



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



2024-3294

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage Bike Trail near  
North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

**Investigative Activity:** Involved Officer Interview  
**Involves:** [REDACTED]  
**Activity Date:** 11/05/2024  
**Activity Location:** Bret Jordan Co. LPA  
S. Meridian St., Ravenna, OH, 44266  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Allison Fletcher

**Narrative:**

On Tuesday, November 05, 2024, at 1303 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) and SA Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) interviewed Ravenna Police Department (RPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by her attorney, Paul Siegferth, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at 206 Sout Meridian Street, Ravenna, Ohio, 44266. The interview was audio and video recorded.

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

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

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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> [REDACTED]
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> Main Channel	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> Present; Not Used
<b>Cruiser Description:</b> Ford SUV black/white with RPD patch. Red/blue lights	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:</b> Single occupant
<b>Assignment:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Normal Shift:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>In-Car Camera:</b> Operational & Utilized	<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
<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> 7-8	<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> Navy blue pants, navy blue shirt, boots, external vest, duty belt with firearm and keys	<b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> flashlight, radio, magazines, taser, handcuffs
<b>Ballistic Vest:</b> External Armor	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Present & Used
<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> FTO, CIT	<b>OPOTC Certification:</b> [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
<b>Military Experience/Training:</b> None	<b>Use-of-Force Training:</b> Annually
<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> Unknown	<b>Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident:</b> Unknown

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

Weapon #1

<b>Make:</b> HK - Heckler and Koch	<b>Model:</b> Unknown
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> .45 caliber	<b>Serial:</b> Unknown
<b>Type:</b> Semi-Auto Handgun	<b>Method of Carry:</b> Right side duty belt
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 10 + 1	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> 11
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> 2 extra mags - 10 rounds	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> 20
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> Unknown	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 4-6
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> Unknown date in October 2024	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> Dept issued holster

**Narrative:**

After obtaining preliminary and demographic information, [REDACTED] provided the following information related to the incident on October 22, 2024.

Prior to the shooting incident, [REDACTED] responded to an unrelated call for service with RPD Officer Joshua Twigg (Twigg). While handling the call, dispatch notified all available units of a stabbing that had occurred on the hike and bike trail near North Freedom Street. [REDACTED] and Officer Twigg cleared the unrelated call and began responding to the hike and bike trail.

While en route, dispatch provided updated information that the victim had been stabbed multiple times.

[REDACTED] arrived at the hike and bike trail just off North Freedom Street shortly after Officer Twigg. She observed multiple pedestrians and bicyclists walking and cycling the trail. She also observed Officer Twigg speaking with the stabbing victim who was lying on the bike path a good distance from the roadway. The stabbing victim was later identified as Larry Burghy (Burghy).

After approaching Burghy and Officer Twigg's location, [REDACTED] heard Burghy say the person responsible for stabbing him was further down the hike and bike trail.

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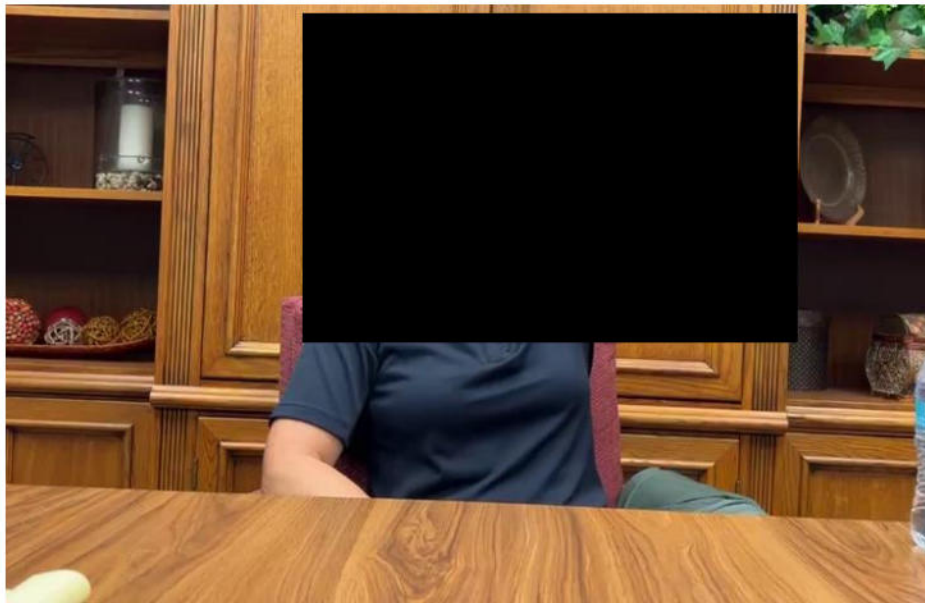
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Personnel from the Ravenna Fire Department (RFD) arrived shortly after and began rendering aid to Burghy.

