



**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 – Joshua Snodgrass
Involves: Joshua Snodgrass (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 1100 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.) Joshua Snodgrass (Dep. Snodgrass), 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. Snodgrass read, stated that he understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

Dep. Snodgrass was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 17, 2025, officer-involved shooting which occurred at 10180 Busenburg Road, Howard, Ohio. Reportedly, Dep. Snodgrass 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. Snodgrass' radio call sign on June 5, 2025, was 4253. He has been employed by the KCSO for approximately one month. He has not been employed as a police officer elsewhere and was undergoing field training at the time of the incident. During the incident, Dep. Snodgrass wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove 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.

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Dep. Snodgrass provided a written statement which he read aloud during the interview. Dep. Snodgrass explained that he was assigned to the [REDACTED] with his Field Training Officer Dep. Thomas Queen (Dep. Queen) on the night of the incident. He wrote that at 0121 hours he was dispatched to 10180 Busenburg Road along with Dep. Queen and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] arrived on scene first and advised over the radio that the other responding unit could clear the call as he had contacted a male on scene. Dep. Snodgrass went in a different direction after being disregarded, but a short time later a radio call from [REDACTED] requested that his backup return. After the initial request for the backup to return, another request was made for the backup to "step it up." When Dep. Snodgrass arrived on scene, he could hear [REDACTED] giving commands inside the trailer for a person to show their hands. Dep. Snodgrass recalled hearing gunshots from inside the trailer as well.

Dep. Snodgrass entered the trailer and described what he encountered as follows:

"Deputy Queen and I entered the trailer to find [REDACTED] behind a kitchen counter with his weapon drawn, pointing down a short hallway in the trailer, giving verbal commands to an individual at the end of the hallway. This person was later identified as Lloyd J. Ray. Mr. Ray was yelling that he was going to kill us and was shooting down the hallway at us. Deputy Queen took up a cover position to the left of [REDACTED] and I maintained security at the front door through which we had entered. (6:22)"

[REDACTED] told Dep. Snodgrass and Dep. Queen that Lloyd Ray (Lloyd) had "shot a female in the room with him (6:56)" Dep. Snodgrass observed another male in the trailer who was attempting to cover a juvenile with his body. He attempted to evacuate the male and juvenile from the trailer, but they refused. Dep. Snodgrass called out over the radio that shots had been fired, and once again attempted to evacuate the other occupants of the trailer. The male cooperated, picked up the child, and exited the trailer. At roughly the same time, Dep. Snodgrass reported that an unknown chemical agent had been released into the trailer by Lloyd. Following the release of the chemical agent, Dep. Queen and [REDACTED] also evacuated the trailer. Dep. Snodgrass described the actions taken after leaving the trailer as follows:

"Deputy Queen took control of the two individuals and escorted them to the cruiser sitting to, to our cruiser sitting in the driveway. [REDACTED] exited the trailer and entered a barn structure on the property. I took up, I took up cover at the one side rear corner of

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[REDACTED] Cruiser. Mr. Ray was shooting at us out of the windows and doors of the trailer. I advanced to the front of the cruiser, opened the driver's side door, activated the cruiser spotlight and shined it into the window of the one/two corner of the trailer. Made my way back to the rear of the cruiser. Mr. Ray continued shooting at us and at one point a round struck the ground a foot or two away from my position. Deputy Queen also opened the driver's door of his cruiser and activated the spotlight, put on the window, and put it on a window on the one side of the trailer, Mr. Ray fired directly at Deputy Queen, striking the driver's door that Queen was behind. Deputy Queen advised that his cruiser had just been hit. Several minutes passed and we were taking rounds. I was not able to see Mr. Ray in the trailer. (7:38)"

The deputies obtained information from the male that was evacuated from the trailer that Lloyd had hunting blinds set up in the woods around the trailer. It was the male's belief that Lloyd would attempt to make it to the hunting blinds if he could get out of the trailer. The male also reported that Lloyd had a friend nearby that would do anything to help him. Based on the information provided by the male, the deputies attempted to set up a perimeter to prevent Lloyd from exiting the trailer. They held the perimeter until the SWAT team arrived to relieve them. Dep. Snodgrass also provided information about the incident to the SWAT team commanders to assist in formulating a plan of action for the team.

