



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



2024-3294

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage Bike Trail near
North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Investigative Activity: Initial Crime Scene Processing
Involves: Matthew Fries (S)
Activity Date: 10/22/2024
Activity Location: Portage Bike Trail Near North Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA Dan Boerner #135

Summary:

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, BCI Special Agent(s) Dan Boerner and Lurna McClintock assisted Captain Jake Smallfield and the Ravenna Police Department with the processing of an outdoor crime scene located on the Portage County Bike Trail near North Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio 44266 in regard to an officer-involved critical incident. The scene was photographed as it was found and evidence was collected. The scene was further documented using a Leica RTC360 laser scanner. The scene was processed with the authority of a search warrant.

Narrative:

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 1135hrs, SA Boerner was contacted by SAS Ed Lulla and was requested to assist Capt. Jake Smallfield and the Ravenna Police Department with the processing of an outdoor crime scene located on the Portage County Bike Trail near North Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio 44266 in regard to an officer-involved critical incident. SA Boerner contacted Capt. Smallfield and learned that during the investigation of a stabbing that occurred near the Portage County Bike Trail, officers of the Ravenna Police Department discharged their duty weapons. Capt. Smallfield reported that officers confronted the alleged subject (ID to be Matthew Fries, W/M, DOB: 10/31/1980) on the bike trail. Capt. Smallfield reported that Fries was armed with an axe and a knife. Capt. Smallfield reported that Fries failed to comply with officers' commands and was shot multiple times. Capt. Smallfield reported that first aid was rendered and that Fries was declared to be deceased. Capt. Smallfield reported that the reported stabbing victim (ID to be Larry Burghy, W/M, DOB: 11/18/1971) was transported to the hospital. Capt. Smallfield also reported that the involved officers (ID to be [REDACTED]) were also transported to the hospital for observation. Capt. Smallfield requested assistance in processing both the scene of the officer-involved critical incident and the scene of the reported stabbing.

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**Scene Processing – Portage County Bike Trail at North Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio
44266**

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at approximately 1230hrs, SA Boerner arrived on scene and met with investigators. SA Boerner was directed to scene of the shooting. The scene of the shooting is approximately 460 ft. Northeast of the intersection of the Portage County Bike Trail and North Freedom St. The scene was photographed as it was found and examined for items of suspected evidence¹. Several items of suspected evidence were observed, documented and collected (Table 1, Items of Suspected Evidence) (Figures 1-6, Items 1-16).

Item #	Description	Location
1	Sweatshirt w/suspected bloodstains	Bike path closer to North Freedom St.
2	Knife – curved blade w/suspected bloodstains	Bike path near area of reported shooting
3	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
4	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
5	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
6	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
7	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
8	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
9	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
10	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
11	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
12	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting

¹ The scene was photographed with evidence of first aid in place and again after the evidence of first aid was collected.

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13	Cartridge case - 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
14	Cell phone- Blk Trac-phone	Near body
15	Axe w/suspected bloodstains	Bike path near area of reported shooting
16	Eyeglasses	Near body

Table 1, Items of Suspected Evidence



Figure 1, Item 1

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Figure 2, Overall photograph



Figure 3, Overall photograph

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Figure 4, Overall photograph

