



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



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

To: Dennis Watkins, Trumbull County Prosecutor  
Cc: SAS Charles Moran, Special Agent Supervisor, Ohio BCI  
From: SA Joseph Lamping, Special Agent, Ohio BCI  
Date: February 2, 2026  
Involves: John Adams (S), [REDACTED] (S), [REDACTED] (S),  
[REDACTED] (S), [REDACTED] (S)  
Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1363 State Route 534 NW, Braceville Township, OH 44470, Trumbull County  
BCI Case Numbers: Force Investigations (FIU): 2025-3711  
Crime Scene (CSU): 2025-3711  
BCI Laboratory: 25-38982

### Investigative Request

On Friday, November 14, 2025, Chief David Fay of the Braceville Police Department (BPD) 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 an officer-involved critical incident. The incident reportedly occurred on November 14, 2025 in the area of Doll Lumber, 1363 State Route 534 Northwest, Braceville, Ohio and resulted in the death of John Adams (Adams).

### Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the November 14, 2025 officer-involved shooting in Trumbull County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

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Contact Information .....47

## Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) was assigned as the lead FIU case agent. SA Lamping received assistance in the investigation from 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. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Charles Moran. Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

## Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interviews of the three officers who discharged their weapons
- Recorded interview of one officer who was involved in the incident, but did not fire his weapon
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Interviews of four civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interviews of family members of the decedent
- Obtained and reviewed post-mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) trace on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine ownership history)
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident

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- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans / model of incident area
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
  1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
  2. Firearm operability testing
  3. DNA analysis
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered

### Incident Summary/Overview

On Friday November 14, 2025, at approximately 1651 hours [REDACTED] of the Braceville Police Department (BPD) 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. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office (TCSO), 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.

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During the interaction Adams began to approach Todd Garland (Braceville Fire Chief and friend of Adams) while still holding his firearm. Adams was instructed 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 officers while pointing the firearm he was holding in their direction. [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 Fire Department to the Portage Medical Center. Adams was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

## Decedent

The decedent in this investigation was identified as John Peter Adams. Adams, a 56 year old white male, was pronounced dead at the Portage Medical Center. The below sections provide details from the Portage County Coroner's Report as well as the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office.

## Portage County Coroner Investigator's Report

The Portage County report, filed by Coroner's Investigator Telsa Croop (Investigator Croop), provided a general breakdown of the events leading to Adams' death. The report noted that Adams was pronounced deceased at 1750 hours at the Portage Medical Center by Doctor Nicholas Sekoulopoulos in emergency room 32. Investigator Croop also noted that [REDACTED] Adams's body was transported to the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy.

## Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent (John Adams) was obtained from the Portage County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

The cause of death for Adams was determined to be [REDACTED]. The manner of death was ruled [REDACTED]. The toxicology report indicated that [REDACTED].

Additionally, the autopsy report documented [REDACTED] during the incident.





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### Physical Evidence

An assortment of evidence was located at the scene of the shooting. A total of four firearms were recovered, three of which belonged to the responding officers. The fourth firearm, pictured below, was in Adam's possession during the incident:



### Crime Scene Processing

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting in order to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. Multiple agents responded and processed the scene, to include photographing and mapping the area, as well as the search for, documentation, and collection of items of possible evidence. Detailed crime scene reports were completed with the below information only summarizing some of the more significant findings.

The crime scene unit recovered an assortment of fired cartridge casing from the scene, the firearms from the three involved officers, as well as the Glock 43X possessed by Adams' during the incident. The below image was taken after Adams' firearm was rendered safe and prior to packaging. The rounds in the box were loaded in the firearm and magazine prior to the weapon being rendered safe.

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### BCI Laboratory Analysis

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

The DNA section of the lab examined Adams' firearm for DNA evidence. Adams' DNA was located on the firearm.

The NIBIN Section of the lab examined fired cartridges from Adams' weapon. No investigative leads were generated from their examination. The Firearms Section also determined that Adams' Glock 43X was operable. Furthermore, it was determined that Adams' firearm was the source of four fired cartridge casings.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene, vehicles, and autopsies (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following determinations were made:

- [REDACTED] Springfield Echelon pistol
  - Linked to nine 9mm cartridge casing recovered from the scene.
  - Linked to one projectile recovered in Adams' left lung, and one projectile located at the scene.
- [REDACTED] Aero Precision AR-15
  - Linked to two .223 Remington cartridge casings recovered from the scene.

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- The firearm had two inconclusive matches: one projectile located in Adams' soft tissue and one projectile from Adams' left neck/base of skull.
- [REDACTED] Glock 23 .40 caliber
  - Linked to four .40 caliber cartridge casings recovered from the scene.
  - The firearm could not be excluded as the source of one projectile located in the right base of Adams' neck.

## Witnesses

A total of four individuals were identified as witnesses to the OICI. Two of the witnesses listed below were bystanders while the other two were familiar with Adams prior to the incident.

### Jason Brinker

Jason Brinker (Jason) 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. (0:34)*

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 recalled the following:

*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. (0:54)*

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

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*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. (01:29)*

SA Lamping asked Jason if he remembered anything specific that the male subject was yelling during the incident. Jason recalled the following:

*'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.' (01:49)*

Jason also explained that as soon as the male subject had been tased he swung the firearm around and pointed it directly at the law enforcement officers on scene.

**Tiffany Brinker**

Tiffany Brinker (Tiffany) stated that she and her husband, Jason Brinker, were traveling on State Route 534 (SR 534) in the area of Doll Lumber. Tiffany stated that she observed the following:

*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 9 1 1 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 (01:41 mark).*

Tiffany said that at some point, members of the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office arrived on scene. Tiffany reported that the deputies were "getting their guns out and stuff like that, getting prepped" (03:02). She reported that she walked away from her

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vehicle and was talking with other people. Tiffany explained that when she came back to the side of the truck *"I heard the taser go off"* (03:11 mark). Brink reported that she did not see the taser deployment because she was looking away from the scene.

