



**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: Witness Officer Interview – Thomas Queen
Involves: Thomas Queen (W)
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 1123 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) Deputy (Dep.) Thomas Queen (Dep. Queen), 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.

Dep. Queen read, stated he understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

Dep. Queen was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 5, 2025, officer-involved shooting which occurred at 10180 Busenburg Road, Howard, Ohio. Reportedly, Dep. Queen did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

Dep. Queen stated that his radio call sign on June 5, 2025, was 4296. He has been employed by the KCSO for about two and a half years. He has been a police officer for approximately nine years. During the incident, Dep. Queen wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He rode as a passenger in KCSO unit #35, a Ford Explorer, marked with KCSO emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated that he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. He does not wear corrective lenses. At the time of this incident, Dep. Queen was assigned as a field training officer to Dep. Joshua Snodgrass (Dep. Snodgrass).

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Dep. Queen provided a written statement regarding the incident. He agreed to read the statement aloud during the interview.

Dep. Queen stated that on the night of the incident he was assigned to work the [REDACTED]. During the shift Dep. Queen, Dep. Snodgrass, and [REDACTED] were dispatched to 10180 Busenburg Road for an open line 911 call. [REDACTED] arrived on scene first and advised over the radio that the other responding unit could disregard it as he had made contact with a resident. Dep. Snodgrass then began to navigate back to their assigned patrol area. A short time later, [REDACTED] requested his back-up unit to return to the scene. While Dep. Snodgrass started back to the residence, [REDACTED] put out another transmission over the radio stating, "step it up." Dep. Snodgrass responded in a quicker fashion, and while doing so [REDACTED] called out, "shots fired" over the radio. Dep. Queen obtained his duty rifle from the passenger side of the cruiser and entered the residence. Dep. Queen heard [REDACTED] yelling inside the residence and entered to assist. He described what he saw as follows:

"I opened the front door with Deputy Snodgrass behind me. I quickly observed a white flickering light on my left toward the kitchen which was [REDACTED] flashlight. I also observed on my right, in the bedroom, a middle-aged male with a younger female, later identified as the suspect's son and granddaughter. (6:51)"

Dep. Queen instructed Dep. Snodgrass to evacuate the son and granddaughter from the residence while he obtained cover in the kitchen. [REDACTED] was giving verbal commands to the subject, later identified as Lloyd Ray (Lloyd). Lloyd then began to fire rounds towards all three deputies. Lloyd did not adhere to the commands from [REDACTED] telling him to drop the firearm. Dep. Queen described the incident as follows:

"Mr. Ray continued to fire rounds and stated things to the effect of: "you think you're a big man" and "let's go." (7:43)"

While rounds were being fired at the deputies, [REDACTED] reported that there was a female in the same room as Lloyd. Dep. Queen heard Lloyd reloading his weapons, and then heard him say, "come on and get me pussy." (8:10) An unknown chemical was released into the residence, which Dep. Queen believed to be a smoke grenade. This caused the deputies to retreat out of the residence along with Lloyd's son and granddaughter.

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Dep. Queen recalled that [REDACTED] took cover in a barn on the property while he and Dep. Snodgrass took cover by the cruisers. Dep. Queen reported that additional shots were fired at deputies and described it as follows:

"At this time, multiple shots were fired from the residence from unknown locations and no deputies could get a visual of Mr. Ray. There were two (2) shots that hit my driver's side door while I was posted up at the "A" pillar of the cruiser. I went to the rear of my cruiser while other units were enroute to our location. I spoke briefly with Mr. Ray's son who advised his father had not taken prior actions indicating this behavior with police. There was several more shots fired by Mr. Ray and then a long pause followed by a single shot. No more shots were fired after this single shot. (8:55)"

Dep. Queen explained that after the shooting ceased, the deputies remained on scene until SWAT arrived and took control of the scene. Dep. Queen also stated that he felt that Lloyd posed an imminent threat to not only deputies, but also the other occupants of the residence:

"Mr. Ray posed a direct and immediate threat to the woman in the room with him and [REDACTED] by grabbing his weapon and shooting the woman. He continued to pose a direct and immediate threat to the other deputies, me, and Mr. Ray's son and granddaughter by pointing and firing his rifle in our direction. (10:14)"

Dep. Queen also stated that he had no prior contact with Lloyd, nor was he aware of the KCSO having prior contact with him.

