



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



2024-3954

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 3487 Belmont Avenue,
Youngstown, Ohio, 44505

Investigative Activity: Response to PD and Officer Contact

Involves: [REDACTED]

Activity Date: 12/16/2024

Activity Location: Liberty Township Police Department

Authoring Agent: SA Matthew Armstrong #146

Narrative:

On December 12, 2024, at approximately 1643 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) arrived at the Liberty Township Police Department (LTPD) to meet with the involved officer and collect evidence relevant to the December 16, 2024, officer-involved shooting.

While present, SA Armstrong met with LTPD Chief Toby Meloro (Meloro), Captain Raymond Buhala (Buhala), and Detective Sergeant Mike Shuster (Shuster). Chief Meloro indicated that the involved officer was [REDACTED] and that his firearm had been secured by Detective Sergeant Shuster.

SA Armstrong met with [REDACTED], who declined to participate in an interview at that time. [REDACTED] indicated he was not injured and none of his equipment was damaged. He was photographed in a police uniform and indicated that it was the same uniform he wore during the incident. [REDACTED] indicated that his firearm was a personally owned Glock Model 45, which he had given to Detective Sergeant Shuster after the incident.

[REDACTED] was still in possession of 5 spare magazines. Four of the magazines were 17 round Glock magazines, each containing 17 live cartridges. The fifth magazine was an aftermarket extended 18 round magazine which contained 17 live cartridges. As the count of ammunition was being completed, [REDACTED] said the missing cartridge was not fired during the incident. He then said the missing cartridge was from previously dispatching a deer, and he had not yet obtained a cartridge to replace it. Each of the magazines was photographed along with the ammunition from the magazine missing one cartridge. The magazines were then returned to [REDACTED]

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IMG_0777

Spare Magazines



IMG_0777

Spare Magazines

██████████'s firearm was turned over to SA Armstrong and loaded in an open firearm evidence box. An evidence receipt was completed and signed by Detective Sergeant Shuster. A copy of the evidence receipt has been attached to this report.

The firearm was a Glock, Model 45, 9mm pistol, SN: ██████████. Upon examining the firearm, 1 live cartridge was removed from the chamber and an aftermarket extended 21 round magazine was removed from the gun. A count of the remaining ammunition revealed the magazine contained 16 live cartridges for a total of 17 cartridges.

Upon speaking with Chief Meloro and Captain Buhala, they indicated that officers are provided with enough ammunition to load all their spare magazines and then one additional round for the chamber of the firearm.

If ██████████'s magazine was loaded to capacity with one additional cartridge in the firearm chamber, the total amount of ammunition carried in ██████████'s firearm would have been 22 cartridges. Additionally, one cartridge from a separate spare magazine was unaccounted for. Based on the number of remaining cartridges, a total of 6 cartridges were unaccounted (5 from the pistol and 1 from a spare magazine), thus indicating that ██████████ could have fired up to 6 times.

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IMG_0786 [REDACTED] Firearm

While present, Chief Meloro indicated multiple officers present at the scene were equipped with body cameras. He reported he had reviewed the camera footage and confirmed each of the cameras was recording when the shooting occurred.

Detective Sergeant Shuster indicated the female passenger of the subject vehicle was at the police department. He said she was homeless and had nowhere to go. She was identified as Hannah Tillery (Tillery). SA Valente and SA Armstrong interviewed Tillery. The interview was recorded and has been documented in a separate report.

Captain Buhala indicated he was present during the incident and witnessed the shooting. He reported the following officers were also present at the police department and witnessed the shooting:

- Detective Robert Altier
- Officer Christian Thoma
- Officer Nick Ryan
- Officer Brandon Rice

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Each of the witness officers agreed to participate in an interview. Recorded interviews were completed with each of them. For details, refer to the individual reports documenting the witness officer interviews.

Officer Nick Ryan reported he had brain matter on his radio and uniform and asked if he could change. He was photographed and then changed into a clean uniform and cleaned his radio.

All the photographs taken have been uploaded to Matrix and attached to this report.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. 2024-12-16 Evidence Receipt - Involved Officer Firearm
2. 20 Photographs (IMG_0773 through IMG_0792)

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Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

CASE# 2024-3954

Inventory/Receipt Attachment

I received the below listed property from (person/location): Liberty Twp Police Dept.