Dep. Snodgrass stated that he had no previous contacts with Lloyd prior to this incident. He also felt that Lloyd posed an immediate threat to him and explained so as follows:

"As to the threat posed by Mr. Ray to me, he clearly posed an immediate threat to me by shooting at me when I exited the trailer and was taking cover as described in the narrative of the incident. He also posed an immediate threat to his male son and granddaughter when they had exited the trailer and when they were taking cover by Deputy Queen's cruiser outside the residence. [REDACTED] and Queen both had threats posed to them as they had exited the cruiser were outside the cruiser seeking cover from the shots fired by Mr. Ray. These threats posed to me and the male son, granddaughter, and [REDACTED] and Queen were immediate threats placed, placing us in death, danger of death or serious bodily harm. While I cannot speak directly to the threat posed to [REDACTED] before I entered the

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trailer, once inside the trailer, Mr. Ray by the weapon he had fired at us, posed a direct and immediate threat to me, Deputy Queen, [REDACTED] the male son, and the granddaughter inside the trailer. These threats were immediate threats of death and or serious bodily harm. (10:53)"

After reading through his written statement, Dep. Snodgrass signed it. The signed statement is attached to this report. Following Dep. Snodgrass' statement, special agents Lamping and Valente asked him several questions.

SA Lamping referenced a section of Dep. Snodgrass' statement that said that he turned his camera on after "much of the incident had taken place" and asked Dep. Snodgrass if this was an accident. Dep. Snodgrass stated that he had only been with the KCSO for three weeks, and he did not immediately think about turning on his camera when there was shooting going on.

Dep. Snodgrass did not report seeing Lloyd, or any muzzle flashes, while outside the trailer, but he did recall a round striking the gravel near him around the same time that Dep. Queen's vehicle had been struck. He believes that either gravel had been kicked up or the round ricocheted into him.

SA Valente asked Dep. Snodgrass about his response to the scene after hearing [REDACTED] state "step it up." Dep. Snodgrass explained that when an officer asks someone to step it up that it typically means that something is about to go wrong. He also stated that it typically means for someone to get there as fast as they can.

The interview concluded at approximately 1120 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 signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form was also attached to this report.

References:

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

Attachments:

1. Criminal Investigation Notification (Snodgrass)
2. Deputy Joshua Snodgrass' 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).

JOSHUA SNODGRASS
Printed Name of Interviewee

6/17/25 11:01 AM
Date / Time

[Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

[Signature] #184
BCI Agent (Printed)

J. M. WAMPALA #184
BCI Agent (Signature)

Statement of Deputy Joshua Snodgrass, Knox County Sheriff's Office
Regarding Incident of June 5, 2025

I. Background.

I began my fulltime employment as a Deputy Sheriff with the Knox County Sheriff's Office ("Knox County SO"), Knox County, Ohio, on May 15, 2025. I am currently in my Field Training. I have had no law enforcement employment prior to being employed by the Knox County SO. I completed my basic police officer training at the Central Ohio Technical College, Newark, Ohio, graduating from my BPOT in May, 2025. I have no previous military experience.

I graduated from Newark High School, Newark, Ohio, in 2002. I completed the Criminal Justice Program in 2002 at the Licking County Joint Vocational School, Newark, Ohio.

As noted, my current assignment is that of a [REDACTED] in Field Training. At the time of the incident, my assigned Field Training Officer was Deputy Tom Queen. My work hours are variable, based upon my FTO assignment. My regularly assigned work days are variable given my FTO assignment.

I do not currently wear prescription glasses, contacts, nor a hearing aid. I am under no physical or mental disability. I take no prescription medications that would interfere with my performance of my law enforcement duties. I consumed no alcohol within eight (8) hours of the start of my shift at midnight on June 5, 2025.