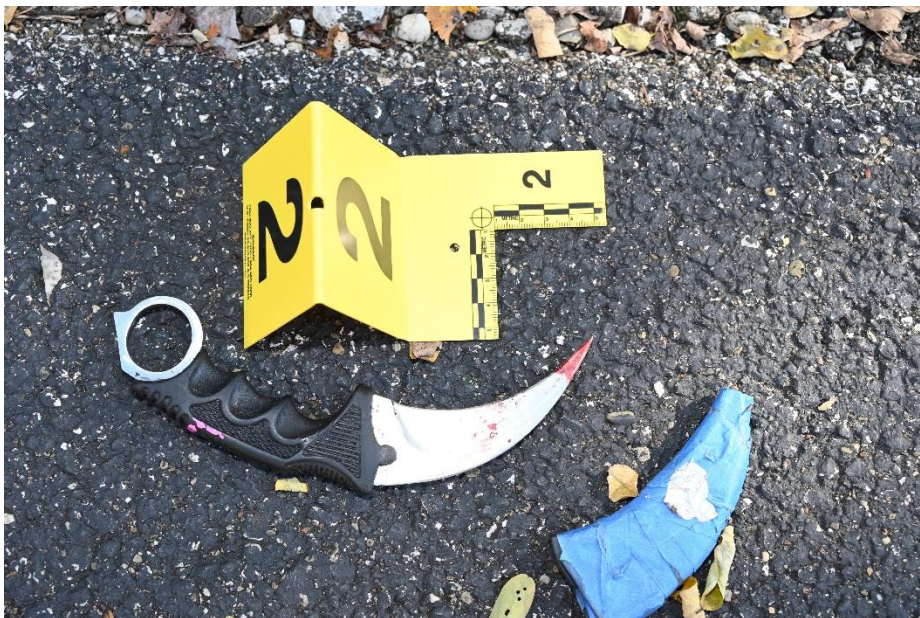


Figure 5, Item 2

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Figure 6, Item 15

The scene was further documented using a Leica BLK360 laser scanner and a drone. Using the drone video, an overhead diagram both with and without placards was created and provided to investigators (Figure 7, Overhead diagram with placards).

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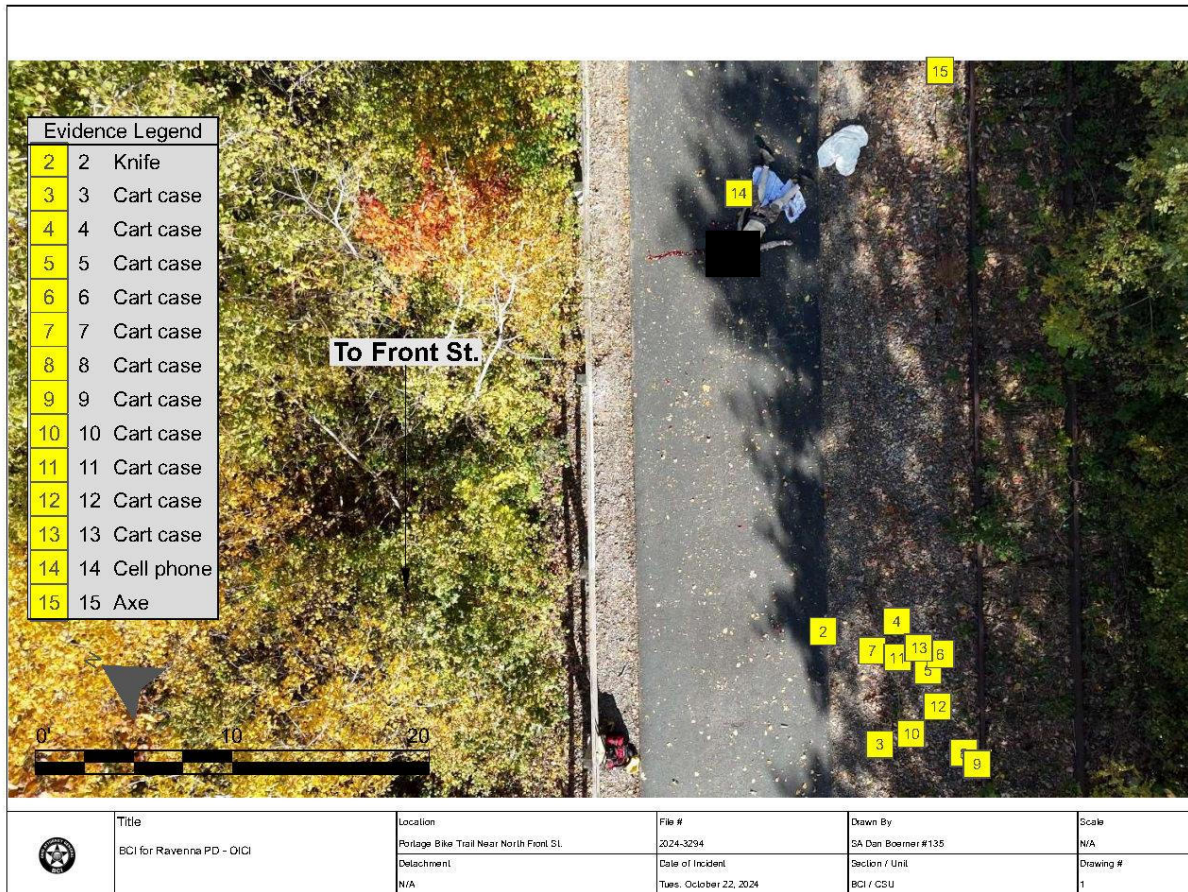