Tiffany reported that once the taser stopped, she heard the gunshots. She stated that she could not recall the number of gunshots that she heard. Tiffany explained that the shooting happened in the parking lot, but that she did not visually witness the event. She stated that her vision was blocked by the passenger side mirror of her truck. Tiffany reported that after the shooting, first aid was rendered by the individuals from the ambulance.

#### Trisha Reeder

Trisha Reeder (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. (0:46)*

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 (Garland) 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. (01:17)*

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*

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*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'. (01:27)*

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'. (02:14)*

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. (02:41)*

SA Lamping asked Reeder if she was aware of Adams having any mental health issues. She explained that though she was not sure if Adams was ever suicidal she did know that he had been through "some tough times" (03:37). She went on to explain that some months ago Adams went through a breakup with either a girlfriend or a fiancé.

SA Lamping asked Reeder if Adams' behavior during the incident was out of the ordinary for him. She explained that though Adams is known to consume alcoholic beverages he is usually a polite individual, so she classified the behavior she exhibited from Adams as unusual.

SA Lamping asked Reeder to provide more detail about the moments immediately after Adams had been tased. She stated:

*Because I was behind the, the fire chief's car, so I had kind of a blocked view. I just, it all happened so fast. I saw the taser be deployed. I saw*

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*him kind of turn around, I heard the shots and then I heard more shots. (04:43)*

SA Lamping asked Reeder if Adams was responsive to her attempts to connect with him while on scene. She said:

*When I first got here and I was talking to him, he was talking to me like this summer, a couple at the end of September, we were all at our, my family's cottage in Canada. And I said, Johnny, we were just in Canada. And you said how much fun you had. And he said, 'Yeah, you guys made me feel like I was a part of the family'. And I said, Yeah, so we are your family. We'll help you. Like, 'cause he kept saying he didn't have anybody and I said, 'No, you have us'. (05:05)*

Reeder stated that Adams did not put the firearm down at any point in time during the incident. She recalled that at times he would point the gun into the grass or have it by his side.

#### **Todd Garland**

Todd Garland (Garland) stated that he received a phone call at 1655 hours from his niece, Trisha Reeder (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.*

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*She got out and we were both standing there kind of side by side, probably about, I dunno, 20, 25 feet away from him. (01:20)*

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?' (02:06)*

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 John's 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 John's like, 'Take your hand off your gun'. He goes, and, and, you know, and they started and he started yelling back at John, and they were yelling back and forth a little bit. (02:51)*

Garland stated that he attempted to distract Adams by telling him about all of 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*

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*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.' (04:20)*

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. (05:16)*

After the shooting had ceased Garland detailed his intention of rendering medical aid to Adams:

*And, uh, when they stopped shooting, he's laying on the ground over there, and two officers ran over there, you know, so I'm like thinking I'm gonna grab my EMS equipment out of my car and stuff. My ambulance was sitting, my crew and my ambulance was sitting, I don't know, 150 feet up the street, you know, waiting. And I'm like, I need to get them in here, get the EMS stuff going. I need to get over there and do this. And I'm, I'm like, trying to go over there. And that's when the, the, the big canine cop, he pushes me, 'You ain't going nowhere'. And I'm like, I'm going over there to render care. I'm the paramedic. I'm the only paramedic. I said, I need to go over there and take care. 'You ain't going nowhere. If you don't stop, you don't calm down. I'm gonna arrest you'. And I'm like, uh, that kind of pissed me off. And I'm like, Dude, I'm the fucking medic. You know? And that's why I kind of got loud and I'm like, 'I'm the fucking medic, dude.' 'Well, your medics are here'. I said, 'No, those are not medics. That is an EMT basic and a*

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*fireman. I'm the paramedic. He needs IVs, fluids, you know, cardiac monitors, epinephrine, drugs,' you know. I said, 'Dude, I need to get the fuck over there,' you know? And he's, that's when they slammed me up against the car and put handcuffs on me... (05:53)*

SA Lamping asked Garland if he observed Adams fire his weapon during the incident. Garland recalled that Adams fired once while he was on scene. He went on to explain that when Adams fired his gun it was directed towards the grass away from the road, and that it was not directed at anyone. He also said that just before Adams fired, he said that he was serious about wanting to take his own life.

SA Lamping asked Garland if he observed Adams pointing the firearm towards the law enforcement officers when he had been struck by the taser. He said:

*I did not. He as, uh, it happened so fast, and honestly, as soon as they started shooting, I turned and ran and I turned my back to it. But the last thing I saw, he was walking away and that guy tased him in the back. And I saw him kind of jolt like this type of deal, you know? And then, I mean, within a, a second there was just open fire, you know? (08:04)*

When Garland described Adams "jolt" from the taser he put both of his hands up with his elbows bent roughly 90 degrees vertical mimicking Adams' reaction. Garland also was not sure who the first person was to fire their weapon, once shots were fired.

Garland advised that he could not render aid to Adams as he was detained by the Sheriff's Deputies on scene. He said that two members of the Braceville Fire Department along with [REDACTED] rendered aid while he was detained. Garland described his attempts to have the Deputies release him from custody so that he could render aid as follows:

*And I'm screaming at these guys, let me go, you know, they got me slammed up against the car, and I'm like, 'Let me go. I need to go over there and do this.' I said, 'This is my job.' You know... And they just absolutely wouldn't listen, they were so cranked up on themselves. I'm, I'm, I'm rather frustrated with that... (09:10)*

Garland continued on to explain his understanding that once the scene was safe, he was to take over control as the priority had changed to life saving measures that fell under his scope of reasonability:

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*I mean by, by all accounts and standards, once he hit the ground and they kicked that gun away from him, them two officers over there, the scene was mine. Because now it's a person that's down, that's shot. So technically I should have been in charge at that point. If, if, you know, if they really want to you, you know what I mean? They should have asked me, is there anything we can do to help you not slam me up against the car and put handcuffs on me? You know? (09:34)*

Garland went on to detail the difference in the level of care he can provide as a medic versus the level of care that an EMT-basic can provide:

