



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



2025-3488
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe,
OH 45601 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview of Witness
Involves: Jessie Farney
Activity Date: 10/26/2025
Activity Location: 404 State Route 180 Chillicothe, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA Carrie Ryan

Narrative:

On Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 1901 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Carrie Ryan (SA Ryan) and Ross County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) Detective Heather Crosier (Det. Crosier) interviewed Jessie Farney (Farney), relative to the officer-involved critical incident which took place on Sunday, October 26, 2025. The interview took place inside Det. Crosier's work vehicle, on the road across from ANS Towing - 404 State Route 180 in Chillicothe, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

Farney discussed an altercation that she witnessed earlier that day. Farney explained she is the girlfriend of Tony Arthurs (Tony), the son of the owner, Timothy Arthurs, of ANS towing. Farney explained she was with Tony today at the business, working with vehicles that had been abandoned. Farney noted they had to scrap approximately sixty (60) vehicles from people that were not coming back to claim them.

Farney explained a male, later identified as Christopher Lemaster (Lemaster), was accompanied by two other women, and they all walked up to the property on foot. Farney noted Lemaster's vehicle had been towed and he was attempting to retrieve his property from the vehicle. Farney later learned that Lemaster had mistaken the resident's driveway next-door for the tow company driveway, parking another vehicle there. Prior to the altercation, the neighbor, who has been identified as Bryan Rothe (Bryan) was threatening to use his tractor to move the vehicle on his property.

While Lemaster was removing property from a vehicle, Bryan drove his tractor towards the property and quickly approached them on foot. Farney explained Bryan started punching Lemaster. Bryan's son, who has been identified as Wesley Rothe (Wesley), then threw Lemaster to the ground on his back and started punching him, while Bryan was choking him. At this point, the 18-year-old female daughter who was with Lemaster, called 911.

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Farney reported Tony then became involved and gave her his cell phone to start video recording the incident. Farney explained Tony grabbed Bryan and held him against a tree, but then was assaulted by Wesley, who was punching Tony in the face. At some point during the altercation, Farney witnessed the 18-year-old daughter getting involved in the altercation. Farney also witnessed Bryan's wife, Tonya Rothe (Tonya), kicking Lemaster on the ground.

Farney explained the deputies arrived very shortly after and gathered the information about the altercation and started mitigating the situation. Farney noted the law-enforcement deputies were aggravated with them as well.

Shortly after the deputies approached Bryan's residence, because he instigated the situation, she heard approximately five (5) small pops from a firearm and then approximately twenty-five (25) to thirty (30) loud booms from a different firearm. Farney explained everything happened very quickly and she ended up collapsing from anxiety. SA Ryan asked Farney if she heard anyone speak during the gunfire. Farney explained that because of her state of mind, she didn't hear anything else.

SA Ryan asked if Farney could distinguish that the deputies were law-enforcement. Farney confirmed the deputies were wearing full deputy uniforms and she could distinguish that they were law enforcement.

The interview concluded at approximately 1920 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.

References:

None

Attachments:

2025-10-26 - Audio Interview of Jessie Farney