



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



2024-3257

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 200 Cline Avenue,  
Mansfield, Ohio 44907

**Investigative Activity:** Witness Interview – Erin Brooks  
**Involves:** Erin Brooks (W)  
**Activity Date:** 10/19/2024  
**Activity Location:** 200 Cline Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44907  
**Authoring Agent:** Special Agent Nicholas Valente #139

**Narrative:**

On October 19, 2024, at approximately 0652 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente interviewed Erin Brooks (Brooks) outside her home located at 200 Cline Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio. This interview was audio recorded and the recording was attached to this report. Brooks was the fiancé of Michael Oswald (Oswalt), who was shot and killed by members of the Mansfield Police Department (MPD) earlier that day. Brooks gave BCI agents/ police permission to search her residence for evidence related to the officer involved shooting. A warrant to search the home was also obtained by investigators.

During the interview, Brooks reported the following:

Brooks has two children, 8-year-old Leia Miskelley (date of birth: 1-2-2016) and 6-year-old Revan Miskelley (date of birth: 11-14-2017). Brooks, her two children, and Oswald all lived in the home where the officer-involved shooting occurred. Oswald is not the father of her children. Brooks' children were home during the event immediately preceding the officer-involved shooting.

Brooks met Oswald through the Tinder cell phone dating application in September 2023. The two began a romantic relationship, became engaged and were to be married on October 31, 2024. Brooks described Oswald as someone who struggled with an addiction to crack cocaine. Brooks described an event occurring in early August of this year when Oswald became involved in a police pursuit culminating with Oswald stopping on a bridge and throwing wrenches at police in what Brooks described as an attempt to get the police to shoot him as a means of committing (11:00) "suicide by cop." After six hours Oswald surrendered to police and was taken into custody.

After returning to Mansfield, Oswald saw a therapist and began taking bipolar medication. In the past few days, Brooks believed Oswald to have again started using/abusing crack cocaine and acting paranoid. Around that time, Oswald received

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money from an insurance claim and purchased a car. The car was put in Brooks' name because Oswald did not believe he could insure the car under his own name.

Over the past few days, Oswald's behavior changes became worse. Oswald increasingly acted paranoid, left unexplainably for hours, turned his phone off without reason, etcetera. The night before the officer-involved shooting, Oswald ran away from home on foot to try and find the car described above, which Brooks had lent to a friend of Oswald. Brooks then drove around Mansfield looking for Oswald in a second vehicle. When Brooks found Oswald, he slashed the tire to her vehicle. Later that night, Oswald returned home, removed the slashed tire, and put a spare on the car for Brooks.

Oswald told Brooks he wanted the title to the car he had purchased in her name to be put in his name and the two argued over this point. Brooks ultimately told Oswald he could no longer live in her home, due to his erratic behavior and drug use. The following morning, the couple remained on bad terms. Brooks requested Oswald take a home drug test; something she had asked him to do in the past. On this occasion, Oswald refused to take the test and left home. Later in the day, Brooks spoke with her neighbor about the situation and the two devised a plan to hide a security camera in Brooks' bedroom as a safety precaution in case something was to happen when Oswald returned. Brooks and her neighbor decided to set up a code phrase she would say if she felt in danger and wanted her neighbor to call the police. The code phrase was (25:45) "You're hurting my feelings."

Eventually, Oswald did return home, and an argument ensued. During that argument, Brooks said the code phrase and her neighbor, who was listening to the argument through the hidden camera, called the police.

The police arrived at her home about ten minutes after Brooks said the code phrase. When the police knocked on her door, Oswald armed himself with two knives. Brooks stepped outside to talk with the police and said, (26:45) "This man is armed, and he is high on crack." Oswald then walked to the open doorway, told the police they did not have permission to enter and shut the door. Against the request of the police, Brooks ran around to the back of the house and re-entered the home to be with her children.

Oswald then forced Brooks and her two children into the children's shared bedroom upstairs. Brooks armed with the two knives taunted the police, Brooks, and the two children. Brooks said, (27:25) "He was yelling at them (the police), 'Come up there shoot me. Come up there shoot me. Come up there shoot me. If you don't come up here to shoot me, then I'm gonna start stabbing and I'm gonna start with LeeAnn. And then he looked at me and he said, 'I'm gonna have to start stabbing you in a minute if

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they don't come up here to shoot me." Oswald told Brooks after stabbing her, he would next stab her children until the police killed him.

