



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



2025-1783
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10180 Busenburg Rd.,
Howard, OH 43028, Knox County

Investigative Activity: Involved Officer Interview - [REDACTED]
Involves: [REDACTED]
Activity Date: 06/17/2025
Activity Location: Knox County Sheriff's Office, 11540 Upper Gilchrist
Road, Mount Vernon, OH 43050
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 1146 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) and SA Nick Valente (SA Valente) interviewed Knox County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Robert Sauter, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the Knox County Sheriff's Office. The interview was audio and video recorded.

[REDACTED] read, stated he understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

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. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. 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:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Sergeant Brian Sindel
Radio Channel Utilized: Knox County Dispatch	Mobile Data Terminal: Present; Not Used
Cruiser Description: Marked Ford Explorer	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: [REDACTED] driver

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2025-1783

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10180 Busenburg Rd.,
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Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present; Not Utilized	Siren: Present; Not Used
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: [REDACTED]
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 6.5	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: Approximately [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: Glasses
Uniform Worn: KCSO deputies patrol uniform	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Belt; keys, handcuffs, duty weapon, tourniquet, nitrile gloves, OC spray, flashlight, and taser. Vest; two magazines, handcuffs, radio, knife, body camera, multitool, lapel mic, pen, and keys
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: Bruise to left hand ring finger at the nail line.	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: None	OPOTC Certification: [REDACTED]
Military Experience/Training: [REDACTED]	Use-of-Force Training: Arrest Search and Seizure - 2025.
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? None	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: None

Officer's Firearm(s):

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Investigative Report



2025-1783

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Weapon #1

Make: Glock	Model: 17
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Holstered on belt.
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 52
Extra Magazines: Two	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 17 per magazine.
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 16	Number of Rounds Fired: Two
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: 1/18/2025	Type of Holster, if any: Duty holster.

Narrative:

The interview was initiated at 1146 hours. [REDACTED] had prepared a written statement prior to the interview. He agreed to read the statement aloud during the interview.

[REDACTED] stated that on June 5, 2025, around 0140 hours, a 911 open line call was received from 10180 Busenburg Road. When he arrived on scene, he checked the perimeter of the residence, a trailer, and located two vehicles parked on the East/Southeast side. After checking the perimeter, he went to the front entrance of the trailer to knock on the door. After several attempts to raise someone inside the residence, [REDACTED] was able to contact a middle-aged male, later identified as Jerrad Ray (Jerrad). [REDACTED] identified himself as a sheriff's deputy to Jerrad and explained why he was at the residence. Jerrad told [REDACTED] that he did not call 911, but he did say that his daughter, his father, and his father's girlfriend were at the residence as well. Knox County Dispatch was able to inform [REDACTED] that the name associated with the phone number that called 911 was "Lauretta." [REDACTED] asked Jerrad if Lauretta [Beltz] was his father's girlfriend, and he stated that she was.

[REDACTED] then asked Jerrad to go inside and get Lauretta so that he could check on her. [REDACTED] disregarded his back-up unit since he had contacted a resident. Jerrad returned to the front door without anyone else, but he stated that his father, Lloyd Ray (Lloyd), had told him that they were alright. [REDACTED] asked Jerrad to go back and bring Lauretta to the door so that he could make sure she was alright. At this point, [REDACTED] heard what he described as:

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



2025-1783

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10180 Busenburg Rd.,
Howard, OH 43028, Knox County

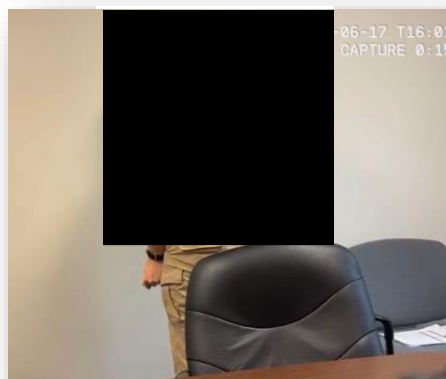
"some kind of yell or moan that came from a female's voice. (6:11)"

██████████ then requested that his back-up unit respond to the residence. Jerrad returned to the front door and told ██████████ that he didn't know what was going on. ██████████ reported hearing the same noise from the female along with another male's voice coming from the same area of the trailer. ██████████ asked Jerrad if he could go into the trailer, but Jerrad told him that since his father was the owner of the trailer, he couldn't give permission or deny permission to enter.