Figure 7, Overhead diagram with placards

Several suspected bloodstains were observed between the reported scene of the shooting and the reported scene of the stabbing. A suspected bloodstain was located on the bike trail between the scene of the reported shooting and of the reported stabbing was photographed as it was found (Stain A). Stain A was tested with the presumptive test Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB), which produced a positive result for blood. A representative swab was collected from suspected bloodstains, preserved and secured as evidence (Item 19, Stain A).

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The body of Fries was photographed as it was found (Figures 8-10, Overall photographs). The body of Fries exhibited multiple suspected gunshot wounds. The body of Fries was subsequently transported to the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office by the Portage County Coroner's Office transport service.



Figure 8, Overall photograph

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Figure 9, Overall photograph



Figure 10, Overall photograph

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**Scene Processing – Homeless Encampment North side of Portage County Bike Trail,
Northeast of SR14**

The scene of the reported stabbing was photographed as it was found (Figures 11-14, Overall photographs). The scene was processed with the authority of a search warrant. The scene was located approximately 1600ft from the intersection of the Portage County Bike Trail and North Freedom St. and approximately 1000ft. from the area of the reported shooting. The scene was examined for items of suspected evidence and two items of suspected evidence were located, documented and collected (Item 17, white blanket with suspected bloodstains, Item 18, sleeping bag with suspected bloodstains).



Figure 11, Overall photograph

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Figure 12, Overall photograph



Figure 13, Overall photograph

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Figure 14, Items 17-18

Documentation of Officers and Officers' Firearms

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at approximately 1245hrs, SA Laurna McClintock responded to the UH Portage Medical Center (6847 N. Chestnut St., Ravenna, Ohio 44266) and met with [REDACTED] SA McClintock photographed the officers as they were found and uploaded the photographs into Matrix. The officers' firearms were subsequently photographed and collected as evidence (Table 2, Officers' Firearms) (Items 21-22). Additionally, the officer's magazines (x2) were photographed as they were found and collected as evidence (Items 23-24).

Item #	Description	Location
21	Handgun - Blk HK 45cal, SN: [REDACTED] with one cartridge in chamber and four cartridges in magazine	[REDACTED]
22	Handgun - Blk HK 45 cal, SN: [REDACTED], with one cartridge in chamber and two cartridges in magazine	[REDACTED]

Table 2, Officers' Firearms

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SA Boerner also received a paper bag containing the victim's (Burghy) clothing (Item 18).

SA Boerner also received a DNA standard collected from the reported victim (Burghy) by
SAs Allison Fletcher and Jesse Bynum (Item 20).

All items of evidence were turned over to Special Agent Nicholas Valente to be held as
evidence. An Inventory / Receipt Attachment form was filled out and signed by SA
Boerner and SA Valente, a copy of the form was left with SA Valente for their records.

The photographs are to be uploaded into Matrix. A copy of the photographs was made
and provided to the agency. A copy of the Leica BLK360 scanner data is to be placed
on in the "BCI Scanner" folder on the shared directory. A copy of the search warrant is
to be placed in the case file.

A copy of this report should be sent to:

Ohio BCI - Richfield Office

Attn: Special Agent Allison Fletcher

Email: Allison.Fletcher@OhioAGO.gov

References:

- N/A

Attachments:

- 2024-10-23 Crime Scene Evidence Receipt

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