As a law enforcement officer, I have received no discipline relative to the use of force. I have never been the subject of any Internal Affairs investigation relative to the use of force at the Knox County SO. In my law enforcement career, I have never used lethal force nor have I used less than lethal force.

I am familiar with the Use of Force policies of the Knox County SO. I personally last reviewed these policies in May 2025. I also received training as to these policies while in BPOT.

[REDACTED] was my day off. On Wednesday, June 4, 2025 I worked [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I worked no overtime or special duty on either of these days.

I was well rested prior to the start of my midnight shift on June 5, 2025, having slept five and one-half (5 ½) hours to six (6) hours prior to the start of this shift.

On the date of the incident, I was dressed in my standard Patrol uniform for the Knox County SO. I was wearing a body cam issued to me by Knox County SO. I turned on my body cam after much of the incident had taken place. I carried no personal recording device on the date of the incident.

I was driving Cruiser 35 on the date of the incident. This cruiser does not have an in-dash car video. I did not fire any weapon nor use any less than lethal force during the incident.

My duty weapon which I carried on the date of the incident is a Glock 17 Gen 5. This weapon was issued to me by the Knox County SO. I last qualified for this weapon in May 2025. For this weapon I have three (3) magazines, with 17 rounds per magazine, and with one (1) round in the chamber.

On my duty belt, I carry (clockwise) my key clip, a tourniquet, rubber glove pouch, handcuffs, and my duty weapon. On my vest (left side) I carry my extra magazines, my handheld flashlight, pens, notebook, badge and microphone. On my vest (right side) I carry my radio, body camera, notebook, and OC spray.

On the date of the incident, I had no backup weapon. In my left pants pocket, I carried a personal knife.

II. Incident Narrative.

Deputy Queen was my assigned FTO for the shift. At 1:21 a.m., we were dispatched to a 911 hang-up call at 10180 Busenburg Rd. Howard, Ohio where a trailer was located. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also responded to the call.

[REDACTED] arrived at the address before Deputy Queen and me, and made contact with an individual at the address. At that time, [REDACTED] advised us over the radio that we could disregard the call. At that time, we continued down Zuck Rd. Shortly thereafter, [REDACTED] readvised Deputy Queen and me to come back to the residence as he was unsure of what he was dealing with. We turned around and headed back down Zuck Rd. As we turned onto Staats Rd, [REDACTED] advised us on the radio to step it up. We then pulled into the driveway and positioned our cruiser behind Deputy Contrell's cruiser. As we exited the vehicle, we could hear [REDACTED] giving orders to a person in the trailer to show him his hands. I also then heard gunfire inside the trailer.

Deputy Queen and I entered the trailer to find [REDACTED] behind a kitchen counter with his weapon drawn, pointing down a short hallway in the trailer, giving verbal commands to an individual at the end of the hallway. This person was later identified as Lloyd J Ray. Mr. Ray was yelling that he was going to kill us and was shooting down the hallway at us. Deputy Queen took up a cover position to the left of [REDACTED] I maintained security at the front door through which we had entered. [REDACTED] advised that there was a back door down the hallway that Mr. Ray may try to get out of, and that he had shot a female already in the room with him.

To the right of the front door as we entered, there was a second bedroom, inside this bedroom was a young child laying on the bed, there was also an adult male covering the child with

his body, saying please don't kill my dad, I told the male that we needed to move and get them out of the trailer but he refused. I advised on the radio, shots fired. I reached down for the child, and at that time, the male stood up and picked up the child and complied with my instructions.

As I was exiting the trailer with the child and the adult male, Mr. Ray had released some chemical agent that started filling the hallway with gray smoke. This caused [REDACTED] and Deputy Queen to leave the trailer as well. Deputy Queen took control of the two individuals and escorted them to our cruiser sitting in the driveway. [REDACTED] exited the trailer and entered a barn structure on the property. I took up cover at the 1side rear corner of [REDACTED] Cruiser. Mr. Ray was shooting at us out of the windows and doors of the trailer.

