



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



2025-1049

Officer Involved Critical Incident – Interstate 275 / State Route
32, OH, 45245 (Clermont County) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
Date of Activity: 04/15/2025
Activity Location: Engel & Martin LLC – 4660 Duke Drive, Mason, OH 45040
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On April 15, 2025, at 1255 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Lauren Frazier and Kenny Smith interviewed Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was accompanied by his attorney, Josh Engel, from Engel & Martin LLC. The interview took place at Engle's law firm, located at 4660 Duke Drive Suite 101, Mason, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

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

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: Sgt. Andrew Dunn
Radio Channel Utilized: Batavia 08 Tac	Mobile Data Terminal: Yes
Cruiser Description: silver 2021 Dodge Charger	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Himself, driver
Assignment: Road patrol	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Yes	Spotlight: Yes
Emergency Lights: Yes	Siren: Yes

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Shift Day of Incident: Last day	Duty Status: Active
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: No details (may have held over on overtime)
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 8 hours	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): No	Corrective Lenses: Wears glasses, was wearing them at the time of the incident
Uniform Worn: Gray patrol shirt, black soft shell jacket, dark gray pants, boots, clearly marked police	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: baton, taser
Ballistic Vest: Yes	Body Worn Camera: Yes
Other Recording Devices: No	Partner: No
Injuries: Minor cuts to right hand	Equipment Damage: Moderate cruiser damage
Training or Areas of Specialty: None	OPOTC Certification: Yes
Military Experience/Training: No	Use-of-Force Training: Yes
Prior Shooting Incidents: No	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: No
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: No	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: No
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? No	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: Over a year

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Sig Sauer	Model: P320
Caliber/Gauge: 9mm	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Handgun	Method of Carry: Belt mounted holster
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 17+1 (18)
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 17
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Unknown	Number of Rounds Fired: Unknown
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right	Ownership: Department issued
Last Qualification Date: October of 2024	Type of Holster, if any: Unknown

Weapon #2

Make: Sig Sauer	Model: P365
Caliber/Gauge: 9mm	Serial: [REDACTED]

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Type: Handgun	Method of Carry: Ankle mounted
Magazine Capacity: Unknown	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): Unknown
Extra Magazines: None	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: N/A
Discharged During Incident? No	Primary or Backup Weapon: Backup
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Full capacity	Number of Rounds Fired: None
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right hand draw/left ankle	Ownership: Department issued
Last Qualification Date: October 2024	Type of Holster, if any: Leather

Narrative:

On April 1, 2025, ██████████ said that he was working on case paperwork at the Batavia Post. He said that he overheard a radio call received for a wrong-way driver on I-275 going northbound in southbound lanes, and went lights and sirens towards that location. ██████████ said that he began obtaining more information via radio. The wrong-way driver was reported to have come to a stop, while still in the southbound lanes of travel, near the Milford Parkway interchange. ██████████ could not recall the description given of the wrong-way vehicle.

██████████ got onto I-275 North from SR-32 to attempt to locate the vehicle. He described that it was night time with moderate traffic. ██████████ traveled to the Hamilton County line near Wards Corner and was unable to locate the vehicle. He said that he turned around and came back southbound on I-275.

Additional calls were received for the wrong-way driver, now traveling further southbound, near Eastgate. ██████████ was able to locate the vehicle on the left shoulder, traveling northbound in the southbound lanes, on I-275 South. ██████████ was on I-275 South, when he observed the wrong way-vehicle, which he described as an older model red Ford Escape SUV.

██████████ turned his vehicle around and got into a position behind the wrong-way vehicle. He asked his sergeant, via radio, for authorization to make "intentional contact" to bring that vehicle to a stop. ██████████ explained that intentional contact is when he would use his vehicle, to make contact with another vehicle, with the intention of bringing it to a stop. He said that it was necessary to use intentional contact at this time, because he observed approaching traffic, the driver was not responding to lights and sirens, they were not compliant, and it was the safest option.

