



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



2025-3711

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

Investigative Activity: Involved Officer Interview - [REDACTED]
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Activity Date: 12/01/2025
Activity Location: Trumbull County Sheriff's Office – 150 High Street
Northwest, Warren, OH 44481
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Monday, December 01, 2025, at 1116 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) and SA Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Trumbull County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Danielle Chaffin, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the TCSO. The interview was audio and video recorded.

SA Lamping read the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form aloud to [REDACTED] who subsequently signed the form and participated in the interview voluntarily.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt. Joe Jones
Radio Channel Utilized: Main	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: TCSO Marked Explorer	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Driver; [REDACTED]
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within

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	Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 6-8	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Standard Deputy uniform	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Firearm, magazines, two sets of handcuffs
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Not Present
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: Crisis negotiations	OPOTC Certification: Certified
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: In-service trainings
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? None	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: None

Narrative:

After obtaining the necessary demographic information from [REDACTED], SA Lamping asked him about his use of a firearm during the incident. [REDACTED] explained that he did not fire his weapon during the incident. However, he did deploy his Taser in an attempt to subdue John Adams (Adams).

[REDACTED] explained to the investigators that he had one prior involvement with Adams earlier in the year. [REDACTED] 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)

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██████████ 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:

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. ██████████ and ██████████ arrived first. They marked out. I do believe I remember ██████████ 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 ██████████ 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 ██████████ and guided her towards cover. After guiding ██████████ to cover, ██████████ 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)

██████████ 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. ██████████ 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.

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██████████ 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. ██████████ illustrated the movements that Adams was making as shown below:



While demonstrating Adams' actions ██████████ explained that he was aware that his reaction time would be slower than Adams' ability to act with the firearm. ██████████ 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. ██████████ 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)

██████████ reported that Adams got up off the ground and began to approach them with the firearm directed towards his head while asking for Garland. ██████████ 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 grabbed Todd, I want to say, I said, hold, hold on him. And I ran over

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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 I 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 right after, but I know that he said, this guy's been mentally ill for five

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

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██████████ 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.

The interview concluded at approximately 1140 hours.

The interview was audio and video recorded. The recordings were uploaded to Axon Justice and stored as part of Reference Item E -Officer Interviews. The times referenced in this report correspond to the elapsed time from the video recording and not the time of day. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form was attached to this report.

References:

Reference Item E - Officer Interviews: Subfolder - 2025-12-01 ██████████;
2025-12-01: Interview of ██████████; stored on Axon Justice.

Attachments:

1. Criminal Investigation Notification Form - ██████████

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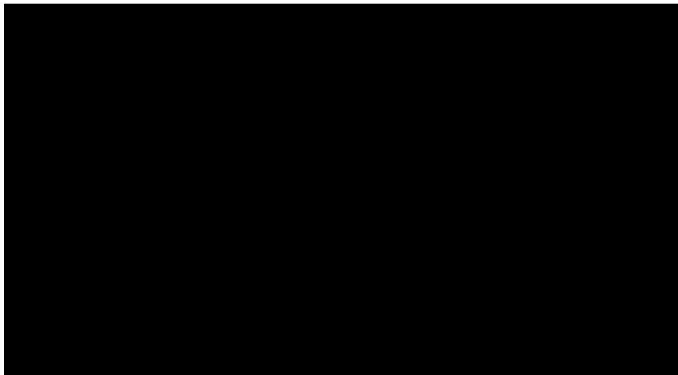


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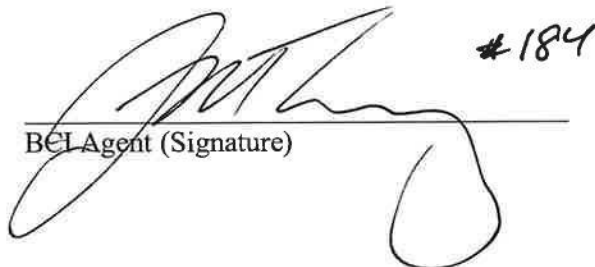
Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).



12/1/25 1117
Date / Time

SA. J. M. LAMPERT
BCI Agent (Printed)


BCI Agent (Signature) #184