



**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 1243 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 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:**

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

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|                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Days Off:</b> [REDACTED]                                                                         | <b>Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:</b> None                                                       |
| <b>Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:</b> 8-10                                                       | <b>Consider Self Well Rested?:</b> Yes                                                                                       |
| <b>Total Length as Officer:</b> [REDACTED]                                                          | <b>Length at Current Agency:</b> [REDACTED]                                                                                  |
| <b>Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid):</b> None                                         | <b>Corrective Lenses:</b> No Corrective Lenses                                                                               |
| <b>Uniform Worn:</b> Standard Deputy uniform                                                        | <b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> Firearm, handcuffs, spare magazines, tourniquet, radio |
| <b>Ballistic Vest:</b> External Armor                                                               | <b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Not Present                                                                                         |
| <b>Other Recording Devices:</b> None                                                                | <b>Partner:</b> None                                                                                                         |
| <b>Injuries:</b> None                                                                               | <b>Equipment Damage:</b> None                                                                                                |
| <b>Training or Areas of Specialty:</b> SWAT                                                         | <b>OPOTC Certification:</b> Certified                                                                                        |
| <b>Military Experience/Training:</b> None                                                           | <b>Use-of-Force Training:</b> In-service                                                                                     |
| <b>Prior Shooting Incidents:</b> None                                                               | <b>Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints:</b> None                                                                     |
| <b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident:</b> None | <b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview:</b> None                                    |
| <b>Alcohol in Past 24 Hours?</b> None                                                               | <b>Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident:</b> None                                                                         |

**Officer's Firearm(s):**

Weapon #1

|                                                  |                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Make:</b> Aero Precision                      | <b>Model:</b> AR-15                                          |
| <b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> 5.56 mm                    | <b>Serial:</b> Unknown at the time of interview              |
| <b>Type:</b> Rifle                               | <b>Method of Carry:</b> Sling                                |
| <b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 28+1 or 27+1           | <b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> 28 or 29 |
| <b>Extra Magazines:</b> None                     | <b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> N/A              |
| <b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes           | <b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary                     |
| <b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> 26 or 25 | <b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 2                             |

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|                                                     |                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed        | <b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned  |
| <b>Last Qualification Date:</b> August or September | <b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> N/A |

**Narrative:**

██████████ explained that, prior to the incident, he was in Newton Falls attempting to serve court related paperwork. He received a radio call from TCSO dispatch asking if any TCSO units were in the area of Braceville to assist on a call of a male stopping traffic while armed with a gun. ██████████ initiated emergency response to the call while utilizing his lights and siren. ██████████ stated that he and ██████████ arrived on scene at roughly the same time. He described his initial observations of the scene as follows:

*I marked myself and him ██████████ out on scene. Uh, I could see the gentleman sitting down, uh, and I could see Dre starting to walk up to him. And I see Braceville's already on scene. And uh, and I happened to notice the fire chief was already there. (11:18)*

██████████ explained that he went to the rear of his patrol vehicle and obtained his issued AR (rifle). He slowly approached the other law enforcement officers and John Adams (Adams). ██████████ noted that ██████████ of the Braceville Police Department and ██████████ were already speaking with Adams. They were requesting that Adams put the gun down, and Adams refused to do so. ██████████ stated that he did not talk to Adams, as he did not want to speak over the other law enforcement officers who were already talking to him.

██████████ recalled that when ██████████ arrived, he approached ██████████ and then the fire chief, Todd Garland (Garland), and escorted them behind cover. ██████████ described Adams' actions with the firearm as follows:

*... they're talking back and forth and I can see the suspect have the gun. He's going from his head putting it down, putting it back up to his head saying he doesn't want to hurt any of the officers on scene. Uh, and then at one time, I do remember when he came down from his head, the gun went down like this on his leg, which is pointing at me and ██████████ I told ██████████ said, uh, I don't like this. That gun's pointed at us. (12:53)*