██████████ entered the trailer and was advised by Jerrad that his daughter was still asleep in their room. ██████████ asked Jerrad to walk in front of him towards Lloyd's room. When Jerrad and ██████████ arrived at Lloyd's door, Lloyd exited the room and spoke with ██████████. Lloyd reported that he and Lauretta had been involved in an argument. ██████████ told Lloyd that he would need to interview him outside, but he walked back into the bedroom. Lauretta told ██████████ from the bedroom that Lloyd broke her car window. When Lauretta spoke, ██████████ noticed her feet lying in a manner which caused him to believe that she was lying on the floor. ██████████ described Lloyd's actions in the bedroom as follows:

"Mr. Ray then walked back into the bedroom, went to the left side of the doorway. He came back out into the doorway and was facing Ms. Beltz. Just his back would've been to me with a rifle. I could see the green handle and the black barrel, which was being held from right shoulder to left knee. (7:39)"

During the interview ██████████ demonstrated the way Lloyd was holding the firearm. A screen capture of this was included below.



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



2025-1783

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10180 Busenburg Rd.,
Howard, OH 43028, Knox County

██████████ explained that he did not initially observe Lloyd grabbing the firearm, and that he was not sure where the firearm had been procured from. ██████████ provided the following quote about the events:

"Ms. Beltz yelled that he had a gun and I drew my primary duty weapon and instructed Mr. Ray to put down the gun. He refused to put the weapon down and I fired one round from my service weapon. I called shots fired over the radio. Mr. Ray retreated to the left side of the bedroom again as I was giving instructions to him, he appeared halfway in the doorway facing me. He showed me his left hand but not his right hand. I continued to give instructions to Mr. Ray when he completely disappeared into the bedroom. I heard a single shot and then I heard Ms. Beltz yell 'He just shot me in the stomach.' (7:53)"

When the firing started, Jerrad was still between ██████████ and Lloyd. ██████████ instructed Jerrad to get behind him. ██████████ described his attempts to get Lloyd to exit the room as follows:

"I do not fully remember the sequence of events at this point. I heard Mr. Ray shoot more. I was taking cover in the kitchen with a line of sight into the hallway and bedroom. I didn't have great visibility into the bedroom. I continued to give Mr. Ray commands to drop the gun and to come out with his hands up. I saw Mr. Ray in the doorway looking at me with a rifle in his hand and I fired another round at him. I heard him yell something after that. He continued shooting in my direction. (8:33)"

After ██████████ fired a second round, he recalled seeing Dep. Queen arriving on scene to his left. D ██████████ was leaning around a corner and once again observed Lloyd pointing a rifle at him. He described this incident as follows:

"I peeked around the corner again and saw Mr. Ray crouched in the doorway with his rifle pointed at me. I quickly moved back. Mr. Ray being yelling things like, 'you're going to die today' and 'you think you're brave.' He yelled other things towards us that I can't quite remember. I continued to give instructions to Mr. Ray to come out with his hands up. After some more shots from Mr. Ray, we heard what we thought was him reloading his weapon. He shot some more and this is when I saw a large cloud of smoke appearing from the bedroom into the hallway. The smoke completely obscured the view down the

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



2025-1783

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10180 Busenburg Rd.,
Howard, OH 43028, Knox County

hallway. I yelled that he deployed smoke and we exfiltrated the residence because of our inability to see and with the smoke being an unknown chemical, Mr. Ray's son and granddaughter were evacuated before we left the residence. (9:05)"

Once the deputies exited the residence, they took up positions of cover around the trailer. [REDACTED] requested the dispatch center to contact Lt. Feeney to activate the SWAT team. While outside of the trailer, [REDACTED] recalled Lloyd continuing to shoot at the deputies. [REDACTED] stated:

"He struck a patrol vehicle with some of his shots. (10:01)"

[REDACTED] stayed on scene until the SWAT team arrived and developed a response plan.

[REDACTED] explained in his statement that he did not feel that he had any other option than to employ deadly force. He is quoted below:

"I used lethal force in this incident by discharging my firearm because I do not believe there was any less lethal force that I could have used that would have been effective in stopping the immediate and direct threat Mr. Ray posed to me and Ms. Beltz when he returned with a rifle after I spoke with him and disregarded my commands. Mr. Ray continued to pose an immediate and direct threat, not only to me and Ms. Beltz, but also to the other deputies, Mr. Ray's own son and granddaughter, after it became apparent he had shot Ms. Beltz and when he repeatedly discharged his rifle in my direction as well as that of other deputies and his son and granddaughter. (10:59)"

[REDACTED] also said that he was not aware of the KCSO having any prior interactions with Lloyd. Once [REDACTED] finished reading his written statement, he signed his copy of the statement and turned it over to SA Lamping. There were two corrections on the statement which [REDACTED] had changed and initialed. They were related to dates in the background section of the statement.