██████████ described that he brought his front right quarter panel/tire in contact with the back left portion of the vehicle. He said that he got more aggressive and placed his cruiser's front right door against the vehicle and guided it into the concrete median barrier, which eventually stopped the vehicle. ██████████ could not recall what speed they were traveling. He did describe that the driver was fighting the maneuver and he could feel the vehicle pulling away and trying to turn left, towards his cruiser.

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██████████ put his cruiser in park, looked right, and immediately observed the subject with a handgun. He described the subject as an adult White female, wearing a black helmet. ██████████ said that he saw the handgun in the subject's right hand, and described it as a small black compact handgun. ██████████ said that the subject was holding the gun towards the roof of her vehicle, with her body bladed towards him.

██████████ said that he drew his duty weapon, while still in his vehicle, and pointed it at the subject. He began yelling verbal commands to "drop the weapon" and "show me your hands." ██████████ said that the subject complied with commands and he saw her drop the firearm straight downwards towards her lap/driver's side floorboard, and she raised her hands.

██████████ said that he rolled down his front passenger window, so that she could clearly hear his commands. He said that the subject's front driver's window was down as well. ██████████ said that he was approximately a vehicle seat away from the subject at this time. ██████████ exited his cruiser and gave additional verbal commands to "show me your hands", "keep your hands raised", "to not reach for anything", and said he will use force if she does reach for anything. He said that the subject acknowledged his commands, apologized, and said that she would not reach for anything.

He observed other officers begin to approach from I-275 North. He said that he saw the officers coming up to the vehicle, in the open, with no cover or concealment. ██████████ said himself and other officers were openly exposed in the lanes of travel. He noticed that traffic had stopped in the roadway and multiple civilians were in the immediate area.

██████████ said that he called out to the other officers and announced that the subject had a firearm. He said that he requested that officers come to his location and assist. During this time, ██████████ described that the subject lowered her hands, and he ordered her to raise her hands. He said that she lowered her hands and raised them several times.

He said that he was on and off of the radio, giving dispatch updated location information, and said that the subject had a gun. He said that while he was in the middle of radio traffic, the subject lowered her hands again. When she raised her hands, ██████████ observed the subject in possession of the firearm. ██████████ said that she had the gun in her right hand and was seated in the driver's seat of the vehicle.

██████████ said that he was in fear for his life, in fear for other officer's lives, and in fear for the parked motorists nearby. He responded by using deadly force and fired his handgun several times in the direction of the armed subject. ██████████ was not sure how many times he had fired, but stated at least more than once. He said that he did not reload his firearm. When he fired, he said that he was standing near the front left quarter panel of his cruiser, with some concealment.

██████████ said that the subject would have been able to point the firearm directly at him, but he fired at her before she was able to point the gun at him. ██████████ said that he does not believe that any rounds were fired by the subject. He said that he observed the subject to be wearing a ballistic type vest/body armor and that she continued to reach/lunge into her rear passenger seats. ██████████ believed that she could be

reaching to retrieve her weapon or retrieve and additional weapon. He said that no statements were made by the subject at this time.

Additional commands were given to "not move" and to "show me your hands." [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said that the subject was still reaching inside the vehicle, when he fired one additional shot until all movement from the subject had ceased. He said that he was standing near his cruiser's b pillar when the last shot was fired. [REDACTED] said that he continued to fire until the threat was eliminated.

After [REDACTED] had fired, approximately four Union Township police officers arrived to assist. He asked for officers to cover him so that he could move his cruiser and access the vehicle to retrieve her and the firearm. [REDACTED] backed up his cruiser and said that he heard metal crunching. When he moved his cruiser away, the subject's vehicle began to roll away slowly towards the left. He said that the vehicle began to roll towards oncoming traffic, before going across all lanes of traffic. At this time, he said that he heard additional shots fired from other officers on scene. He was not sure who had fired nor why shots had been fired.

