



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



2025-3447

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1642 Cherry Ln., Findlay,
Ohio 45840, Hancock County (L)

Investigative Activity: Crime Scene Examination
Involves: Robert Norton (S)
Activity Date: 10/22/2025
Activity Location: 1642 Cherry Ln. Findlay, Ohio
Authoring Agent: Senior Special Agent David M. Hammond

Narrative:

On 10/22/2025 at 1430 hours, Special Agent David Hammond (S/A Hammond) was contacted by Crime Scene Technician Emily Miller (CST Miller). She advised that the Findlay Police Department contacted the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) for assistance with an Officer Involved Critical Incident. Officers responded to 1642 Cherry Lane for a report of shots fired. When they arrived, the homeowner, Robert Norton, opened the door. Initial information provided to investigators was that Mr. Norton pointed a handgun at officers and two of the four responding officers engaged Mr. Norton at the front door. Mr. Norton was transported from the scene for medical treatment. He later died from his injuries.

The Findlay Police Department requested assistance in examining the crime scene and investigating the incident. The BCI Crime Scene Unit, Force Investigation Unit and Special Investigation Unit responded to the scene. S/A Hammond and CST Emily Miller from the Crime Scene Unit accepted the request. Special Agent Doug Burke was the lead investigator for the Force Investigation Unit and Special Agent Josh Rammel responded from SIU.

S/A Hammond arrived at the scene at 1714 hours. CST E. Miller arrived shortly after. The crime scene was secure at the time of arrival. Officers cordoned off the area with crime scene tape and were actively protecting the scene. S/A Hammond was met by Officer Collins, Sgt. Williams and Sgt. Waldbauer. A search warrant for the scene was obtained by Findlay PD.

The residence is a one-story home that faces the southeast and is situated on the north side of the roadway. The home has white siding with black shutters.

The crime scene was photographed as it was found. Digital images were uploaded to the Matrix database. CST E. Miller digitally mapped the scene utilizing a Leica 360 scanner. The digital scan data was uploaded to the Axon database.

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Examination of the scene began near the front porch area. Findlay Police Officers had placed several placards on the driveway, porch and front yard. They advised that they had marked the locations of several fired cartridge casings to prevent them from being lost or moved during the scene examination.

A search of the area located three (3) fired cartridge casings at the northeast end of the front porch, near the corner of the garage door. Placards 1,2 & 3 were used to identify them. Each of the cartridge casings were Speer 45 Auto.

A fourth fired cartridge casing was located close by on the front porch. This cartridge casing was also a Speer 45 Auto. It was identified with placard 4.



Items 1-4: Speer 45 Auto Cartridge Casings

Item #	Description	Location	Retention
1	Speer 45 Auto Cartridge Casing	Driveway / Edge of Porch	BCI - BG
2	Speer 45 Auto Cartridge Casing	Driveway / Edge of Porch	BCI - BG
3	Speer 45 Auto Cartridge Casing	Driveway / Edge of Porch	BCI - BG
4	Speer 45 Auto Cartridge Casing	Porch	BCI - BG

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Three additional fired cartridge (Speer 9mm Luger) casings were located near the southwest corner of the porch, close to the front door. These cartridge casings were located in the grass, adjacent to the sidewalk (Items 5-7).



Item #	Description	Location	Retention
5	Speer 9mm Luger Cartridge Casing	SW Corner of Porch Near Sidewalk	BCI - BG
6	Speer 9mm Luger Cartridge Casing	SW Corner of Porch Near Sidewalk	BCI - BG
7	Speer 9mm Luger Cartridge Casing	SW Corner of Porch Near Sidewalk	BCI - BG

Examination of the front door area located several suspected Ballistic Impacts (BI).

BI #	Vertical Height	East of Door Distance	Notes	Bullet Recovery
1.0	4' 11"	1' 4"	Point of Origin - East of Door	No
2.0	4' 5 ¾"	10"	Point of Origin - East of Door	No
3.0	4' 3 ¾"	7"	Point of Origin - East of Door	No
4.0	4' 5"	0"	Point of Origin - East of Door	Yes

BI 1.0 was located approximately 4' 11" above the porch and 1' 4" east of the edge of the door. The suspected bullet hole was visually consistent with an entrance hole. The margins were pushed inward and there were no apparent concentrations of gun shot residue. There was a defined parabolic shape on the east side, indicating that the

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projectile originated from a point east of the door. An attempt was made to locate the projectile in the surrounding wood. A trajectory rod was inserted into the wall and indicated that the projectile did not enter the living space of the home. The fired bullet was not recovered.

BI 2.0 was located approximately 4' 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " above the porch and 10" east of the edge of the door. It appears that this projectile impacted the edge of the doorbell, deforming the metal button. The projectile then continued from the east to the west creating an irregular shaped hole in the wood beyond. There was no apparent concentration of gunshot residue. An attempt was made to locate the projectile in the surrounding wood. A trajectory rod was inserted into the wall and indicated that the projectile did not enter the living space of the home. The fired bullet was not recovered.