*I said, 'for the love of God, I said, I'm the freaking medic.' I said, 'we have to have a medic. We have to have,' oh, those are medics. I said, they are not. And I, I'm yelling, I'm, I said, 'they're not listen to me.' I said, 'he's an EMT basic.' I said, 'he can put oxygen and a Band-Aid on.' I said, 'he's First aid.' Yeah. I said, 'I'm the dude that does all the ALS stuff, the cardiac rhythms.' And, and you know what I mean? I said, I, I said, 'you guys are killing him.' I said, 'I need to go over there and take care of this.' I said, 'this is my job.' He said, 'Let me do my job.' You know, they didn't, didn't want to hear it. (10:14)*

SA Lamping asked Garland if he recalled Adams ever struggling with mental health issues in the past. Garland said that he couldn't recall any past suicide attempts, had never been to Adams' residence for any mental health related calls, and could only recall the police being sent there on a few occasions due to Adams' level of intoxication. He went on to detail that Adams' recent ex-girlfriend had reportedly stolen \$112,000 from him, which Adams was upset about. He also recounted Adams' loss of his daughter to a drug overdose several years before in which several individuals filmed her death and sent the video to Adams. Garland believed that incident had an impact on Adams' mental health.

SA Lamping asked Garland about Adams' alcohol consumption. He explained that Adams was known to drink heavily, and sometimes events such as his deceased daughter's birthday would result in him drinking heavily. Garland estimated that Adams may have been slightly more intoxicated than he normally would have been during the course of the incident.

SA Lamping asked Garland if Adams ever gave any indication that he was going to put the firearm down. Garland said that though he tried to get Adams to put the gun down

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he wouldn't do so. He recalled that each time a law enforcement officer on scene would yell anything towards Adams it would re-escalate the situation.

### Family Interview

Special Agents Lamping and Spann met with Adams family members, Marguerite Adams (Marguerite) and Amy Vasbinder (Vasbinder). The purpose of the interview was to obtain any relevant information related to Adams' history.

SA Lamping 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. (01:17)*

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.

SA Lamping 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. (03:09)*

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SA Lamping asked the family 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. SA Lamping asked the family 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. (05:52)*

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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.

SA Lamping asked the family if 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.

SA Lamping 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. (11:24)*

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 (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. (14:31)*

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### Dispatch Related Records

The dispatch records obtained from the Braceville Police Department were duplicative of those obtained from the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office.

The first call received in reference to Adams was logged at 1652 hours. 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. Adams also told the bondsman that he planned on shooting himself.

Four 911 calls were received at the TCSO Dispatch Center. 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.

The radio traffic and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) records were in line with one another. On the way to the incident, [REDACTED] informed [REDACTED] that he believed that the incident occurring on Shanks-Phalanx Road was related to a prior call for service that TCSO received on the same day regarding a suicidal male. Additionally, the radio traffic indicated that medical assistance was requested on scene prior to any officers firing shots, and it was inquired about again several moments after shots were fired.

[REDACTED] radio traffic also included a transmission in which he logged one male detained. The detained male was determined to be Todd Garland.

### Collection of Evidence at Adams' Recreational Vehicle

Todd Garland alerted SA Lamping to the existence of a suicide note located in Adam's recreational vehicle the day after the incident. SA Lamping responded to Garland's property (where the recreational vehicle was stored) and subsequently retrieved the note after obtaining written consent from Garland.

The note requested that Garland distribute some property that Adams had owned. The note also detailed issues that Adams had with his ex-girlfriend, Mckenzie Royer, as well as his desire to be with his deceased daughter. Adams explained the pain that he experienced every day following the loss of his daughter and even explained that he planned to end his life in the Doll Lumber parking lot as he did not want to do so on Garland's property. Adams also wrote that Royer stole \$115,000 from his over the preceding months. Also written on the note were the letters DNR in all capital letters, which is often times an abbreviation for Do Not Resuscitate.

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Also located in Adams' recreational vehicle were the titles that he had notarized by his family. The note that Adams wrote was taken as evidence. Photographs of the recreational vehicle were taken to document the scene.

### Officer Interviews

A total of four officers were interviewed. All four officers employed some level of force during the incident; no witness officers were on scene at the time of the incident. The following paragraphs are abbreviated versions of each officer's account of his or her actions pertaining to this incident and/or discharging their weapon. Additional background information is available in the report documenting each officer's interview.

Each officer was accompanied in their interview by their attorney from the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association (OPBA), Danielle Chaffin.

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

██████████ explained to the investigators that he had one prior involvement with Adams earlier in the year. ██████████ 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. (08:11)*

██████████ 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. ██████████ suspected that they could not locate Adams as he had sold the residence and was no longer residing there.

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

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*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. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived first. They marked out. I do believe I remember [REDACTED] 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. (09:05)*

After [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] and guided her towards cover. After guiding [REDACTED] to cover, [REDACTED] noticed Todd Garland (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. (10:04)*

[REDACTED] explained that he and Garland eventually were able to move behind a vehicle that was on scene. He said that, while speaking with Garland, he detected what he believed to be the odor of alcohol emitting from his person. [REDACTED] stated that though Adams appeared to be intoxicated he felt that he was too far away from him to detect the odor off of his person and felt that it was coming from Garland.

[REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] illustrated the movements that Adams was making as shown below:



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While demonstrating Adams' actions [REDACTED] explained that he was aware that his reaction time would be slower than Adams' ability to act with the firearm. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] 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. (11:54)*

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

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*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. (12:52)*

██████████ went on to explain 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. (13:35)*

After Adams fell to the ground, ██████████ was under the impression that Adams was still in possession of the firearm. He said that he called out for officers to remain in cover. ██████████ explained that he urged them to remain in cover as he had read Force Science articles that indicated officers are typically shot when they leave cover. ██████████ then recounted an incident between himself and Garland:

*At that point, I don't know if Todd shoved me or if I was preventing him from going to, to run up to this guy with the gun still. Um, and I believe it was a shove because ██████████ and ██████████ reacted and grabbed him. We're trying to tell him to stop. And at one point I remember looking, and then ██████████ was up there by herself with this gentleman. So, they*

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*grabbed Todd, I want to say, I said, hold, hold on him. And I ran over to see, um, if, if one, one to make sure [REDACTED] okay and two, if he still has a firearm. And three, mostly provide medical aid. (14:14)*

Once [REDACTED] approached Adams and checked for a pulse. He advised that he did not feel a pulse on Adams and went on to explain that he had been present for an assortment of shootings and had rendered aid to victims in the past. While checking on Adams, [REDACTED] reported that he turned around and observed Garland to be struggling with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] went to provide assistance to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

*Um, and then I remember turning around and seeing that they were struggling with Todd still, who, who was pinned against the car with his fist clenched yelling some nasty things. So, I ran over there and at that point, you know, three guys, we have four guys out with three guys on scene with [REDACTED] four with everything going on, it's not a, you know, ideally we can have a hundred officers would be great. So, I made the decision to detain him because of his actions and how erratic he was. Um, I, I know Todd, I, I, I literally have his phone number. I've known Todd for some years now, and emotionally he, he was gone. So detained him, put him in handcuffs... (15:14)*

After Garland was detained, [REDACTED] reported that he went to his vehicle, obtained gloves, and returned to [REDACTED] to provide assistance. [REDACTED] recalled that medical staff was on scene, began to render aid, and subsequently transported Adams from the scene.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to elaborate on his training and understanding of negotiations as it pertains to non-law enforcement involvement in negotiation situations. [REDACTED] stated that he had attended a forty-hour course taught by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and had monthly training with the Crisis Response Team (CRT) as a negotiator when he was a member. [REDACTED] stated the following in reference to negotiation techniques:

*We don't allow anybody that's not trained or, for that situation, to negotiate. You know, it's, it's us only, extreme situations allow other entities to get involved and talk and communicate. Um, but basic 101, no, we don't do that. (17:19)*

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SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he noticed Garland's marked Braceville Fire Command unit on scene. [REDACTED] explained that he did observe the vehicle; however, he stated that Garland uses that vehicle for personal use. He explained:

*Todd uses that as his personal car. I've seen him at Walmart in that car. He sells guns at his gun shop in that car. He drives that at two or three o'clock in the morning and go to the gas station. I was on midnights. That car is not it. It might be marked and labeled that way, but he drives that 24/7. (18:42)*

[REDACTED] explained that, in his experience, Garland's vehicle being present did not indicate that he was operating in his official capacity. He went on to explain that he also did not believe that Garland was on duty as he did not have a radio on him or any other identifiers indicating that he was on duty. [REDACTED] felt that Garland was not responding in an official capacity as was rather on scene to assist Adams due to their personal connection.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if Garland made any statements when the altercation occurred after the shooting. [REDACTED] stated:

*I don't wanna say that he, there, after the, after I tasered him and after the gunshots went off, there was a struggle. And I don't remember if I immediately stopped him from going up. 'cause I, I know I yelled at our other guys not to go up or if he pushed me. 'cause I did. I, I don't remember. Okay. But I know there, there was, a, a struggle of some sort. No strikes, no punching, no, it was more of a shoving match. Okay. And then I remember [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] grabbing him. (20:19)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if Garland made any statement about being on the scene in his official capacity during the altercation. [REDACTED] stated:

*Uh, I know that he said something along the lines of, 'I can help him.' But again, it's not if, if in my perspective, I can smell alcohol coming from, from the odor in the air. And it's not from the guy that's 20 feet away from me and it's not me. He's there, been dealing with us all day according to him. Which means he never called us. The caller was never Todd Garland. It was, it was, uh, Bob Crager, I believe, which is a bondsman that kept calling us. Uh, he, I know at some point I, I just hate to, I don't know the timeframe if it was during the incident or*

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*right after, but I know that he said, this guy's been mentally ill for five years that he's lived with him. So, all that built together, I mean, we, we wouldn't allow, emotionally, pushing us, screaming at us, fighting with us, clinching his hands. We're not gonna allow somebody like that to try and provide medical aid. (20:54)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if there were other parties on scene to provide aid to Adams. [REDACTED] replied:

*I don't, I, I personally, you know, we just trained with Howland PD, I wanna say last year, cert should be there for, for trauma. Every year in Warren we did the same. So, for eight years I've had trauma training, I've had real life experience. I, I was confident enough in myself, if you go to my cruiser, I have almost everything you need for a shooting to an extent. Not a mass casualty, but enough to get by with three or four people. So, I was confident in myself that I would be able to provide a had squad and standby, which again, I, I don't know what the timeframe was for that. (21:51)*

When SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he used any of his medical equipment and he replied, "No." (22:26)

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he recalled Adams firing the weapon at him or if it had just been pointed at him. [REDACTED] stated:

*I, I know it was pointed at me, but I don't know if he fired. (22:35)*

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if he was familiar with Garland's level of training at the fire department. [REDACTED] was not aware of Garland's training level aside from the fact that he is the fire chief.

Prior to the conclusion of the interview Attorney Chaffin asked [REDACTED] to clarify the location of Adams' firearm after the shooting. [REDACTED] described his understanding of the location of the firearm as follows:

*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 [REDACTED] was already there at some point. I know I looked at [REDACTED] 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*

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*was transported out of there, I know the gun was there. 'cause when I was setting up the crime scene, tape. (23:40)*

██████████ went on to explain that, when Garland went to approach Adams, the last known location of the firearm was in Adams' hand. He stated that he would not let medical personnel approach a person armed with a firearm.