Special Agents Lamping and Valente asked [REDACTED] several questions prior to concluding the interview.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to describe his positions and experience in the United States military. He explained that he served in the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was not sure what the differences were

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

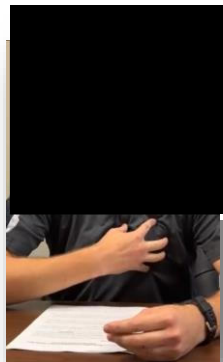


2025-1783

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10180 Busenburg Rd.,
Howard, OH 43028, Knox County

between the Army's SWAT team and a civilian law enforcement SWAT team, as he has not been through civilian law enforcement SWAT training at this time.

SA Lamping also asked [REDACTED] to point out where he wears his body worn camera at while on duty. A screen capture of [REDACTED] showing the agents the location of his camera is included below:



SA Valente asked [REDACTED] how long he felt had elapsed from the time he ordered Lloyd to drop the firearm and the time that he fired his service weapon. [REDACTED] stated:

"Like five seconds after the order, it felt pretty quick. (19:27)"

SA Valente continued to ask [REDACTED] what feelings he experienced when he observed Lloyd with the firearm. [REDACTED] said that his first reaction was concern for Loretta, as he felt that Lloyd had the intent to hurt her. He later explained that he was scared during the incident as he had never had a rifle pointed at him before. He said:

"Thought ran through my mind that he could shoot and could kill me, but it didn't distract me. (21:17)"

SA Valente asked [REDACTED] to further explain his statements about Lloyd, "looking at him with the rifle." [REDACTED] further explained his statement as follows:

"There was, so there was a couple, there was a few times I'd peek around the corner and then he'd already be looking at me with the barrel aimed at me. Um, I remember specifically he was on one knee with the down sight, he was aiming down sights towards me. (20:14)"

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



2025-1783

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 10180 Busenburg Rd.,
Howard, OH 43028, Knox County

██████████ did not recall Lloyd's exact positioning when he fired the second round from his service weapon, but he did recall still seeing him holding the firearm in the doorway. He also stated that just prior to this, Lloyd had been shooting at him.

SA Valente asked ██████████ if he had been injured during the incident, and he showed us his left ring finger. He explained that it had been smashed, causing a bruise at the nail line, at some point during the incident. ██████████ was not sure when or how the injury occurred. He did receive treatment for it at the hospital.

The interview concluded at approximately 1213 hours.

The interview was audio and video recorded. The recordings can be reviewed in its entirety in Axon Justice under Reference Item C – Involved Officer Interview. The BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form was also attached to this report.

References:

Reference Item C – Involved Officer Interview – Stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. Criminal Investigation Notification ██████████
2. ██████████ Written Statement

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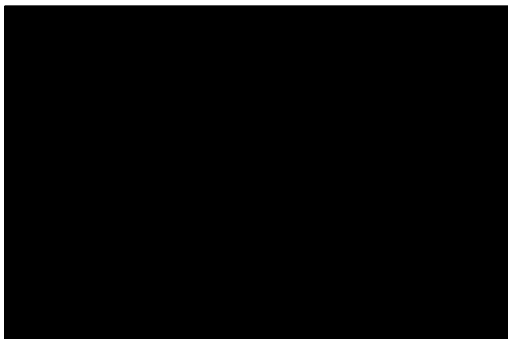
DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Office (330) 659-4600
Fax (330) 659-0681

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).



Ⓟ 06/17/25 @ 1147am
Date / Time

J. M. LAMIRAG #184
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature] #184
BCI Agent (Signature)

Statement of Deputy [REDACTED] Knox County Sheriff's Office,
Regarding Incident on June 5, 2025

I. Background.

I began my full-time employment with the Knox County Sheriff's Office ("Knox County SO"), as a Deputy, on [REDACTED] Prior to my employment with the Knox County SO, I worked as a Police Officer for Danville Police Department from ^{vcc}October 2024 to December 2024. I completed my Basic Police Officer Training at the Central Ohio Technical College, graduating [REDACTED] ^{November}

I attended high school at West Holmes High School in Millersburg, Ohio and graduated in 2016. I served in the [REDACTED]

My current supervisor is Sergeant Brian Sindel. My current assignment is as a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] My regularly assigned work hours are from [REDACTED] My regularly assigned workdays are [REDACTED] and my days off are [REDACTED]

I wear prescription glasses. I do not wear prescription contacts or hearing aids. I am under no physical disability. I take no prescription medications. I was not under the influence of alcohol or any drug, prescription or otherwise, on the date of the incident.