Following Dep. Queen reading his statement, he signed it. The signed statement is attached to this report. Special agents Lamping and Valente then asked Dep. Queen several follow-up questions.

SA Lamping asked Dep. Queen what his understanding of "step it up" was. Dep. Queen explained that the term usually indicates that something is amiss, and that the responding units should pick up the pace or even initiate an emergency response in some situations.

Dep. Queen also explained that when he used the term "posted up", it referred to him taking cover and steadying his rifle on cover.

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SA Valente asked Dep. Queen if he saw Lloyd while he was inside the residence. Dep. Queen explained that he had not because of the angle he was at, but he stated that he was able to hear Lloyd during the incident.

The interview concluded at approximately 1140 hours.

The interview was audio and video recorded. The recordings can be reviewed in their entirety on AxonJustice.com under Reference Item D – Witness Officer Interviews. The BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form was attached to this report.

References:

Reference Item D – Witness Officer Interviews – Stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. Criminal Investigation Notification (Queen)
2. Deputy Thomas Queen's Written Statement

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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).

Thomas Queen
Printed Name of Interviewee

6-17-25 1124 am
Date / Time

[Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

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

[Signature] #184
BCI Agent (Signature)

Statement of Deputy Thomas Queen, 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 January 31, 2022. Prior to my employment with the Knox County SO, I worked as a Police Officer for Bellville Police Department for approximately six and a half (6.5) years. I completed my Basic Police Officer Training at the Delaware Area Career Center, graduating in August 2015.

I attended high school at Mount Vernon High School and graduated in 2013. I attended the Ohio State University at Newark for one (1) semester in 2014. I have no prior military service.

My current supervisor is Sergeant Brian Sindel. My current assignment is as a Patrol Deputy. I have also served as a Field Training Officer since early 2025. My regularly assigned work hours are from [REDACTED] My regularly assigned workdays are [REDACTED] and my days off are [REDACTED]

I do not wear prescription glasses, 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.

There have been some instances in which I have used less than lethal force, by way of use of hands. All such instances were reviewed and cleared without issue.

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

On the date of the incident, I carried a Palmetto State AR15 rifle, which was issued to me by the Knox County SO. I last qualified for this weapon in July 2024. I carry three (3) magazines for this weapon, each consisting of thirty (30) rounds of ammunition.

I also carry a Glock-17 9mm handgun as my primary duty weapon, which was also issued to me by the Knox County SO. I last qualified for this weapon July 25, 2024. I carry 3 magazines for this weapon, each consisting of seventeen (17) rounds of ammunition. I keep one (1) round of ammunition in the chamber of the weapon.

On my duty belt, I carry (clockwise) the following: keys, primary duty weapon, cuffs, and taser. On my outer vest, I carry my body camera, radio, tourniquet, handcuffs, flashlight, knife, handgun magazines, and notebook.

On Tuesday, June 3, 2025, I was on my [REDACTED] On Wednesday, June 4, 2025, I worked from [REDACTED] On Thursday, June 5, 2025, I started my shift at [REDACTED] and performed routine patrol prior to the incident.

I was well-rested prior to the incident as I had slept approximately six (6) to six and a half (6.5) hours Wednesday afternoon and evening.

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 35. My cruiser does not have in-dash video. My call number is 4296.

II. Incident Narrative.

On June 5, 2025, Deputy Josh Snodgrass, [REDACTED] and I were dispatched to 10180 Busenburg Road in response to an open 911 call. [REDACTED] arrived first and advised Dispatch he was on the scene and had begun investigating. Deputy Snodgrass was driving a two man cruiser with me as passenger and we were close to the residence. We were about to turn onto Staats Road when [REDACTED] advised over the radio he made contact with a male and we could disregard.

Deputy Snodgrass acknowledged and continued on Zuck Road to continue back to Walhonding Road and back to our patrol area. We had made it about a quarter (1/4) mile down the road when [REDACTED] advised us to continue back toward the residence due to him not knowing what was going on and hearing some arguing in the background. Deputy Snodgrass proceeded to turn around at the Zuck Riparian Preserve area and continued back toward Zuck Road. When we got back to Staats

Road, [REDACTED] advised over the radio that he wanted us to "step it up" with no further details.