Over the next few hours, Oswald defecated down her stairs and threw miscellaneous property down the stairs of the home. At some point, Oswald took a razor from the bathroom and cut his foot or ankle in an apparent attempt to commit suicide. Oswald told Brooks he wanted her and the children to hold him while he died. During this same period of time, Oswald told the children the police were going to kill him, and he wanted them to watch. Brooks' son said something to Oswald that upset him. Oswald then threatened to kill the child. Oswald played music, tied the bedroom doors together so they couldn't be closed, and continued to tell the children the police were going to kill him. At one point, Oswald held one of the knives to her neck, and he called the neighbor and asked the neighbor if Brooks had her call the police. The neighbor said "no" and Oswald removed the knife from Brooks' neck.

Brooks eventually talked Oswald into allowing the kids to leave the home. Oswald followed the kids downstairs and did allow them to leave. Once she and Oswald were the only two people in the home, Brooks attempted to convince Oswald she wanted to be there with him. At some point, Oswald had to use the restroom. She promised Oswald that she would not leave the home while he was in the bathroom. Brooks said, (31:45) "So the minute he sat down on the toilet, I ran down the stairs. And I jumped over what was at the bottom of my staircase. And I don't know what made me go this way, but all the cops were jerking and pulling at me, and I'm like, I'm sorry, I don't know what. Um, but he was chasing me. And I'm not sure how far he got. Um, all I know is I heard 'Drop it. Put it down.' And by the time I got between the kitchen window and the living room window on the side, I heard quite a few gunshots, and I don't know how many it was."

Brooks was then escorted to a police car parked in the roadway in front of her home.

When asked, Brooks stated she did not see any police officers fire their weapons.

When asked, Brooks stated she did not know when the police had entered the home, but when she got to the bottom of the stairs she attempted to hide behind an officer and that officer yelled at her to get out of the house.

When asked how many shots she estimated she heard the police fire, Brooks estimated it to be seven to ten shots, all fired in quick succession.

Brooks described the knives Oswald had as "nasty" and "pretty sharp." Brooks said one of the knives belonged to her children's father and the other Oswald recently

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purchased. Brooks described them as being about the size and similar in style to hunting knives.

Brooks stated that Oswald sent messages to various friends and family from his phone during the time she was being held hostage. Brooks believed Oswald sent a "pretty nasty" message to his mother and sent a list of songs he wanted to be played at his funeral to a couple of his friends.

In recalling the event, Brooks stated, (53:18), "His ultimate goal was to have them shoot him, just like that was his goal in Columbus. He wanted to go death by cop." Brooks stated that Oswald yelled at the police throughout the event that he was going to start stabbing her and her children if the police did not shoot him.

Brooks told SA Valente she felt the Mansfield Police (1:01:00) "did a phenomenal job" and wanted that message shared with the police department.

Shortly after the conclusion of the interview, Brooks signed a consent to search form allowing BCI agents to copy her phone's contents for information relative to this investigation. A copy of the consent form was attached to this report.

**References:**

None

**Attachments:**

1. 2024-10-19 Audio Interview of Erin Brooks
2. 2024-10-19 Cell Phone Consent Erin Brooks

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## CONSENT TO SEARCH



Date & Time SAT. OCTOBER 19, 2024  
Location 186 CLINE, MANSFIELD, OH

I, ERIN L. BROOKS, having been informed of the constitutional right not to have a search made of the premises, property, or items hereinafter mentioned without a search warrant (and of my right to refuse to consent to such a search), hereby authorize

BCI SPECIAL AGENT NICK VALEME AND/OR ANY OTHER BCI AGENTS OR ANALYSTS  
to conduct a complete search of my AND/OR ANY MANSFIELD POLICE PERSONNEL AS NECESSARY  
☐ premises, and all curtilage  
☒ any vehicles  
☒ personal property, to wit: CELLULAR TELEPHONE (BLACK MOTOROLA) IN TAN/GREEN CASE.  
☒ computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device, (including data acquisition, copying, and analysis), to wit: \_\_\_\_\_

located at

186 CLINE, MANSFIELD, OH (TO BE TAKEN TO BCI RICHFIELD)  
OR MANSFIELD POLICE DEPT.

These above-named officers/agents are authorized by me to take from my premises, curtilage, vehicles, property, computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device (as specified above) any letters, papers, materials, data, or other property which they desire. I state that I am a person who is authorized to give consent for the search of the above mentioned property.

This written permission is being given by me to the above-named officers/agents voluntarily, of my own free will, without threats or promises of any kind, I am not under the influence of drugs or alcohol that prevent me from understand this document, and I understand this document and the English language.

Erin L. Brooks  
Signature

Date/Time

Erin L. Brooks  
Printed Name