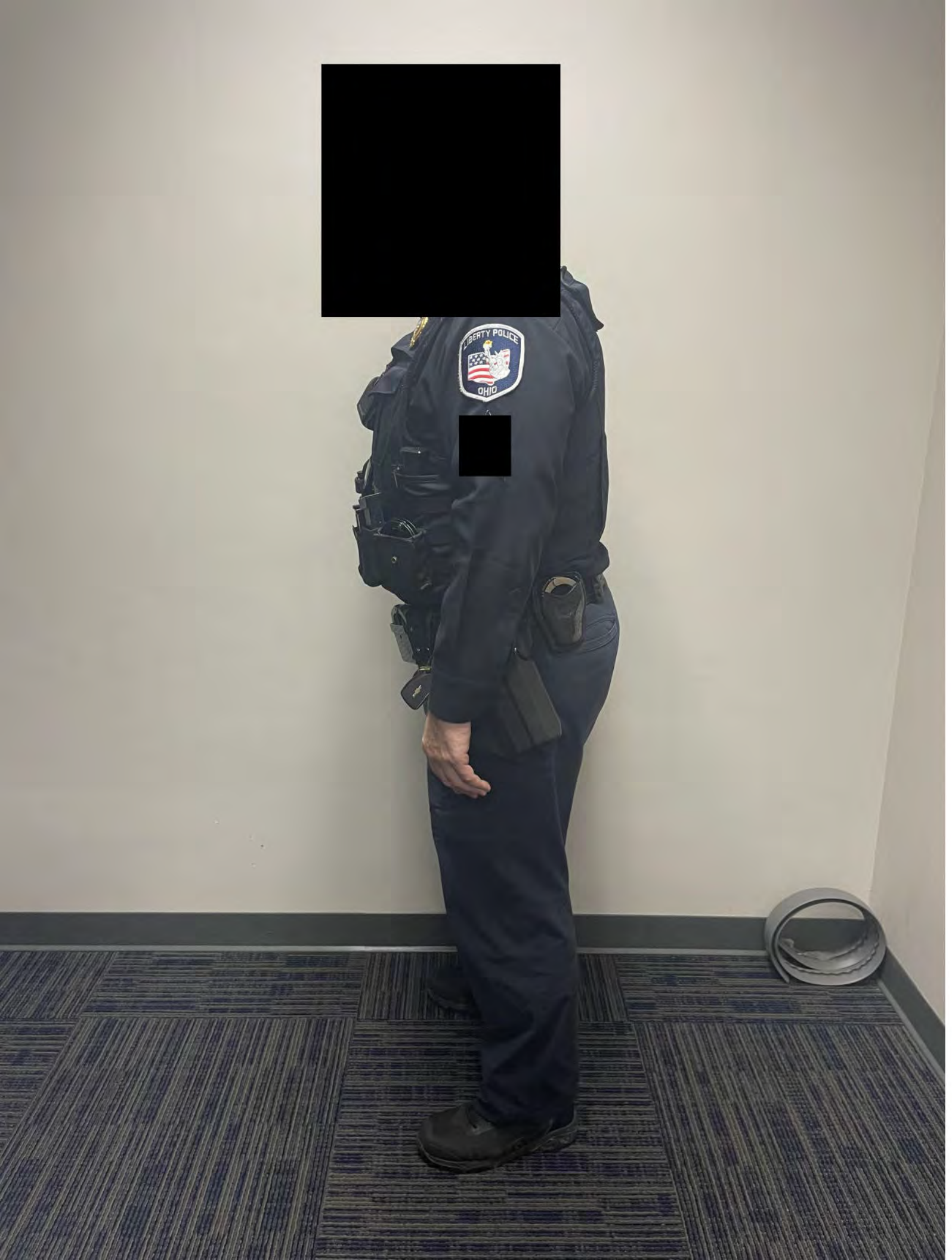
Item	Description	Location Found	Found by Whom
1	One Glock Model 45, 9mm pistol with one live cartridge in the chamber and one magazine containing 16 live cartridges	Liberty Twp PD	MDA
MDA			