Officers allowed the vehicle to roll and come to a stop on the opposite concrete barrier. [REDACTED] said that he shattered the subject vehicle's right passenger window with his ASP baton. He said that he still couldn't see the subject's hands nor the firearm at this time. [REDACTED] grabbed the subject and pulled her out of the vehicle. When he pulled her out, he said that a black handgun came out of the vehicle and fell to the pavement directly outside the front passenger door.

[REDACTED] said that he picked up the gun and ran it over to a OSHP cruiser, described as a Dodge Durango, that was parked nearby. He placed the gun, in it's original state, on the hood of the Durango. [REDACTED] retrieved a medical kit, which he gave to his sergeant. [REDACTED] then took the gun from the hood of the Durango, attempted to clear the firearm, and moved it to the hood of his cruiser. [REDACTED] said that he ejected the magazine, cleared the chamber, and placed the magazine in his back left pocket. [REDACTED] could not recall a round being ejected from the gun, when he cleared the chamber. Therefore, it's possible that the firearm was not completely cleared. Before leaving the scene, [REDACTED] said that he gave the subject's magazine to his sergeant.

Other officers on scene began performing medical intervention on the subject. [REDACTED] did not provide any medical aid. He said that he secured the subject's dog in the backseat of his cruiser. [REDACTED] said that his primary and backup firearms were given to OSHP Trooper Jason Byron. [REDACTED] was eventually taken to Clermont Mercy Hospital in Batavia for minor cuts and blood contamination to his right hand. He was then transported to the OSHP Batavia Post, where he was eventually photographed by BCI Crime Scene Unit.

[REDACTED] said that he has had an opportunity to watch his body-worn camera (BWC) video. He said that initially he did not recall attempting to clear the firearm, nor putting the magazine in his back pocket. He was only able to remember doing so after watching BWC video and speaking to other officers.

██████████ described the lighting conditions as dark with some light from nearby street lamps. He said that he has had no prior contact with the subject. SA Frazier asked if he perceived any other option other than the use of deadly force and he stated, "no." SA Frazier asked if he believed that his actions were consistent with his training and he stated, "yes."

The interview concluded at approximately 1337 hours. The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording is attached to this report (attachment #01). The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report (see attachment #02). ██████████ also provided a typed statement, which is also attached (attachment #03). Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-04-15 OSHP ██████████ Audio Interview
Attachment # 02: 2025-04-15 ██████████ Criminal Investigation Notification Form
Attachment # 03: 2025-04-15 OSHP ██████████ Typed Statement

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 2



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Bureau of Criminal Investigation



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).

Printed Name of Interviewee

04/15/25 1258
Date / Time

Signature of Interviewee

SA KEN SMITH
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

Exhibit 3

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]

APRIL 15, 2025

I am a [REDACTED] with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. I have been employed as a sworn law enforcement officer since [REDACTED]. I graduated from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy in Columbus, Ohio in [REDACTED].

I am currently assigned as a [REDACTED] at the Batavia Post. I primarily work in the Clermont County area.

I am providing this statement voluntarily. I have prepared the statement to the best of my recollection. I have not yet had the opportunity to review all of the videos of the incident and it is possible that this review might refresh my recollection in the future.

I am familiar with the Ohio State Highway Patrol's policies and procedures on use of force. My most recent training on use of force occurred in 2024. I most recently completed my firearm qualifications in October 2024.

On April 1, 2025, I was working the [REDACTED] shift. I was wearing my uniform and operating my patrol car during my shift. While on duty, I carry my Sig Sauer 320 9mm pistol along with 3 magazines containing 17 rounds each. One magazine is contained in the firearm, the remaining 2 are carried on my duty belt. My firearm had 18 rounds (1 in the weapon and 17 in the magazine).

I also had with me an Arrow Precision AR-15. This weapon is carried in the trunk of my vehicle. I had 3 magazines containing 28 rounds each. One magazine is contained in the firearm, the remaining 2 are carried in a bag in the trunk.