██████████  
██████████ recounted the incident on November 14, 2025, from the time that he received a call for service in reference to a male with a gun threatening to kill himself. He recalled that he arrived on scene at approximately the same time as ██████████ and ██████████ described what he observed at the scene when he first 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. (09:32)*

██████████ went on to explain that he tried for some time to get the male, John Adams (Adams), to put the firearm down. At one point in time Adams was reported to have put the gun down, but ██████████ said that the barrel of the gun was directed towards the law enforcement officers at that point. Once the gun was pointed at the law enforcement officers on scene they retreated to cover. ██████████ recalled that ██████████ guided ██████████ of the Braceville Police Department and Todd Garland (Garland) behind cover. ██████████ 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, ██████████ 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. ██████████ told him to back up. (10:31)*

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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... (10:57)*

After Adams had been shot, [REDACTED] recalled that an altercation occurred with the fire chief (Garland). He described the incident as follows:

*... at that time, we started fighting with the fire chief, tell him to stay back 'cause the scene wasn't secure. He steady, just irate out of control. So, we told him to stay back, let us secure the scene and he wouldn't. I was like, dude, stay back. We trying to walk up. He comes running out, we grab him, take him back. You have to stay back. I said, you don't stay back I'm gonna put you in cuffs. He says, good luck trying balls his fist up and was ready to fight. So, we secured him. It was all, took all three of us to get him secured behind the car. (11:28)*

[REDACTED] stated that, after Garland was secured, he went up to Adams along with [REDACTED]. Around the same time, the medics were reported to have arrived and began rendering aid to Adams.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to describe 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 (12:41)*

[REDACTED] carried on explaining 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.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he perceived Adams to be a threat when he began to turn towards the law enforcement officers with the firearm after being tased. [REDACTED] said that he did perceive Adams as a threat during that time. SA Lamping





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asked [REDACTED] what he was thinking when Adams was turning towards him with the firearm. [REDACTED] said:

*That he was gonna shoot one of us or shoot [REDACTED] 'cause [REDACTED] was the closest. (13:31)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if Adams had pointed the gun at any specific officer. 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] (13:38)*

[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. (14:01)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to provide further details about the altercation that occurred with Garland. [REDACTED] stated:

*He was, from what I was told, uh, he, that was his friend. So, he was very irate at what transpired. Um, non... no rational thinking whatsoever he's yelling, screaming, cussing, fighting us. Um, at one point after we got him security called me a called me an asshole and a murderer. So, he was not in the right state of mind to provide medical care to anybody. (14:47)*

[REDACTED] went on to explain that Garland did not calm down during the incident, that it took three deputies to move him to a secure location, and that Garland's behavior was unlike anything he had exhibited in the past while working with law enforcement officers.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he was under the impression that Garland was at the scene in a personal capacity or a professional capacity. [REDACTED] said that he thought that Garland was there in a personal capacity.



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SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if other medical staff were in the area while they were dealing with Garland. [REDACTED] stated that other medical personnel arrived on scene while the Deputies were dealing with Garland.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if he rendered any medical aid to Adams. [REDACTED] explained that he called for a chest seal, and one of the medics went to get one.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he knew the location of Adams' firearm when the medical personnel were rendering aid. [REDACTED] said that the firearm ended up a few feet away from Adams. He did not believe that anyone on scene moved the firearm away from Adams.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to describe where the other officers were standing during the shooting, and if Adams had pointed the firearm at anyone specific. [REDACTED] said that he was positioned to the left of everyone, and that it appeared that Adams had pointed the firearm directly at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] explained that, prior to the incident, he was in Newton Falls attempting to serve court related paperwork. He received a radio call from TCSO dispatch asking if any TCSO units were in the area of 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. (11:18)*

[REDACTED] explained that he went to the rear of his patrol vehicle and obtained his issued AR (rifle). He slowly approached the other law enforcement officers and John Adams (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.

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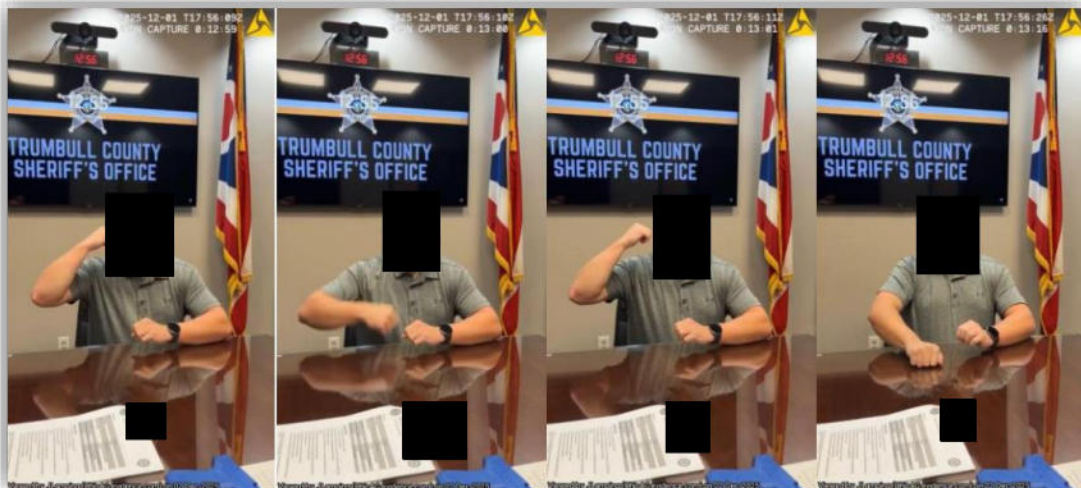


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██████████ recalled that when ██████████ arrived, he approached ██████████ and then the fire chief, Todd Garland (Garland), and escorted them behind cover. ██████████ described Adams' actions with the firearm as follows:

*... 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 ██████████ I told ██████████ said, uh, I don't like this. That gun's pointed at us. (12:53)*

While ██████████ was describing the way Adams was holding the firearm, he demonstrated the motions. The final image in the series below was ██████████ approximation of Adams placing the gun in his lap with the muzzle directed towards the deputies:



██████████ explained that Adams became upset when he observed ██████████ 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:

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*Uh, next thing I remember is the gentleman getting up, walking over towards [REDACTED] and the fire chief. He then turns away and that's when I catch [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED] and the fire chief, uh, fearing for their life, everybody else's life. That was on 534 myself, [REDACTED] 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. (13:58)*