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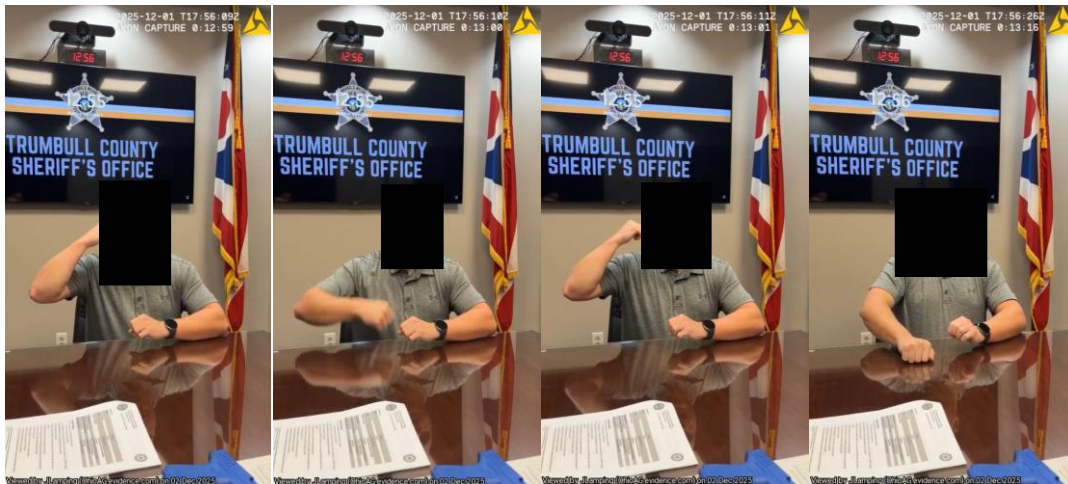
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While [REDACTED] was describing the way Adams was holding the firearm, he demonstrated the motions. The final image in the series below was [REDACTED]'s approximation of Adams placing the gun in his lap with the muzzle directed towards the deputies:



[REDACTED] explained that Adams became upset when he observed [REDACTED]'s rifle. [REDACTED] moved his position around the vehicle and ultimately decided to return to the front of the vehicle as it afforded a better angle should he have to fire his rifle. While he was at the front of the vehicle, [REDACTED] recalled the following about Adams' actions:

*Uh, next thing I remember is the gentleman getting up, walking over towards [REDACTED] and the fire chief. He then turns away and that's when I catch [REDACTED]. He extends and I could tell 'cause I was close enough that it was uh, our taser. I listened for the pop, watched the pop, I watched his reaction. He turned around. That gun went straight at [REDACTED] and the fire chief, uh, fearing for their life, everybody else's life. That was on 534 myself, [REDACTED] that's when I opened fire. Uh, I shot two rounds. Once I seen the two rounds, uh, I could see the gentleman start falling down and that's when I put my firearm on safe and waited to make sure he's no longer a threat. (13:58)*

While [REDACTED] was describing the above incident, he demonstrated the manner in which Adams turned and presented the firearm towards the law enforcement officers on scene:

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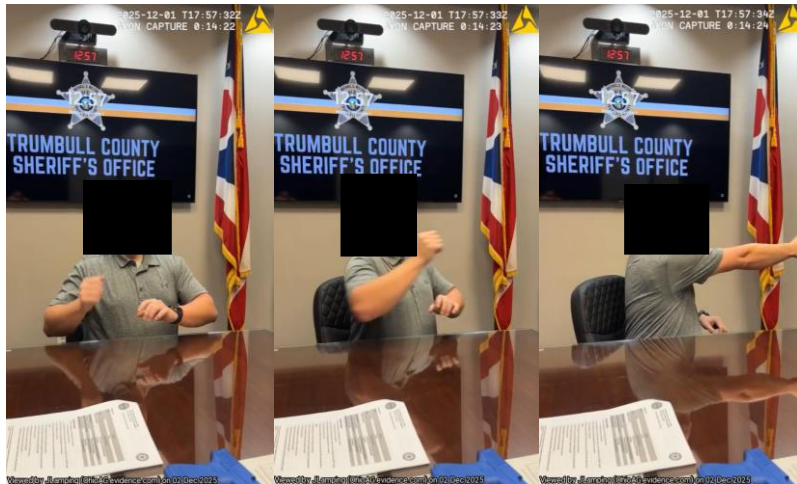