I was at the Batavia Post working on paperwork when I overheard the dispatcher receiving a call about a wrong-way driver on I275. I was informed that the driver was heading northbound in the south bound lanes. I left the post and traveled with lights and sirens activated and attempted to locate the caller's vehicle. I was told that the caller was "pacing" the suspect vehicle from the correct lanes of travel. I was informed by dispatch that the suspect vehicle had stopped near the Milford Parkway exit. I approached the scene and traveled northbound until near the Hamilton County line in an effort to locate the suspect vehicle. I turned around and proceeded southbound. I

received some additional information from dispatch that the vehicle was again traveling northbound in the southbound lanes. I continued to attempt to locate the vehicle. I was eventually able to locate the vehicle.

I observed the suspect vehicle traveling northbound on the left shoulder of the southbound lanes on I-275. I turned to pursue the vehicle; my lights remained activated. I contacted my supervisor and requested that all southbound traffic be stopped and for authority to make intentional contact. (Intentional contact is making physical contact between my vehicle and a suspect vehicle for the purpose of stopping the suspect vehicle.) I approached the suspect vehicle and activated my siren. The suspect vehicle continued traveling northbound in the southbound lanes/shoulder. I made intentional contact by bringing the front right of my vehicle into the rear left quarter panel of the suspect vehicle. The suspect vehicle continued to drive northbound in the southbound shoulder. I then pinned the suspect vehicle against the concrete barrier in order to bring the suspect vehicle to a safe stop.

I lowered my front passenger window so that I could give clear commands to the driver. I observed the driver had lowered her window. The suspect was a white female wearing a black helmet. I immediately observed a handgun in her right hand and her body bladed towards me. I drew my service weapon and maintained coverage on the suspect. I gave verbal commands for the suspect to drop the weapon and show me her hands. I observed the suspect drop the handgun.

I exited my patrol car in order to use the vehicle for concealment. I ordered the suspect to keep her hands raised in plain view and not reach for anything. I maintained coverage on the suspect with my service weapon while awaiting assistance. I observed two union township police officers begin to approach the scene on foot. I continued to give commands for the suspect to keep her hands raised and visible. The suspect lowered her hands a number of times; each time I instructed her to keep her hands up.

I informed the officers approaching the scene and dispatch that the suspect had a firearm. I observed the suspect reach down into her vehicle. When she raised her hands I observed a handgun in her right hand. I believed that I and other officers were in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm and the only means of escape from danger was the use of deadly force. I

did not believe that I could safely withdraw from the location and adequately protect myself, the other officers on the scene, or other possibly innocent persons in the area.

I discharged my weapon towards the suspect. The suspect continued to reach into the rear passenger seat. I was concerned that the suspect was attempting to reach for an additional weapon. At this time I was also able to observe that the suspect was wearing a black vest which appeared to be ballistic body armor. I ceased fire when then suspect stopped reaching. I continued to give commands for the suspect to show me her hands. The suspect continued to reach into the back of her vehicle. Again believing that I and other officers remained in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm and the only means of escape from danger was the use of deadly force, I fired one more shot in the direction of the suspect.

I maintained coverage on the suspect. After she ceased movement I coordinated with the other officers in an effort to remove the suspect from the vehicle and provide medical attention. I moved my vehicle and freed the suspect's vehicle from the concrete barrier. The suspect vehicle moved across the lanes of travel and came to rest against a concrete barrier. While the suspect's vehicle was moving another officer fired shots in the direction of the suspect.

I retrieved my baton and broke the passenger side window. The suspect appeared non-responsive. I removed the suspect from the vehicle. I observed a handgun on the pavement near the suspect; it appeared that the handgun had fallen out as I extracted the suspect.

I grabbed the handgun and placed it on the hood of another responding Highway Patrol vehicle. After conferring with my sergeant, I cleared the suspect's firearm and removed the magazine. I put the suspect's handgun on the hood of my patrol car and placed the magazine in my pocket. Other officers eventually secured the suspect's handgun and I gave the magazine to my sergeant before leaving the scene.

I remained on the scene for a period of time. Other officers provided first aid. I gave my firearm to another Trooper. I was transported by my sergeant to Mercy Clermont hospital.