While [REDACTED] was describing the above incident, he demonstrated the manner in which Adams turned and presented the firearm towards the law enforcement officers on scene:



Following the shooting, [REDACTED] described an altercation that occurred between [REDACTED] and Garland:

*During that time, that's when I seen [REDACTED] start uh, holding back uh, the fire chief, stating that he's too emotionally involved, that the scene is still not safe, we can't let you go up there. So, he's starting to push into, not extend, but just using like his body weight to go into*

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██████████ *So, I step in, start holding the fire chief back. Uh, and that's when, I mean he was tense. Uh, you can see his fists were balled up and then we ended up getting him on the other side of his cruiser. That's when ██████████ came over and made the comment about him going in handcuffs. ██████████ put his handcuff on his right arm. I got mine on the left and we kind of conjoined him. So, then I stood with him while ██████████ went off. (14:58)*

██████████ said ██████████ walked away from him and went to assist ██████████ with first aid/care for Adams. ██████████ stated that the Braceville Fire Department and the Newton Falls Fire Department arrived on scene and began to treat Adams who was ultimately transported away from the scene via ambulance.

SA Lamping asked ██████████ if he knew where the firearm Adams was holding went after he fell to the ground. ██████████ was not sure where the firearm ended up. He explained that his attention was directed towards Garland after the shooting occurred. SA Lamping asked if ██████████ was concerned with the location of the firearm and he stated:

*Absolutely, because to me none of us knew where that firearm was at at the time and I don't know if that gentleman's still alive. I mean, if we let him go up there and that guy's thinking it's the police that's coming up on him, he cracks off a few rounds. Now we gotta explain why we let a fire chief up there when it was not safe. (17:24)*

██████████ explained that he did not consider the scene to be safe until the firearm was located and secured. He also did not feel comfortable allowing Garland to render aid to Adams in an unsafe scene.

SA Lamping 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. (18:08)*

SA Lamping asked ██████████ what he was thinking when he observed Adam 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. (19:10)*

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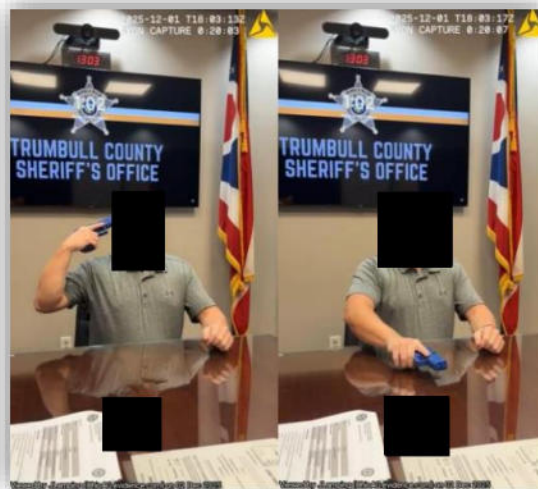
SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he felt there was any other option than deadly force at that moment. [REDACTED] explained that he felt there were no other options:

*No. 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 [REDACTED] (19:27)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] about the other moments in which Adams had pointed a gun at the law enforcement officers. [REDACTED] explained how Adams had pointed the firearm as follows:

*Yeah, he puts it, I believe it was gonna be on his right leg. Can I use this? Yeah, absolutely. So, I, he goes like this and then he goes like this on him, but he's looking this way. So, I, that's when I told [REDACTED] I go watch that gun is pointed at us. That's when I made my move to go back to the front of the vehicle. 'cause if I had to take a shot, I had a uh, more room if I had to move to go with him. (19:56)*

[REDACTED] used a training pistol to provide further emphasis to his above description. The following still images were taken from the video interview and are an approximation of Adams' actions according to [REDACTED]



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SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he knew whether Garland was at the scene in a personal capacity or a professional capacity. He stated:

*That was, I did not know at the time because that was odd because usually every other time we've had a person, 'cause to me it didn't even come out like a suicidal, it came out with a person in roadway with a firearm. So, I found it odd that the fire chief was there to begin with because to me, as of right now, it's not a medical call. And then, uh, it still didn't make much sense. I'm like, why is he here and his squad's not here? Like, I don't know what he keeps in his vehicle to help render aid. I'm, I would assume that's all in the ambulance. Uh, I, I just found it very odd that he was there and none of his crew was there. And then I heard they said to call in the ambulance. So, it was just, uh, I would say it was uh, very odd. I'd never seen that before. (20:43)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] what kind of resistance he encountered with Garland. [REDACTED] explained:

*It took two of us to get him behind his vehicle 'cause he, he was just kind of using his weight pushing into us, uh, and kind of walking towards us. So, we were able to get him behind the passenger side of his cruiser and by that time there was three of us to try to get him in handcuffs. (21:50)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if anything about Garland's behavior struck him as odd. [REDACTED] explained that he felt that he could detect the odor of alcohol emitting from Garland:

*Uh, for all the times that I went on medical calls with them, I've never seen Todd act like that. To me, that's a whole Todd I've never seen before. And then standing with him most of the time it could have been my senses were, uh, hypervigilant or hypersensitive. But when he spoke, I, I could smell like an odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from him when he did speak. Do I think he was impaired to drive a vehicle? No, but I could still smell it on his breath. (22:20)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he felt that Garland could render medical aid in the state that he was describing. [REDACTED] said:

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*I don't think he would've been able to because I think he was too emotionally involved because after the fact I was finding out that he knew that person, he lets that person rent property off of him. He's known that person ever since he grew up. So, he, he's just too emotionally attached with that person, too emotionally involved.*  
(23:01)

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if Garland calmed down at any point during the incident. [REDACTED] explained that after [REDACTED] spoke with Garland he began to calm down. He went on to state the Garland made an assortment of comments to him:

*... but he was still making comments, like taking, I wouldn't say... they were unnecessary comments. Uh, like after we were all done, he said, 'good job kid' who, who, who says that after what just happened. Uh, and then when he was yelling at us, he, he made the comments like, uh, 'you better hope you don't call for us. Hope you don't need us' calling us murderers. Like, I'd never seen that side of Todd before. So, uh, there was other factors going on.* (24:32)