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Following the shooting, [redacted] described an altercation that occurred between [redacted] and Garland:

*During that time, that's when I seen [redacted] start uh, holding back uh, the fire chief, stating that he's too emotionally involved, that the scene is still not safe, we can't let you go up there. So, he's starting to push into, not extend, but just using like his body weight to go into [redacted]. So, I step in, start holding the fire chief back. Uh, and that's when, I mean he was tense. Uh, you can see his fists were balled up and then we ended up getting him on the other side of his cruiser. That's when [redacted] came over and made the comment about him going in handcuffs. [redacted] put his handcuff on his right arm. I got mine on the left and we kind of conjoined him. So, then I stood with him while [redacted] went off. (14:58)*

[redacted] said [redacted] walked away from him and went to assist [redacted] with first aid/care for Adams. [redacted] stated that the Braceville Fire Department and the Newton Falls Fire Department arrived on scene and began to treat Adams who was ultimately transported away from the scene via ambulance.

SA Lamping asked [redacted] if he knew where the firearm Adams was holding went after he fell to the ground. [redacted] was not sure where the firearm ended up. He explained that his attention was directed towards Garland after the shooting occurred. SA Lamping asked if [redacted] was concerned with the location of the firearm and he stated:

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*Absolutely, because to me none of us knew where that firearm was at at the time and I don't know if that gentleman's still alive. I mean, if we let him go up there and that guy's thinking it's the police that's coming up on him, he cracks off a few rounds. Now we gotta explain why we let a fire chief up there when it was not safe. (17:24)*

██████████ explained that he did not consider the scene to be safe until the firearm was located and secured. He also did not feel comfortable allowing Garland to render aid to Adams in an unsafe scene.

SA Lamping asked ██████████ if he could tell if Adams had fired the weapon at any time while the law enforcement officers were on scene. ██████████ said:

*I heard a bunch of gunshots. I don't know if he fired or not. (18:08)*

SA Lamping asked ██████████ what he was thinking when he observed Adam start to turn towards the law enforcement officers after being tased. ██████████ stated:

*When I seen him turn and lower that pistol, apologize for the language, but what went through my head is like, oh fuck, he's going to shoot them. (19:10)*

SA Lamping asked ██████████ if he felt there was any other option than deadly force at that moment. ██████████ explained that he felt there were no other options:

*No. Once he pointed that gun and him constantly, 'cause the gun had been pointed at me, uh, and just kind of how irrational he was, that was the only option. Once we, once the taser was ineffective and since he pointed a gun at uh, fire Chief and ██████████ (19:27)*

SA Lamping asked ██████████ about the other incidents in which Adams had pointed a gun at the law enforcement officers. ██████████ explained how Adams had pointed the firearm as follows:

*Yeah, he puts it, I believe it was gonna be on his right leg. Can I use this? Yeah, absolutely. So, I, he goes like this and then he goes like this on him, but he's looking this way. So, I, that's when I told ██████████ I go watch that gun is pointed at us. That's when I made my move to go back to the front of the vehicle. 'cause if I had to take a shot, I had a uh, more room if I had to move to go with him. (19:56)*

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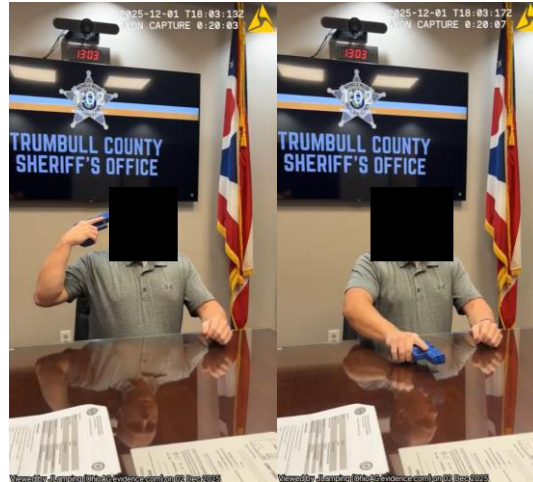
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██████████ used a training pistol to provide further emphasis to his above description. The following still images were taken from the video interview and are an approximation of Adams' actions according to ██████████:



SA Lamping asked ██████████ if he knew whether Garland was at the scene in a personal capacity or a professional capacity. He stated:

*That was, I did not know at the time because that was odd because usually every other time we've had a person, 'cause to me it didn't even come out like a suicidal, it came out with a person in roadway with a firearm. So, I found it odd that the fire chief was there to begin with because to me, as of right now, it's not a medical call. And then, uh, it still didn't make much sense. I'm like, why is he here and his squad's not here? Like, I don't know what he keeps in his vehicle to help render aid. I'm, I would assume that's all in the ambulance. Uh, I, I just found it very odd that he was there and none of his crew was there. And then I heard they said to call in the ambulance. So, it was just, uh, I would say it was uh, very odd. I'd never seen that before. (20:43)*

SA Lamping asked ██████████ what kind of resistance he encountered with Garland. ██████████ explained:

*It took two of us to get him behind his vehicle 'cause he, he was just kind of using his weight pushing into us, uh, and kind of walking towards us. So, we were able to get him behind the passenger side of his cruiser and by that time there was three of us to try to get him in handcuffs. (21:50)*

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SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if anything about Garland's behavior struck him as odd. [REDACTED] explained that he felt that he could detect the odor of alcohol emitting from Garland:

*Uh, for all the times that I went on medical calls with them, I've never seen Todd act like that. To me, that's a whole Todd I've never seen before. And then standing with him most of the time it could have been my senses were, uh, hypervigilant or hypersensitive. But when he spoke, I, I could smell like an odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from him when he did speak. Do I think he was impaired to drive a vehicle? No, but I could still smell it on his breath. (22:20)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he felt that Garland could render medical aid in the state that he was describing. [REDACTED] said:

*I don't think he would've been able to because I think he was too emotionally involved because after the fact I was finding out that he knew that person, he lets that person rent property off of him. He's known that person ever since he grew up. So, he, he's just too emotionally attached with that person, too emotionally involved. (23:01)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if Garland calmed down at any point during the incident. [REDACTED] explained that after [REDACTED] spoke with Garland he began to calm down. He went on to state the Garland made an assortment of comments to him:

*... but he was still making comments, like taking, I wouldn't say... they were unnecessary comments. Uh, like after we were all done, he said, 'good job kid' who, who, who says that after what just happened. Uh, and then when he was yelling at us, he, he made the comments like, uh, 'you better hope you don't call for us. Hope you don't need us' calling us murderers. Like, I'd never seen that side of Todd before. So, uh, there was other factors going on. (24:32)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he recalled any remarks made by Adams during the incident. [REDACTED] recalled the following:

*No, other than the fact that, uh, the one that just sticks out to me saying he didn't want to harm us. Uh, but when he, he made, he made the remark towards me once he seen me in with the AR uh, something*

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*about, uh, 'the short motherfucker over there has his rifle, like, I'm gonna do something.' I'm like, I don't want anything. I don't want to do anything to you, just be done. But that's the only time I ever said anything to him because he was directing it towards me. (25:11)*

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] why he made the decision to obtain the AR from his vehicle. He explained that two other law enforcement officers were armed with pistols, he had no intention of firing the AR but felt that he was a more accurate shot with the rifle should he need to fire.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he had anything to add to the interview prior to concluding. [REDACTED] explained that he had a momentary malfunction with the safety on the rifle which required him to reactivate it to fire.

The interview concluded at approximately 1311 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 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]; 2025-12-01: Interview of [REDACTED]; stored on Axon Justice.

**Attachments:**

1. Criminal Investigation Notification Form - [REDACTED]

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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).

[Redacted]  
Printed Name of Interviewee

12/01/2025 1244  
Date / Time

[Redacted]

SA J.M. LAMPKOWSKI  
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature] #184  
BCI Agent (Signature)