I advanced to the front of the cruiser, opened the driver's side door, activated the cruiser's spotlight, and shined it into the window on the 1-2 corner of the trailer, then made my way back to the rear of the cruiser. Mr. Ray continued shooting at us, and at one point, a round struck the ground a foot or two away from my position. Deputy Queen also opened the driver's door of his cruiser to activate the spotlight and put it on a window on the one side of the trailer. Mr. Ray fired directly at Deputy Queen, striking the driver's door that Deputy Queen was behind. Deputy Queen advised that his cruiser had just been hit.

Several minutes passed, and we were taking rounds. I was not able to see Mr. Ray in the trailer. [REDACTED] had exited the barn and advanced around to the four side of the trailer. At that time, we did not have a hard perimeter. The male individual gave us information that there were hunting blinds sat up in the woods behind that trailer and that if Mr. Ray was able to get out of the trailer that he would most likely head to one of the blinds, or he had a friend that lived down over the hill that would do anything he needed to help Lloyd. With this information, it was very important to prevent Mr. Ray from exiting the trailer. [REDACTED] held the four sides for several

more minutes. At that time, we had communicated that we needed to set up a hard perimeter. [REDACTED] advanced to the three side where he could see the back door. It was at this time that the shooting had stopped.

We maintained those positions for what seemed like the next hour or so. SWAT had been activated, along with multiple other law enforcement agencies. I had no radio communication with Deputy Queen or [REDACTED] due to a poor radio signal. Sometime around 3 am, SWAT made it to the top of the hill behind Deputy Queen's cruiser, where they advised me that they were going to provide cover for me to get me out of the target zone. Once I was back with SWAT, I provided them with information as to the layout of the trailer and what had taken place up to that point. Once the briefing was completed, I went down Incident Command to get debriefed and provide tactical information to the command staff so that they could put together a plan of action.

SWAT had decided to move the BEARCAT up the hill. At that time, I was told by the Command to follow the BEARCAT on foot to the top of the hill and remove our cruiser from the driveway to make way to get the BEARCAT in place. I drove the cruiser to the bottom of the driveway, parked it on Busenburg, exited, and locked the vehicle. I engaged in no further activity at the trailer.

The weather on the night of the incident was clear and mild. While there was some interior lighting in the trailer, while we were inside the trailer, most of the lighting was provided by my flashlight and the flashlights of [REDACTED] and Queen.

I did not fire any rounds during the incident.

I had no previous personal fire contact with Mr. Ray.

As to the threat posed by Mr. Ray to me, he clearly posed an immediate threat to me by shooting at me when I exited the trailer and was taking cover as I described in my narrative of the

incident. He also posed an immediate threat to his male son and granddaughter when they had exited the trailer and were taking cover by Deputy Queen's cruiser outside the residence. [REDACTED] and Queen both had threats posed to them when they had exited the cruiser and were outside the cruiser seeking cover from the shots fired by Mr. Ray. These threats, posed to me, the male son, granddaughter, and [REDACTED] and Queen, were immediate threats placing us in danger of death or serious bodily harm.

While I cannot speak directly to the threat posed to [REDACTED] before I entered the trailer, once inside the trailer, Mr. Ray, by the weapon he had fired at us, posed a direct and immediate threat to me, Deputy Queen, [REDACTED] the male son and granddaughter inside the trailer. These threats were immediate threats of death and/or serious bodily harm.

While I did not use force in this incident, I have no doubt, given the actions of Mr. Ray which I observed, that the use of force used by [REDACTED] was justified and there was no less than lethal force which was available to him which would have been as effective in stopping the threat posed by Mr. Ray.

I was not subject to drug testing after the incident.


On June 10, 2025, I had the opportunity to review the body cam video of both Deputy Queen and [REDACTED]. My review of this video has not led me to make any substantial change in my statement.

My statement is made from the best of my recollection as to the incident on June 5, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Deputy Joshua Snodgrass


Date

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