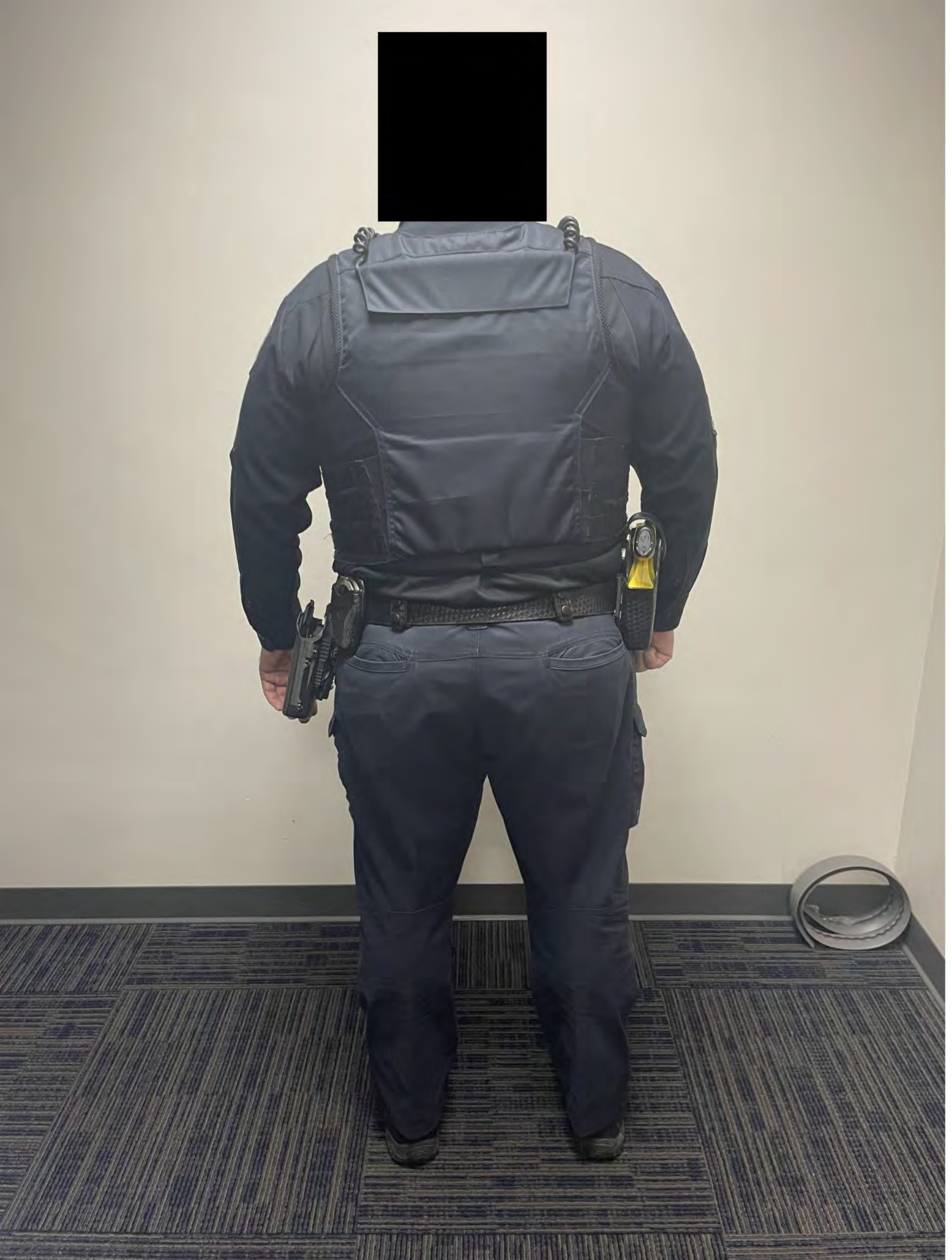
Signed SGT M. [Signature]
Inventory Agent

Date 12/16/2024

Items	Released By	Received By	Date/Time
1	SA Matthew Armstrong	Temp Evidence Locker 40	12-16-24 @ 2230













PATENT NO
US D783,111 S

17
9mm