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he recalled any remarks made by Adams during the incident. [REDACTED] recalled the following:

*No, other than the fact that, uh, the one that just sticks out to me saying he didn't want to harm us. Uh, but when he, he made, he made the remark towards me once he seen me in with the AR uh, something about, uh, 'the short motherfucker over there has his rifle, like, I'm gonna do something.' I'm like, I don't want anything. I don't want to do anything to you, just be done. But that's the only time I ever said anything to him because he was directing it towards me.* (25:11)

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] why he made the decision to obtain the AR from his vehicle. He explained that two other law enforcement officers were armed with pistols, he had no intention of firing the AR but felt that he was a more accurate shot with the rifle should he need to fire.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he had anything to add to the interview prior to concluding. [REDACTED] explained that he had a momentary malfunction with the safety on the rifle which required him to reactivate it to fire.

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SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if she had any prior interactions with the subject, John Adams (Adams), prior to the officer involved critical incident. She explained that, though she had no physical contact with Adams, she was aware of a welfare check for a male who wanted to kill himself and planned to call the police before doing so. When [REDACTED] received the call for service related to Adams, she stated that she immediately thought of the male who planned to harm himself. SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if she was under the impression that the male wanted to harm himself or if he had planned to commit suicide by officer based on the information she had previously been provided. [REDACTED] explained:

*Um, I think I, I actually, I looked at it both ways. Like, okay, maybe this guy, this is his call for help, that he's really gonna ask for help. And then I'm thinking, well, maybe too, this could be a suicide by cop. Because, you know, when you, when you bring a gun to a gun fight, bad things happen. (11:56)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to explain her recollection of the incident. She 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 (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. [REDACTED] 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.' (14:00)*

[REDACTED] felt that she was having some success in approaching Adams. She recalled that several TCSO Deputies arrived and also 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*

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*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. (14:19)*

While [REDACTED] was describing the location of Adams' firearm, she used a replica firearm to demonstrate how he was holding it:



[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" (15:36). [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,*

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*checked for a pulse, and then we started, I helped EMS work on the guy. (16:10)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if Adams ever gave her any indications that he was planning to put his firearm down and cooperate with the officers on scene. She explained that she felt that there may have been a chance to talk Adams down, especially since Garland was there and speaking with him. She stated:

*Um, I think there for a minute he, I, I think for a minute I was, we were bringing him down a little bit and then something happened that it just popped and I don't know what that was. Um, do I think we could have probably talked him down? I'm, I'm not so sure. 'cause I think he had his mindset that he, what he wanted. (17:45)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if she believed Garland was at the scene in a personal capacity or a professional capacity. She answered:

*He was there in a professional capacity because I called for the FD to have them stage. And it's not uncommon when I go to certain things that he's already there because he's been from that, that community. I mean, he's lived there for 50 some years, so he knows everybody and he has a very good rapport with a lot of people. So, for him being there and trying to, to talk to the guy was not uncommon for me. So, when he was talking to us, to me it was just to totally normal. And again, I didn't know that there was any personal or anything. So, I'm, I was under the impression that he was there in chief capacity. (18:16)*

[REDACTED] continued to reiterate that it is not uncommon for the Braceville Fire Department to respond directly to the scene even when asked to stage.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] what changed in Adams' behavior that made her fearful for her safety. She explained that after the TCSO deputies arrived Adams' demeanor changed. She could not recall a specific occurrence that caused the change, but she said that Adams was initially okay with her presence. She also stated that many Braceville residents do not like TCSO and that may have had an impact on Adams' change in demeanor as well.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to provide details on Adams' actions at the time she fired her weapon. [REDACTED] stated:

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*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. (20:32)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] 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.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if she recalled anything specific about the incidents on scene that occurred after the shooting took place. She explained that she went up to render aid to Adams and noticed that the TCSO deputies were involved in some form of altercation with Garland. She stated that there was a physical struggle, Garland was pinned against the hood of a vehicle, and that he was eventually placed in handcuffs. She stated several times that she was not sure why Garland was placed in handcuffs or what led to the altercation.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if she could recall the location of Adams' firearm after he had fallen to the ground. She indicated that the firearm was outside of arm's reach from Adams. She also stated that she took a picture of the firearm and the location where it was located.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if there was anything that was not asked that she felt was important for the investigators to know. She advised that she could not think of anything. However, her attorney asked her when she became aware of the location of Adams' firearm. [REDACTED] said:

*We, sec I found gun prior to us starting to work on him because we wanted to make sure that the, the scene was secure. So, we after, I mean, I was probably, look, I think I was looking at him looking for a pulse, but I was looking and I, it took me, I don't know, 10 seconds, 15 seconds to actually see the gun. (25:32)*

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██████████ attorney then asked her if she recalled pointing out the firearm to ██████████ and she advised that was most likely when she first observed the firearm as the officers were attempting to locate the gun to make the scene secure.

SA Lamping asked ██████████ how long it took EMS personnel from Braceville Fire Department to arrive on scene. ██████████ explained:

*It was within a minute or so because they were parked down to the left, which would've been south on 534 from where we were at. Um, but because the issue with the chief or whatever was going on with that, um, they had to call for a medic. They only had basic, um, I guess Ems, EMT twos or whatever they were, they weren't any, they couldn't start the line, you know, IV lines or anything like that. They can intubate and things like that. So, we're doing the CPR and trying to get the Lucas which is the CPR machine hooked up on him while we're waiting for EMS or from the, the, um, medics to get there from Newton Falls. (26:28)*

██████████ clarified that Adams did not have a pulse when she checked for one.