As a law enforcement officer, I have never received any discipline related to use of force. I have never been the subject of any Internal Affairs investigation related to

use of force. In my law enforcement career, I have never before used lethal force or less than lethal force prior to the incident.

I am familiar with the Knox County SO's Use of Force Policies, as I was last trained on them in January 2025. I also receive daily training bulletins.

On the date of the incident, I used my Glock 17 9 mm handgun, which is my primary duty weapon and was issued to me by the Knox County SO. I last qualified for this weapon in January 2025. I carry three (3) total magazines for this weapon, each consisting of seventeen (17) rounds of ammunition. I also carry a taser.

On my duty belt, I carry (clockwise) the following: keys, handcuffs, primary duty weapon, tourniquet, nitrile gloves, OC spray, flashlight, and taser. On my outer vest, I carry two (2) magazines for my primary duty weapon, handcuffs, radio, pocketknife, body camera, Gerber tool, hand mic, pen, handcuff, and keys.

On Tuesday, June 3, 2025, and Wednesday, June 4, 2025, I worked my normal shift of [REDACTED] I worked overtime for my shift on [REDACTED] as I started my shift at [REDACTED] I performed routine patrol prior to the incident.

I was well-rested prior to the incident as I had slept approximately six and a half (6.5) hours on Wednesday.

On the date of the incident, I was dressed in my prescribed regular Knox County SO uniform.

I was wearing a body camera in accordance with Knox County SO policy. My body camera, both audio and video, was working during the incident. I carried no personal recording device.

My cruiser is Number [REDACTED] My cruiser does not have in-dash video. My call number is [REDACTED]

II. Incident Narrative.

On June 5, 2025, around 1:40 a.m., I received a Dispatch call for a 911 hangup/open line at 10180 Busenburg Road, Howard, Ohio 43028. When I arrived, I first walked to the North corner of the trailer. I noticed two (2) vehicles parked behind the trailer on the East/Southeast side. I walked back around to the front of the trailer (West side) and knocked on the door.

At first, I received no answer so I knocked on the door again. A middle aged male answered the door. I introduced myself and informed him about the 911 call that we received from the address. He told me that he didn't call. I verified the last four digits of the phone number with Dispatch and he told me that the numbers did not match his phone number. He told me his dad, later identified as Lloyd Ray, and his dad's girlfriend, were inside along with Mr. Ray's granddaughter. I asked Dispatch for the name associated with the phone number. Dispatch told me it came back to a "Lauretta." I asked Mr. Ray's son if Lauretta was his dad's girlfriend and he told me she was (her full name later identified as Lauretta Beltz). I asked him if he could go and get her for me so I could check on her.

At this point, I disregarded my backup—Deputies Josh Snodgrass and Tom Queen—since I was making contact with an individual from inside the residence. Mr. Ray's son came back and told me that Mr. Ray said they were okay. I readvised Mr. Ray's son that I needed to speak with Ms. Beltz to make sure she was okay since she called. He said that he would go and try to get her again. As he was coming back without Mr. Ray or Ms. Beltz, I heard some kind of yell or moan that came from a female's voice. I told my backup to start heading back my way because I wasn't sure what was going on. I asked Mr. Ray's son what was happening and he told me he didn't know. I heard the female make the same noises again and then I also heard a male voice coming from the same area as the female (North end of the trailer). I asked Mr. Ray's son if I could enter the residence. He told me he didn't own it and that his dad was the owner. I told him that I was coming in.

I entered the trailer and Mr. Ray's son advised me that Mr. Ray's granddaughter was sleeping in the room to the right. I had him stay in front of me so I could keep eyes on him as I was walking through the trailer to the North end where the sounds were coming from. I asked him again what was happening and he told me he didn't know. When I was in the kitchen, I stopped because I could see a closed door. I asked Mr. Ray's son where they were and he pointed to the door at the end of the hallway.

I announced myself again and Mr. Ray walked out of the room toward me. I asked Mr. Ray what was going on back there and he told me they were arguing. He was still walking towards me and I asked him if he had any weapons on him. He raised his arms and looked down at himself. Mr. Ray was wearing jeans and no shirt. I told him that I needed to speak with him outside. Before he walked back, Ms. Beltz said that he broke her car window. That's when I looked back into the bedroom and saw someone's feet, I concluded it was Ms. Beltz's feet. Based on the positioning of her

feet she appeared to be lying down with her head facing West. I could not see the rest of her body.