While standing near Burghy and the RFD personnel, [REDACTED] saw a subject approaching in the distance. The male was walking aggressively and "with a purpose."

Officer Twigg began walking towards the subject. At first, he was so far away, [REDACTED] was unable to see what the subject was holding in his hands. The subject continued to aggressively approach their location, allowing [REDACTED] to better observe the subject and the objects he was carrying. She described the subject as a bald male with no shirt carrying a double-bladed axe in one hand and a knife in the other. The subject was carrying both the axe and the knife in a raised position. Officers began giving commands to the subject to drop the weapons.

The subject continued to approach officers in an aggressive manner holding the knife above his head "like he was going to stab somebody" [18:18] [REDACTED]



[REDACTED] drew her firearm and pointed it at the subject as she continued to give commands to the subject to drop the axe and knife. The male did not comply and continued to approach while yelling something unintelligible. "He was walking very aggressively towards us like he's gonna kill somebody" [18:36]. Meanwhile there were multiple pedestrians walking and biking on the path in close proximity to the subject.

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RPD [REDACTED] and Officer Matthew Meyers (Meyers) arrived at the location and took a position near [REDACTED] and Twigg. The officers formed a line spanning across the hike and bike trail. All four officers then attempted to move backwards to retreat from the subject; however, they could only move a short distance due to the fire personnel providing aid to Burghy.

"He [subject] had this imminent look in his face that he's going to kill somebody" [19:24]. It was at that moment [REDACTED] fired her gun at the subject's center mass. [REDACTED] did not recall the subject falling but observed the subject lying on the ground and eventually becoming still.

[REDACTED] approached the subject and moved the axe and knife away from him. She and the other officers began rendering aid to the subject until the fire personnel, who were already present, took over care.

[REDACTED] feared for her safety, the safety of the other officers and, and the pedestrians who were walking and biking the path. She felt she gave every opportunity to the subject to comply with commands. [REDACTED] believed if the officers did not attempt to stop him with deadly force the subject was going to kill someone.

The subject was less than ten feet away from the officers when [REDACTED] fired her gun. She believed [REDACTED] also fired his gun, although she did not know who fired first. [REDACTED] fired in an eastern direction, aiming at the subject's center mass. She also believed her rounds hit the subject's center mass.

[REDACTED] believed her actions were consistent with her training. She did not believe she had any other option available to her other than using deadly force. She had no prior knowledge or contact with the subject involved in the shooting incident.

The interview concluded at approximately 1331 hours.

The interview was audio and video recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report and the video recording has been stored in the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item G. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

**References:**

Reference Item G – RPD Officer Interviews

**Attachments:**

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1. [REDACTED] Criminal Investigation Notification
2. 2024-11-05 Audio Interview Involved [REDACTED]

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**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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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

11-05-2004

Date / Time

[Redacted]

SA ALLAN FLETCHER #187

BCI Agent (Printed)

SA Allan Fletcher #187

BCI Agent (Signature)