SA Lamping asked ██████████ if Garland's behavior struck her as odd. She said:

*I don't, I don't think so. I think, you know, looking back now, knowing that, that they're friends and stuff, I think he had a little bit of heightened emotion because he just saw his best friend of 50 some years get shot and killed. And I think he had some heightened emotion, but other than that, I don't, you know, he has a tendency to be a little bit of a hot head on occasion. Um, but no, and this comes from a guy that he and I have actually come to almost blows a couple of times. So yeah. He's... (27:39)*

SA Lamping asked ██████████ to expand upon her statement about her and Garland almost "coming to blows." She explained that she had arguments with Garland about her response to EMS calls and such. She said that they had overcome their disagreements and it was related to Garland's passion for his duties. She specifically recalled one incident where Garland was upset with the way she parked her vehicle during the response to a cardiac incident.

SA Boerner asked ██████████ to explain how Adams was holding his weapon when he fired after being tased. She explained:

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*He had had the gun. I, um, when I say the gun was everywhere, he had it pointed at us. He had it pointed at his head. He had it everywhere. But he at one time had it pointed at one of the deputies. (29:58)*

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if Adams' firearm was pointed at one of the deputies or in between the officers when it fired. She stated:

*I don't, I don't recall because when the, when the taser went off I didn't even, it was over here and I couldn't even really see. The taser all I heard, I just heard it, if that makes sense. And then, um, yeah, I don't really remember where the gun was at 'cause it was all over the place. (30:19)*

Though [REDACTED] could not recall the specific location the firearm was pointed at, she noted that she felt that she and other officers had been shot at.

## Video Recordings

Only one video recording of the incident was located. It was derived from a GoPro camera belonging to the Braceville Police Department worn by [REDACTED]

### Body Worn Camera

It is recommended that the entirety of [REDACTED] BWC footage be reviewed.

The footage captured [REDACTED] initial arrival on scene through the officer involved shooting. During the course of the video, officers on scene, as well as civilian bystanders, attempted to de-escalate the situation and convince Adams to put his firearm down. At the beginning of the interaction, Adams was seated on the ground while pointing the firearm at his head:



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At various times during the video, Adams would point his Glock 43X towards his head and verbally indicate his intention to harm himself. Neither the officers on scene nor the civilians appeared to have any success in persuading Adams to put the firearm down. At one point during the incident, Adams got up and began to approach the officers and a civilian while still holding the firearm:



Officers ordered Adams to put his gun down, but he turned away from officers and began to walk away from them. At that time, [REDACTED] produced his taser and

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discharged it towards Adams. Adams then turned towards the officers while directing the firearm towards the officers, at which time they discharged their weapons at him:



The video continued after the shooting and showed the arrival of EMTs and their attempts to render aid to Adams.

### Conclusion

Based upon documents reviewed, physical evidence recovered, and interviews conducted, investigation 2025-3711 supports the following conclusions, facts, and/or information.

In the weeks leading up to the incident Adams began to exhibit some behaviors which were out of the ordinary for him. While interviewing his family members they noted that Adams had arrived at their residence, requested the notarization of some titles/documents, and acted as though he were saying his last goodbyes.

It was discovered after the incident that Adams had left the notarized titles along with a suicide note inside of his recreational vehicle. These items were reported to have been discovered by Todd Garland several hours after Adams had been shot. The note had made Adams' intention of committing suicide clear, and he went so far as to write "DNR" (common acronym for Do Not Resuscitate) on the note.

On the day of the incident, several calls were received at the Trumbull County Dispatch Center. The first caller advised that Adams had called him to report he was suicidal and

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planned to harm himself. Four additional callers contacted 911 to report that Adams was stopping traffic. Of those four callers two reported that Adams had a gun, and one reported that Adams made suicidal remarks.

Four civilian witnesses to the incident were interviewed. Though all four witnesses indicated that Adams was armed and acting in an erratic manner, only two of the witnesses indicated that Adams fired his weapon after being tased by [REDACTED]. Jason Brinker reported that Adams fired at officers while Trisha Reeder reported that she was "pretty sure" that Adams had fired at the officers on scene.

The involved officers indicated in their interviews that attempts were made to de-escalate the situation. Following those failed attempts to gain Adams' compliance, [REDACTED] reported that he tased Adams in an attempt to bring the situation to a peaceful conclusion. Though the taser initially had an effect on Adams, he was able to turn towards the officers with his firearm leveled towards them. The officers were not able to definitively say that Adams fired at them; however, they were adamant that the firearm was directed at them and posed a threat.

[REDACTED] recalled that Adams' firearm was directed at him while Adams was turning and ultimately was aimed at [REDACTED]. He explained that he felt that Adams was going to shoot one of the officers on scene; most likely [REDACTED] as he was the one who had deployed the taser. [REDACTED] did not feel that there was any other option than to use lethal force after Adams pointed his firearm at the officers.

[REDACTED] explained that he observed Adams' firearm pointed specifically at [REDACTED] and Garland. He felt that Adams planned to shoot them and said that he was fearful of their safety as well as the safety of the other officers on scene. He did not feel that he could have done anything other than employ lethal force once the gun was pointed at [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] stated that she could not recall the exact person that Adams had pointed his firearm at, but she recalled that it was directed toward the officers on scene. She recalled Adams firing one round and did not feel that she had any other option than lethal force once Adams fired at the officers. [REDACTED] noted that she did not feel that Adams was shooting at her, but rather one of the deputies on either side of her.

The video footage obtained from [REDACTED] BWC showed officers attempting to gain compliance from Adams. In addition to the officers attempting to de-escalate Adams, Reeder and Garland also attempted to convince Adams to put his gun down. Adams was distraught during the video and even explained some of the hardships he

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was enduring while talking with those on scene. Adams placed the firearm against his head numerous times and expressed his suicidal intent. The video footage was in line with the interviews of the officers on scene and civilian witnesses. It is not clear from the video footage if Adams fired a round at the officers when he turned towards them. It should be noted that Adams had been given numerous orders and opportunities to place the firearm on the ground prior to shots being fired.

### Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved critical incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Joe Lamping. SA Lamping can be reached via email at [Joseph.Lamping@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:Joseph.Lamping@OhioAGO.gov) or by telephone, at 330-289-7256.

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