including emails, notes, photographs, images, video recordings, audio recordings, contacts, incoming/outgoing/missed calls, text messages, and social media correspondence. This data could also include location and global positional system (GPS) history.

2. Any and all electronic data contained in the device's memory, or call history of the cell phone, to include but not necessarily limited to; call history, any names, phone numbers, addresses, contact information, data, text, messages, images, voice memos, photographs, videos, audio recordings, personal settings and preferences established on the device such as but not limited to, internet favorites, email processing such as forwarding addresses, internet cache settings, calendars, notes and note taking, other preferences such as but not limited to, speed dialing assignments, voice dialing assignments, ring tone assignments, internet sites, internet access, Wi-Fi information, documents or other information, contained in the devices' cellular phone internal, external, or removable memory devices, which may include SIM cards and micro SD cards.
3. Any and all data contained on the devices cell phones or other storage devices which includes previously erased data that may be located may be located such as, but not necessarily limited to, Personal Data Assistant, secure media cards, smart cards, SIM cards, micro SD cards, digital camera media such as compact flash cards, in any format and, whether the data is stored in files, tables, other data structures, or unallocated space.
4. Said search may include production and examination of a duplicate memory card image, and/or the device cell phone image, or analysis files, which contain all the data on the reference devices cell phones and or storage media, said duplicates, files and data becoming the sole property of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Criminal Investigation or other law enforcement agency with jurisdiction or property authority in this matter.
5. The law enforcement agency to which this warrant is issued is authorized to seize the above-described materials and conduct further examination by a qualified computer expert, provided such expert operates under the direction, supervision, and control of said law enforcement agency.

knowing the same to be evidence in association with a violation of **§ 2903.041 Reckless Homicide.**, and that said complainant believes and has good cause to believe that said property, or some part thereof, is concealed or kept at the **Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation – Richfield Office, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286.**

Complainant further avers the facts upon which such belief is based are the affidavit which is attached and incorporated herein.

These are therefore to command you in the name of the State of Ohio, with the necessary and proper assistance, to enter in the day time, for the property specified, making a bit by bit copy, also known as mirror image copies, and that once said mirror images are made, that affiant and/or other investigation officer/agents are authorized to search said mirror images for the above described information. The Court makes a further order for good cause shown that the three (3) day rule for execution of the said warrant is extended, to allow agents to execute and thoroughly search the seized property. Said extension is based on the logistical and technical difficulties confronting law enforcement. If any of the above-described property or any part thereof be found there, you are commanded to seize it, prepare a written inventory of the property seized, return this warrant to the undersigned or any Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and to bring the property found on such search forthwith before said Judge, or some other judge or magistrate of the county having cognizance thereof.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in
my presence this 22nd day of July
2026.


JUDGE KELLY MCLAUGHLIN
Judge Jennifer D. Towle

I certify this to be a true copy of the original
Tavia Galonski, Clerk of Courts.
 Deputy Clerk

In the Matter of the Search of)
a smart phone with a red/pink)
case BCI Crime Scene Evidence)
Item #61, Matrix 060)
additional evidence identifier of)
P00020-1048474)

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

No. CM-2026-08-0461

JUDGEMENT ENTRY

This matter came for consideration on this **22nd day of July, 2026**, on the affidavit of Special Agent Daniel Boerner of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, for a search warrant and the evidence, and it appears to the Court that there is probable cause that the following persons or things, to-wit:

a black smart phone, with a red/pink case, BCI Crime Scene Evidence Item #61, Matrix Item 060, with an additional evidence identifier of P00020-1048474 and the information contained within being kept by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation – Richfield Office, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286

have concealed within information and/or data that the offense described in the Affidavit has been committed; that the premises and things to be searched are within the jurisdiction of this Court. It is further ordered and authorized for good cause that the three (3) day rule for execution of said warrant is extended to a reasonable period to allow law enforcement and forensic experts to execute and thoroughly search the seized property. Said extension is based on the logistical and technical difficulties in examining the store electronic data.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that a search warrant is issued accordingly, and that the Sheriff make return thereof not later than one hundred and twenty (120) days from the issuance of said warrant.

TAVIA GALONSKI

2026 AUG -3 PM 12:35

SUMMIT COUNTY
CLERK OF COURTS


JUDGE KELLY MCLAUGHLIN
Jennifer D. Towell

I certify this to be a true copy of the original
Tavia Galonski, Clerk of Courts.
 Deputy Clerk

