



**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 1350 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) and SA Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Braceville Police Department (BPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by her attorney, Danielle Chaffin, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office (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:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Chief Fay
Radio Channel Utilized: Primary	Mobile Data Terminal: Present; Not Used
Cruiser Description: BPD marked Chevrolet Tahoe	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Driver; [REDACTED]
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within

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	Preceding 48 Hours: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the preceding night.
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 4.5	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: Glasses
Uniform Worn: Blue BPD patrol uniform	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Radio, firearm, spare magazine, handcuffs, O.C. spray
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: CIT Training	OPOTC Certification: Certified
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: None
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: 4-5 days prior

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Glock	Model: 23
Caliber/Gauge: .40 caliber	Serial: Unknown at time of interview
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Holster
Magazine Capacity: 15	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 16
Extra Magazines: Two	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 15
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 14	Number of Rounds Fired: 2
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Personally Owned

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Last Qualification Date: Within the last
90 days

Type of Holster, if any: Duty holster

Narrative:

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if she had any prior interactions with the subject, John Adams (Adams), prior to the officer involved critical incident. She explained that, though she had no physical contact with Adams, she was aware of a welfare check for a male who wanted to kill himself and planned to call the police before doing so. When [REDACTED] received the call for service related to Adams, she stated that she immediately thought of the male who planned to harm himself. SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if she was under the impression that the male wanted to harm himself or if he had planned to commit suicide by officer based on the information she had previously been provided. [REDACTED] explained:

Um, I think I, I actually, I looked at it both ways. Like, okay, maybe this guy, this is his call for help, that he's really gonna ask for help. And then I'm thinking, well, maybe too, this could be a suicide by cop. Because, you know, when you, when you bring a gun to a gun fight, bad things happen. (11:56)

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to explain her recollection of the incident. She explained that she was dispatched to call for service in reference to a male armed with a gun who was stopping traffic. She described arriving at Doll Lumber and then observing Adams in the entrance, sitting with his legs out in front of him with his ankles crossed. She also noted that the Braceville Fire Chief, Todd Garland (Garland), along with his marked Braceville command unit, were on scene. She explained that Garland was speaking with Adams, and she felt that they may be able to talk Adams down. [REDACTED] described her initial observations of Adams as follows:

Maybe we can talk the guy down. And his intent was he put the gun up to his head a couple times. He's like, you know, I'm gonna kill myself. (14:00)

[REDACTED] felt that she was having some success in approaching Adams. She recalled that several TCSO Deputies arrived and also noted that one of the deputies had to pull her back to cover. [REDACTED] described the first time she noticed that Adams' firearm was pointed at her:

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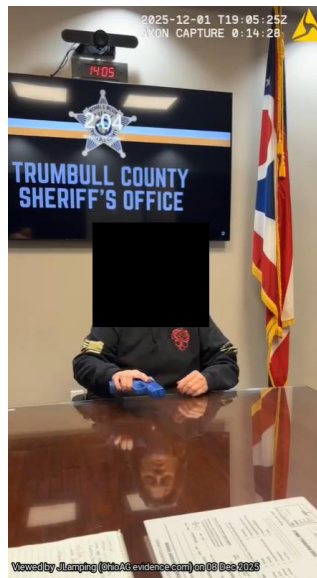


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Something I didn't realize until one of the guys drug me back is that when he's sitting there, he's got the gun like this and he, it's on his lap. And the barrel's pointed right at me. But again, at that time, um, I didn't feel any kind of threat from him because it was all about him just killing himself. And again, I, again, I, it didn't feel any kind of anything from him. My concern was, you know, maybe we can, can help this guy. And I'm, I feel we're talking him down, talking him down. (14:19)

While [REDACTED] was describing the location of Adams' firearm, she used a replica firearm to demonstrate how he was holding it:



[REDACTED] also said that at some point in time after the arrival of the TCSO deputies, Adams' behavior escalated, he got up off the ground and began walking around. She advised that while Adams was walking around, he kept moving the firearm around. Due to his behavior, they moved behind the vehicles on scene. At some point she said a tow truck driver stopped on scene and she asked him to block the road with his vehicle as things were, "going South rather quickly" (15:36). [REDACTED] said that she could not recall the exact location of each officer on scene as she was more focused on Adams. However, she recalled that one of the deputies deployed a taser. [REDACTED] described the following after the deployment of the taser:

And when the taser went off right after that, I heard one pop, which I was assuming was his gun shooting at us. And then that's when I shot.

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And I believe I shot two rounds, but then once he went down, you know, I put my gun away, went over, I saw that the gun was laying there, checked for a pulse, and then we started, I helped EMS work on the guy. (16:10)

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if Adams ever gave her any indications that he was planning to put his firearm down and cooperate with the officers on scene. She explained that she felt that there may have been a chance to talk Adams down, especially since Garland was there and speaking with him. She stated:

Um, I think there for a minute he, I, I think for a minute I was, we were bringing him down a little bit and then something happened that it just popped and I don't know what that was. Um, do I think we could have probably talked him down? I'm, I'm not so sure. 'cause I think he had his mindset that he, what he wanted. (17:45)

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if she believed Garland was at the scene in a personal capacity or a professional capacity. She answered:

He was there in a professional capacity because I called for the FD to have them stage. And it's not uncommon when I go to certain things that he's already there because he's been from that, that community. I mean, he's lived there for 50 some years, so he knows everybody and he has a very good rapport with a lot of people. So, for him being there and trying to, to talk to the guy was not uncommon for me. So, when he was talking to us, to me it was just to totally normal. And again, I didn't know that there was any personal or anything. So, I'm, I was under the impression that he was there in chief capacity. (18:16)