BI 3.0 was located approximately 4' 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " above the porch and 7" east of the edge of the door. The suspected bullet hole was visually consistent with an entrance hole. The margins were pushed inward and there were no apparent concentrations of gunshot residue. There was a lead in mark on the east side, indicating that the projectile originated from a point east of the door. An attempt was made to locate the projectile in the surrounding wood. A trajectory rod was inserted into the wall and indicated that the projectile did not enter the living space of the home. The fired bullet was not recovered.

BI 4.0 was located approximately 4' 5" above the porch at the east edge of the doorway. The suspected bullet hole was visually consistent with an entrance hole. The margins were pushed inward and there were no apparent concentrations of gunshot residue. It appears that a bullet perforated the east edge of the metal glass door in this area. A portion of the damage was found in the door with the corresponding portion of the damage occurring in the frame itself. This would indicate that the door was shut when projectile perforated the metal frame.

The suspect bullet continued along a southwest trajectory and likely impacted the front door (white – wood construction) at BI 4.3. It appears that a large caliber fired bullet penetrated the door in this area. The area of damage was visually consistent with a "keyhole" impact. This occurs when the bullet impacts an intermediate target, destabilizes and begins to tumble. Portions of the wood were removed, and the fired bullet was collected (Item 12)

A measurement was taken to document how far the door was open when the bullet impacted at BI 4.3. The distance from the east edge of the door to the screen door was measured at approximately 2'. It should be noted that a pair of brown loafer shoes were located inside the space created by the open door.

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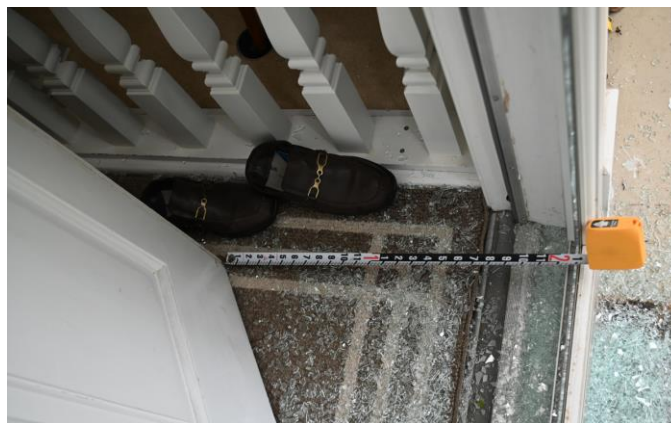


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BI 4.0 & BI 4.3 – Door Opening Measurement – Position of Shoes

The glass portion of the door had completely shattered. Shards of glass were present on the porch and front entry way. As previously mentioned, a pair of brown penny loafer style shoes were located just inside the doorway. The shoes were pointed outward towards the porch. The backs of the shoes were pushed downward, as if the wearer was walking on the backs or configured them for ease of putting them on.

Areas of suspected blood were found in the carpet a few feet inside the door. This was the location where first responders reported finding Mr. Norton. The front door of the home opens into a living room / dining room combination. A search of the area located a black handgun on an orange chair located near a dining room table.

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First responders advised that the handgun (Item 8) was moved to this chair to clear the area for emergency medical care and for their safety. The black handgun was found to be a Daisy Phantom pellet gun. The weapon resembled a compact, composite style handgun with accessory rail under the barrel. The muzzle was black. The weapons serial number was 24A073129.



Item 8 – Black Pellet Handgun

A black cell phone was located on top of the dining room table (Item 9). This phone was a Motorola brand (Model XT24170).

A second Motorola brand phone (Model XT2163DL) was located on the kitchen counter (Item 10). The phone was placed beside three pieces of paper that had been neatly displayed. It appears that Mr. Norton may have left a note prior to the incident. It read:

“Lisa (2 phone numbers listed) – Could not stand one more day in that room –
Had to think of some way to get with Gin + out of this world – Didn’t have my
own gun – Take me to Coldren Crates Funeral Home – Call Daughter (phone
number) – Obituary in Courier and Blade”

The second piece of paper had a printed obituary for Virginia Norton listing the date of passing as October 1, 2025, at Resthaven Maplewood in Holland, Michigan. The third piece of paper was a get-to-know-me sheet for Robert for Resthaven.

Each room of the home was photographed and examined for potential evidence. No additional items of evidentiary value were located. It appeared that the home had not been occupied as a full-time residence in some time. Notes indicated that the water had been turned off. The refrigerator was empty.

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Sgt. Williams of the Findlay Police Department obtained the clothing and personal items from Mr. Norton at the Blanchard Valley Hospital. He provided them to S/A Hammond at 1600 hours.

A copy of the search warrant and inventory form were left inside the home DMH_7262. S/A Hammond and CST Miller cleared from the scene at approximately 1933 hours. CST E. Miller retained the items from Mr. Norton and the evidence recovered from the scene. These items were transported to the Bowling Green Office of BCI. See also forms by CST E. Miller.

Investigation to continue:

References:

Digital Images: Axon Justice Reference

DMH_7003 - DMH_7263

Search Warrant Inventory Forms: Matrix Upload

Evidence to BCI Lab: Matrix Upload

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