TAVIA GALONSKI

2020 AUG -3 PM 12:36

STATE OF OHIO

SUMMIT COUNTY
CLERK OF COURT

ss. AFFIDAVIT

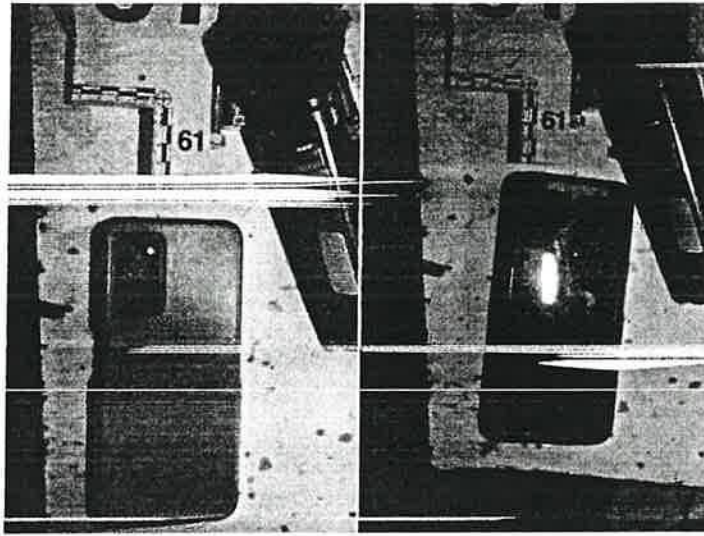
COUNTY OF SUMMIT

This day, to wit: **July 22nd, 2026**, came Special Agent Daniel Boerner #135 of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, after being duly sworn according to law, states the following:

1. Your affiant, Special Agent Daniel Boerner, is a member of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), Force Investigations Unit - North (FIU-North), and his training and experience include the following: he is a Special Agent in the Force Investigations Unit of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, BCI. SA Boerner, having more than 25 years of law enforcement experience, has been employed by BCI since May 2014. Prior to being assigned to the Force Investigations Unit, SA Boerner was assigned to the Crime Scene Unit for ten years.
2. Prior to working for BCI, SA Boerner was employed for two years as a Law Enforcement Training Officer (LETO) with the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) where he was assigned to the Advanced Training Unit. Prior to serving as a LETO with OPOTA, SA Boerner worked as a sworn law enforcement officer for approximately twelve years at the Madison Township (Lake County, Ohio) Police Department.
3. SA Boerner possesses an Associate of Science degree from Lakeland Community College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Tiffin University, and a Masters's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Tiffin University. SA Boerner completed the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) at the Lakeland Community College Basic Police Academy in 1998 and has remained OPOTA certified since that time. SA Boerner has attended over 1500 hours of additional law enforcement and investigative related training.
4. Throughout his career, SA Boerner has served in various capacities to include patrol, investigations, evidence technician, and as a field training officer. SA Boerner's experience encompasses thousands of overt and covert investigations including homicides, assaults, property crimes, death investigations, sexual assaults, street level and mid-level drug investigations, various investigations involving fraud, conspiracy investigations, investigations involving organized criminal enterprises and investigations of officer-involved critical incidents.

5. On Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 1506hrs, Special Agent (SA) Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) learned that the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) requested assistance from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) with investigating an officer-involved critical incident. BCI agents from the Force Investigations Unit (FIU) and the Crime Scene Unit (CSU) responded to the location of the incident to assist.
6. BCI agents learned that on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at approximately 1330hrs, deputies of the ACSO attempted to serve multiple arrest warrants at 613 Orange St., Conneaut, Ohio 44030. The subject of the arrest warrants was identified as Brandon L. Butts, W/M, DOB: 08/11/1992, SSN: [REDACTED]. The warrants were issued from both the Conneaut Municipal Court and Ashtabula County Court of Common Pleas. The warrants were issued for traffic related offenses (6) and fleeing and eluding/failure to comply (2).
7. SA Boerner learned that when deputies approached the residence they were met by Butt's brother (Cain Dello-Butts) and mother (Lenette Butts). Cain confirmed that Butts was inside the residence and deputies observed Butts running through the home and into the basement.
8. SA Boerner learned that once in the basement Butts was believed to have barricaded the basement door. At approximately 1333hrs, deputies advised dispatch that Butts had barricaded himself in the basement and requested assistance from the Conneaut Police Department and Conneaut Fire Department.
9. SA Boerner learned that a member of the Conneaut Police Department deployed pepper balls (less lethal) into the basement area of the residence in an attempt to get Butts to surrender peacefully.
10. SA Boerner learned that deputies heard a female (Heather L. Duva) screaming for help from the basement. According to deputies, there was another person in the residence and that person appeared to be in immediate danger.
11. SA Boerner learned that two deputies were able to perform a "hostage rescue technique" and extricated Duva from the basement. Duva later told deputies that Butts had taken her hostage and refused to let her leave the basement. Duva further told deputies that Butts claimed to have a firearm, but that she did not see one.
12. SA Boerner learned that deputies continued to attempt to negotiate with Butts. Butts reportedly threatened the deputies and threatened to kill himself by shooting himself.