Mr. Ray then walked back into the bedroom and went to the left side of the doorway. He came back out into the doorway and was facing Ms. Beltz (his back to me) with a rifle. I could see the green handle and the black barrel which was being held from right shoulder to left knee. Ms. Beltz yelled that he had a gun and I drew my primary duty weapon and instructed Mr. Ray to put down the gun. He refused to put the weapon down and I fired one (1) round from my service weapon. I called "shots fired" over the radio.

Mr. Ray retreated to the left side of the bedroom again. As I was giving instructions to him, he appeared halfway into the doorway facing me. He showed me his left hand but not his right hand. I continued to give instructions to Mr. Ray when he completely disappeared into the bedroom. I heard a single shot and then I heard Ms. Beltz yell "He just shot me in the stomach!" At the time, Mr. Ray's son was standing against the back door of the trailer between Mr. Ray and me. I told Mr. Ray's son to come get behind me.

I do not fully remember the sequence of events at this point. I heard Mr. Ray shoot more. I was taking cover in the kitchen with a line of sight into the hallway/bedroom. I didn't have great visibility into the bedroom. I continued to give Mr. Ray commands to drop the gun and to come out with his hands up. I saw Mr. Ray in the doorway looking at me with his rifle in hand and I fired another round at him. I heard him yell something after that. He continued shooting in my direction. This is when I noticed Deputy Queen to my left with his rifle out.

I peaked around the corner again and saw Mr. Ray crouched in the doorway with his rifle pointed right at me. I quickly moved back. Mr. Ray began yelling things like "You're going to die today!" and "You think you're brave!?" He yelled other things towards us that I can't remember. I continued to give instructions to Mr. Ray to come out with his hands up. After some more shots from Mr. Ray, we heard what we thought was him reloading his weapon. He shot some more and that is when I saw a large cloud of smoke appearing from the bedroom into the hallway. The smoke completely obscured the view down the hallway. I yelled that he deployed smoke and we exfiltrated the residence because of our inability to see and with the smoke being an unknown chemical. Mr. Ray's son and granddaughter were evacuated before we left the residence.

We exfiltrated the residence and took up positions around the house. I then advised Dispatch to contact Unit #32 (Lt. Feeney) to get the Special Response Team ("SRT") out to the residence. Mr. Ray continued to shoot towards us while we were outside. He struck a patrol vehicle with some of his shots. Deputy Snodgrass was behind my cruiser and Deputy Queen was speaking to Mr. Ray's son and granddaughter about Mr. Ray and any other important information. Deputy Queen's cruiser was parked on the other side of the garage with Mr. Ray's son and granddaughter in it. I went to the South side of the garage. While there, I was watching the South/Southeast side of the residence. Mr. Ray fired more rounds outside. We held positions until other units got on scene.

I stayed at the scene until SWAT had fully arrived and developed a plan. Around 5:00 a.m., Deputy David Nally drove me away from the scene. I was then taken to

Knox Community Hospital for drug testing. From there, I was taken back to the Knox County SO and went home.

The weather on the date of the incident was clear and mild and there was no significant change in the weather during the time of the incident. At the time of the incident, it was dark outside but there was some interior lighting in the trailer and I used my flashlight as well. The backdrop when I fired my weapon was the back wall of the trailer.

I used lethal force in this incident by discharging my firearm because I do not believe there was any less lethal force that I could have used that would have been as effective in stopping the immediate and direct threat Mr. Ray posed to me and Ms. Beltz when he returned with a rifle after I spoke with him and disregarded my commands. Mr. Ray continued to pose an immediate and direct threat, not only to me and Ms. Beltz, but also to the other deputies and Mr. Ray's own son and granddaughter, after it became apparent he had shot Ms. Beltz and when he repeatedly discharged his rifle in my direction, as well as that of the other deputies, and his son and granddaughter.

I did not have any contact with Mr. Ray prior to the incident. I am not aware of the Knox County SO having any interaction with Mr. Ray prior to the incident.

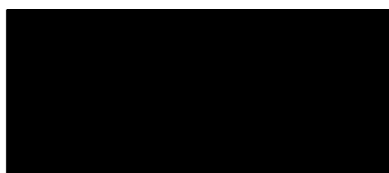
My action in firing my firearm, as described above, was consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer.

My statement is made from the best of my recollection as to the incident on June 5, 2025. On June 10, 2025, I viewed body camera footage of the incident. After

reviewing the videos, I now recall that Ms. Beltz was crying for help when I entered the residence and she said Mr. Ray had been hitting her.

I wish to cooperate with this investigation and am prepared to answer any questions which you might have.

Respectfully submitted,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of the person submitting the statement.

06/17/2025

Date