



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



2024-2738

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 345 Lincoln Ave.,  
Lancaster, OH 43130 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with [REDACTED]

**Involves:** [REDACTED]

**Activity Date:** 01/07/2025

**Activity Location:** 345 Lincoln Ave., Lancaster, OH

**Authoring Agent:** SA Aja Chung, #86

**Narrative:**

On Tuesday, January 07, 2025, at 1315 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Aja Chung (SA Chung) and SA James Gore (SA Gore) interviewed Fairfield County Sheriff Office (FCSO) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Joe Hegedus, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the above listed location and was audio recorded.

During the course of the interview, agents utilized tactics designed to illicit truthful responses and to test the veracity of information provided. As many of the details of the investigation into the incident were publicly available, it was necessary to utilize alternative tactics (beyond the typical methodology of retaining confidential "holdout" information regarding the incident and then comparing/contrasting witness statements with information that could only be known by those with actual knowledge of the incident). These tactics include developing rapport and potentially providing information known to be erroneous. Therefore, misstatements of facts or evidence in the recorded interview by the interviewing agents are intentional and align with the strategy for the overall investigative plan.

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.

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[REDACTED], badge number and radio call sign is [REDACTED]. He has been employed with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office for five (5) years with a total of seven (7) years in law enforcement. During the incident, he was wearing a department issued uniform that consisted of a black short sleeve button up shirt with FCSO deputy insignia on both shoulders and gray pants. A Taser and OC spray were two of his less lethal tools on his duty belt. Neither were utilized. [REDACTED] confirmed he was not injured during the incident, however, during the struggle, his body-worn camera (BWC) was damaged.

[REDACTED] advised he patrols the Canal Winchester area in Fairfield County and on September 7, 2024, he was dispatched to the area of 720 W. Waterloo, Aldi's, for a suspicious person. [REDACTED] said when he arrived, he saw a male walking in and out of the roadway, yelling for his mom. [REDACTED] advised he made numerous, unsuccessful attempts to get Evangelista to stop walking in the roadway. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said he gave orders for Evangelista to "Stop" and tried to explain Evangelista was not in trouble. [REDACTED] described Evangelista's behavior as someone who was experiencing the effects of being on drugs, such as methamphetamine or another stimulant. [REDACTED] said Evangelista was sweating profusely, had pinpoint pupils and had no focus.

[REDACTED] went on saying that Evangelista started to run away from him, yelling and screaming, "Help!" and "Mom!" [REDACTED] said when he caught up to Evangelista, he grabbed Evangelista's arm trying to detain him for safety reasons. [REDACTED] explained when he grabbed Evangelista's arm, Evangelista spun around and out of his grasp. [REDACTED] said Evangelista would pull away from his grasp every time he would try to grab ahold of Evangelista. During one of the struggles, Evangelista knocked [REDACTED] BWC off the magnetic mount, causing the BWC to fall onto the pavement. [REDACTED] confirmed that the BWC was damaged to the point it would not secure on to the magnetic mount.

[REDACTED] indicated the incident had moved near Bob Evans restaurant (6085 Gender Rd.) and vehicle traffic was backing up. [REDACTED] told agents he fell to the ground from Evangelista pushing him as well the uneven ground that consisted of freshly dug up dirt and hay. [REDACTED] confirmed he pulled his Taser and aimed it at Evangelista's chest; however, he re-holstered his Taser when it did not appear to be working. [REDACTED] said he stood up quickly and grabbed hold of one of Evangelista's arms so that he was able to secure it behind Evangelista's back. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated a citizen helped him place handcuffs on Evangelista. [REDACTED]

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told agents the male citizen did not stay at the scene or provide any contact information.

Once Evangelista had been secured in handcuffs, a Franklin County deputy, Dep. Richard Verhoeven (Dep. Verhoeven) arrived at the scene. [REDACTED] explained when he went to put Evangelista in the backseat of the Dep. Verhoeven's cruiser, Evangelista continued to push and/or pull away from him. While the struggle took place Evangelista in the backseat of the cruiser, two Lithopolis police officers arrived at the scene and provided further assistance of getting Evangelista secured in the backseat. After Evangelista was placed in the backseat of Dep. Verhoeven's cruiser, [REDACTED] retraced his footsteps to collect his BWC and bring his cruiser closer to Bob Evans.

Once [REDACTED] retrieved his cruiser, Evangelista was transferred to his cruiser and transported to the Fairfield County Jail (FCJ). [REDACTED] went on saying Evangelista continued to use his body weight by pushing or pulling away from efforts to escort him inside FCJ. [REDACTED] indicated that Evangelista had to be forcefully pulled from the backseat of his cruiser. Once inside FCJ, Evangelista continued to push and/or pull away from the corrections officers that were trying to get Evangelista to sit down in order to remove the handcuffs. [REDACTED] advised himself and two (2) corrections officers were needed to control Evangelista enough to remove the handcuffs and back out of the holding cell safely.

[REDACTED] stated after Evangelista was placed inside the holding cell, he only came into contact with Evangelista one time. [REDACTED] advised Evangelista told him he needed to go to the hospital. [REDACTED] said he relayed Evangelista's request to a corrections officer, whose name was not known to [REDACTED]

When asked about Evangelista being medically checked, [REDACTED] explained he did not have Evangelista examined at the hospital for safety reasons. [REDACTED] stated Evangelista actively resisted from his initial contact and going to FCJ, rather than the hospital, would allow for more assistance from corrections officers and/or deputies should Evangelista continue to resist. [REDACTED] further stated he believed had he gone to the hospital to have Evangelista medically examined and Evangelista started fighting/resisting again, there would only be himself and one other security guard/personnel. [REDACTED] advised he did not believe Evangelista needed to be medically checked at the time of the incident.

[REDACTED] lastly told agents he believed his actions were consistent with his training and within the department's policy and procedures.

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The interview concluded at approximately 1343 hours.

**References:**

None

**Attachments:**

1. [REDACTED] Interview

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