At this time, Deputy Snodgrass proceeded faster down the roadway and turned onto Busenburg Road. Once onto Busenburg Road, [REDACTED] advised over the radio "shots fired" with no other details. We were now turning up the driveway and came to a stop. I grabbed my duty rifle from the passenger side of the vehicle and started toward the house on foot. Deputy Snodgrass was behind me at this time. I heard [REDACTED] yelling from inside the residence and observed the front door open. I opened the front door with Deputy Snodgrass behind me. I quickly observed a white flickering light on my left toward the kitchen which was [REDACTED] flashlight. I also observed on my right, in the bedroom, a middle aged male with a younger female, later identified as the suspect's son and granddaughter.

I advised Deputy Snodgrass to get them out of the residence as I pushed toward the kitchen and posted up on the kitchen counter with my duty rifle. [REDACTED] then kept giving commands to the male suspect, later identified as Lloyd Ray. At that time, Mr. Ray started firing multiple rounds down the hallway at all three deputies. The home was a trailer and consisted of an open floor kitchen with one hallway, the width of one person, that led to a bedroom. [REDACTED] had the corner of the hallway and kept giving commands to Mr. Ray to drop the weapon.

Mr. Ray continued to fire rounds and stated things to the effect of: "you think you're a big man" and "let's go." I stayed posted up on the counter with my rifle in case Mr. Ray pushed our location and came around the corner. I did not have a visual on him and at some point, [REDACTED] advised there was a female in the same location as Mr. Ray.

After a few back and forth commands from [REDACTED] and me, we could hear Mr. Ray reload his weapon and say things like "come on and get me pussy." He fired a few more shots. A short time later, an unknown chemical was released in the hallway. We initially thought it was a smoke grenade but later found out it was a fire extinguisher. At the time of the chemical release, we retreated back toward the front door along with Mr. Ray's son and granddaughter.

[REDACTED] then went into the pool barn and I advised Mr. Ray's son and granddaughter to get behind the cruiser. I went to the pool barn and then quickly to the driver side of my cruiser where they had gone. I opened my driver's side front and rear doors. They got in the rear of my cruiser and I posted up on the "A" pillar of my cruiser with my rifle. Deputy Snodgrass was taking cover behind the cruiser in front of mine.

At this time, multiple shots were fired from the residence from unknown locations and no deputy could get a visual of Mr. Ray. There were two (2) shots that hit my driver's side door while I was posted at the "A" pillar of the cruiser. I went to the rear of my cruiser while other units were enroute to our location. I spoke briefly with Mr. Ray's son who advised his father had not taken prior actions indicating this behavior with police.

There was several more shots fired by Mr. Ray and then a long pause followed by a single shot. No more shots were fired after this single shot. At that time, deputies held their positions and advised Dispatch that the shots had stopped. Back up units arrived on scene and began setting a perimeter. SWAT later arrived and took control of the scene.

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 light from the automatic outside light and cruiser light. Inside the residence, it was dark but there was some light from a small kitchen light and [REDACTED] flashlight.

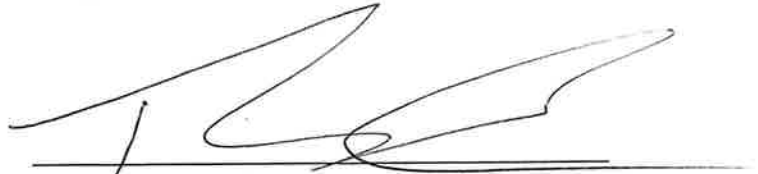
I did not use lethal force in this incident. I also did not witness [REDACTED] use lethal force. However, I believe the lethal force taken by [REDACTED] was consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer. Mr. Ray posed a direct and immediate threat to the woman in the room with him and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] by grabbing his weapon and shooting the woman. He continued to pose a direct and immediate threat to the other deputies, me, and Mr. Ray's son and granddaughter by pointing and firing his rifle in our direction.

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 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. My viewing of the videos has not materially changed my recollection of the events as expressed in my statement.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Deputy Tom Queen

6-17-25

Date