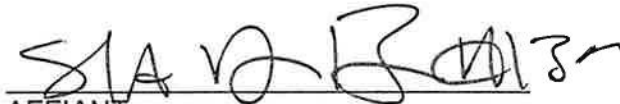
13. SA Boerner learned that during negotiations Butts pointed a flashlight at the deputies in what was perceived as a way to get law enforcement to shoot Butts. No members of law enforcement fired their weapons.
14. SA Boerner learned that during negotiations Butts came out from behind the basement door with a long gun underneath his chin and stated that he was going to kill himself. Law enforcement reported that since Butts did not point the long gun at them they did not fire.
15. SA Boerner learned that during negotiations Butts came out from behind the basement door a second time with a long gun underneath his chin and again stated that he was going to kill himself. Deputies reported that since Butts did not point the long gun at them they did not fire. Deputies reported that either during the first time or second time Butts came out from behind the basement door he took three steps up the stairs towards law enforcement.
16. SA Boerner learned that during negotiations Butts pointed the barrel of the long gun at law enforcement through an opening in the door and then closed the basement door. Despite being told to put the gun down, Butts pointed the barrel of the long gun at law enforcement through an opening in the door a second time and law enforcement shot in the direction of Butts and the basement door. Three members of law enforcement reportedly fired their weapons.
17. SA Boerner learned that after the shooting, law enforcement made several attempts to verbally contact Butts. Law enforcement reported receiving no response.
18. SA Boerner learned that law enforcement deployed a drone into the basement and observed Butts lying on the floor in the basement and appeared to need medical care.
19. SA Boerner learned that Fire/EMS had been previously requested and staged on scene. Fire/EMS subsequently made contact with Butts and declared him to be deceased.
20. BCI CSU agents processed the scene located at 613 Orange St., Conneaut, Ohio 44030. Agents collected multiple items of evidence including multiple cartridge cases, multiple projectiles, a magazine, an Ardesa Buckhunter 50 caliber Rifle, SN: 14-13-058059-00, with no trigger and a carrying case, and a black smart phone, with a red/pink case (see below).



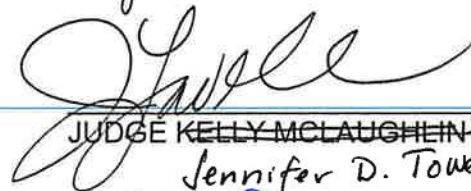
21. Based on your Affiant's training and experience, people use cellular phones to communicate through phone calls, text messages, chat and instant message features, video and audio recordings, emails, social media, and other electronic means. During criminal incidents and mental health incidents, people often use their cellular phones to communicate or record portions of the event. People also utilize their cellular phones days, weeks, and months in advance to communicate to others their mental health status, potential suicidal threats, criminal behavior and activity. Examination of the cellular phones could provide additional details about criminal activity and the intentions and actions of **Brandon L. Butts**.
22. Affiant avers that based on this prior experience with obtaining forensic analysis and extraction of cellular telephones, the extraction usually takes more than three days to perform. Therefore, Affiant requests that this Court, pursuant to Crim.R. 45, waive the requirement under Crim.R. 41 that this warrant be executed within three days.

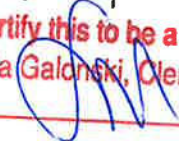
23. Based on the information contained in this affidavit, affiant's training and experience as a law enforcement officer, participation in the investigation relative to this affidavit, conversations with participating law enforcement officers, corroborated facts and information supplied by reliable victims and witnesses and any oral testimony incorporated herein, it is affiant's belief that **a black smart phone, with a red/pink case, BCI Crime Scene Evidence Item #61, Matrix Item 060, with an additional evidence identifier of P00020-1048474 and the information contained within being kept by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation – Richfield Office, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286**, contains evidence supportive of Ohio Revised Code § 2903.041 Reckless Homicide.
24. That search and seizure authorization is sought for **a black smart phone, with a red/pink case, BCI Crime Scene Evidence Item #61, Matrix Item 060, with an additional evidence identifier of P00020-1048474 and the information contained within being kept by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation – Richfield Office, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286**.

AFFIANT FURTHER SAYETH NAUGHT.


AFFIANT

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence, this 22nd day of July 2026.


JUDGE KELLY MCLAUGHLIN
Jennifer D. Towell

I certify this to be a true copy of the original
Tavia Galonski, Clerk of Courts.
 Deputy Clerk

CM-2026-08-0461

RETURN

Summit County, Ohio, August 3rd, 2026

Received this writ on the 22nd day of July, 2026, at
11:20: o'clock a.m./p.m., and pursuant to its command I executed the same on
the 22nd day of July, 2026, by searching the
premises therein described for the person and/or things therein set forth, in the

(day/night) time of said day, and a copy of the warrant was served upon BCI Cyber Unit
by SA Dan Boerlich, the search of the premises being completed on
the 23rd day of July, 2026.

whereupon I did seize the following things and/or persons, to-wit:

ONE FILE CONTAINING A SYSTEM FILE EXTRACTION
FROM A BLACK SMARTE PLOWS MATRUE ITEM 060

The inventory was made in the presence of

SA Dan Boerlich and _____
acting for SUP. BRUCE PIJALOWSKI

Chief of Police – Bailiff

By

SA D B A B E
Deputy

Sworn to, subscribed before me, by SA D B A B E
this 3rd day of August, 2026.

Judge Jennifer D. Howell
JUDGE JENNIFER D. HOWELL
Judge Kevin L. McLaughlin

TAMIA GALONSKI
2026 AUG -3 PM 12:36
SUMMIT COUNTY
CLERK OF COURT