[REDACTED] continued to reiterate that it is not uncommon for the Braceville Fire Department to respond directly to the scene even when asked to stage.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] what changed in Adams' behavior that made her fearful for her safety. She explained that after the TCSO deputies arrived Adams' demeanor changed. She could not recall a specific occurrence that caused the change, but she said that Adams was initially okay with her presence. She also stated that many Braceville residents do not like TCSO and that may have had an impact on Adams' change in demeanor as well.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to provide details on Adams' actions at the time she fired her weapon. [REDACTED] stated:

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Well, he had, um, his gun had been, when we were finally retreating back, his gun had been pointed at, um, one of the deputies and, um, after they tased him and his, um, I believe it was him, 'cause the taser didn't work. At least I didn't think it worked on him. And he put one round off and then that's when we shot. (20:32)

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if she could recall the orientation of Adams's firearm and if it had been pointed at a specific person when it was discharged. She stated that she knew it had been pointed at officers prior to it being discharged, but that she did not recall the exact orientation of the weapon. [REDACTED] did not feel that she had any alternative to the use of lethal force after Adams fired his weapon. She also stated that she did not feel that Adams was specifically shooting at her, but that he was shooting at one of the deputies on either side of her. She also noted that Adams would have been able to strike her from her mid torso and above, even though she was partially behind a vehicle.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if she recalled anything specific about the incidents on scene that occurred after the shooting took place. She explained that she went up to render aid to Adams and noticed that the TCSO deputies were involved in some form of altercation with Garland. She stated that there was a physical struggle, Garland was pinned against the hood of a vehicle, and that he was eventually placed in handcuffs. She stated several times that she was not sure why Garland was placed in handcuffs or what led to the altercation.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if she could recall the location of Adams' firearm after he had fallen to the ground. She indicated that the firearm was outside of arm's reach from Adams. She also stated that she took a picture of the firearm and the location that it was located¹.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if there was anything that was not asked that she felt was important for the investigators to know. She advised that she could not think of anything. However, her attorney asked her when she became aware of the location of Adams' firearm. [REDACTED] said:

We, sec..., I found gun prior to us starting to work on him because we wanted to make sure that the, the scene was secure. So, we after, I mean, I was probably, look, I think I was looking at him looking for a

¹ The images referenced by [REDACTED] were provided by Braceville Police Chief Fay and were reviewed along with the Braceville incident report.

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pulse, but I was looking and I, it took me, I don't know, 10 seconds, 15 seconds to actually see the gun. (25:32)

██████████'s attorney then asked her if she recalled pointing out the firearm to ██████████, and she advised that was most likely when she first observed the firearm as the officers were attempting to locate the gun to make the scene secure.

SA Lamping asked ██████████ how long it took EMS personnel from Braceville Fire Department to arrive on scene. ██████████ explained:

It was within a minute or so because they were parked down to the left, which would've been south on 534 from where we were at. Um, but because the issue with the chief or whatever was going on with that, um, they had to call for a medic. They only had basic, um, I guess EMS, EMT twos or whatever they were, they weren't any, they couldn't start the line, you know, IV lines or anything like that. They can intubate and things like that. So, we're doing the CPR and trying to get the Lucas which is the CPR machine hooked up on him while we're waiting for EMS or from the, the, um, medics to get there from Newton Falls. (26:28)

██████████ clarified that Adams did not have a pulse when she checked for one.

SA Lamping asked ██████████ if Garland's behavior struck her as odd. She said:

I don't, I don't think so. I think, you know, looking back now, knowing that, that they're friends and stuff, I think he had a little bit of heightened emotion because he just saw his best friend of 50 some years get shot and killed. And I think he had some heightened emotion, but other than that, I don't, you know, he has a tendency to be a little bit of a hot head on occasion. Um, but no, and this comes from a guy that he and I have actually come to almost blows a couple of times. So yeah. He's... (27:39)

SA Lamping asked ██████████ to expand upon her statement about her and Garland almost coming to blows. She explained that she had arguments with Garland about her response to EMS calls and such. She said that they had overcome their disagreements and it was related to Garland's passion for his duties. She specifically recalled one incident where Garland was upset with the way she parked her vehicle during the response to a cardiac incident.

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SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] to explain how Adams was holding his weapon when he fired after being tased. She explained:

He had had the gun. I, um, when I say the gun was everywhere, he had it pointed at us. He had it pointed at his head. He had it everywhere. But he at one time had it pointed at one of the deputies. (29:58)

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if Adams' firearm was pointed at one of the deputies or in between the officers when it fired. She stated:

I don't, I don't recall because when the, when the taser went off I didn't even, it was over here and I couldn't even really see. The taser all I heard, I just heard it, if that makes sense. And then, um, yeah, I don't really remember where the gun was at 'cause it was all over the place. (30:19)

Though [REDACTED] could not recall the specific location the firearm was pointed at, she noted that she felt that she and other officers had been shot at.

The interview concluded at approximately 1421 hours.

It should be noted that [REDACTED] agreed to waive her Garrity protection regarding her BWC footage as it pertains to conversations with supervisors. She also agreed to waive her Garrity protections in relation to a compelled blood alcohol test; however, her attorney stated that she would like to review any drug test results prior to waiving any Garrity protections related to the drug test.

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

12/01/25 1352 HRS

Date / Time

[Redacted]

SA J. M. LANTANA
BCI Agent (Printed)

BCI Agent (Signature)

[Signature] #184