



**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: Family Interview
Involves: Marguerite Adams (O), Amy Vasbinder (O)
Activity Date: 12/02/2025
Activity Location: 6110 Hewitt Gifford Road Southwest, Warren, OH 44481
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Tuesday, December 2, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) and Darien Spann (SA Spann) met with John Adams' (Adams) mother, Marguerite Adams (Marguerite) and sister, Amy Vasbinder (Vasbinder) at their residence, 6110 Hewitt Gifford Road Southwest, Warren, Ohio. During the meeting an interview was conducted to obtain any relevant information that the family members had to offer about Adams. The interview was audio-recorded and later uploaded to Axon Justice as part of Reference Item D – Witness Interviews.

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

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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)

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,

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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)

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

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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)

At the end of the interview Marguerite expressed a great deal of sadness and frustration regarding the way Adams passed away. She was advised that the investigation was ongoing, and that upon its completion the findings would be made public.

References:

Reference Item D – Witness Interviews: 2025-12-02: Interview of Amy Vasbinder and Marguerite Adams; stored on Axon Justice.

Attachments:

None

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