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

2026-2566
Officer Involved Critical Incident - State Route 67 and Township Road 8, Republic, OH 44867, Seneca County (L)

Investigative Activity:	Involved Officer Interview
Involves:	[redacted] (S)
Activity Date:	07/22/2026
Activity Location:	Seneca County Sheriff's Office – 3040 OH-100, Tiffin, Ohio
Authoring Agent:	**SA David Hammond #120**

Narrative:

On Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 0904 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) David Hammond (SA Hammond) and SA Ryan Emahiser (SA Emahiser) interviewed Seneca County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) [redacted], who was accompanied by his attorney, Yvonne Wojtas, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at Seneca County Sheriff's Office located at 3040 OH-100, Tiffin, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded at the request of [redacted]'s attorney.

[redacted] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not intend 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. Some answers have been compressed to aid in ease of reading. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

It should be noted that during the interview, law enforcement officials were shown a drone photograph/diagram of the overall scene and final vehicle locations, taken by the Crime Scene Unit. This photograph/diagram (2026-2566 diagram without placards was used to reference locations and movements of persons and vehicles during the incident. A copy of this photograph/diagram has been attached to this report.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

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2026-2566
Officer Involved Critical Incident - State Route 67 and Township Road 8, Republic, OH 44867, Seneca County (L)

Name: [redacted]	**Rank:** [redacted])
Badge Number: [redacted]	**Cruiser/Vehicle Number:** [redacted]
Radio Call Sign: [redacted]	**Immediate Supervisor:** [redacted]
Radio Channel Utilized: N/A	**Mobile Data Terminal:** Not Present
Cruiser Description: Ford Explorer - Marked	**Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:** No additional passengers.
Assignment: [redacted]	**Normal Shift:** [redacted]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	**Spotlight:** Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present; Not Utilized	**Siren:** Present; Not Used
Shift Day of Incident: N/A	**Duty Status:** On-Duty
Days Off: Rotating	**Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:** None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 6	**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: Uniform of Day	**Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:** Taser
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	**Body Worn Camera:** Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	**Partner:** None
Injuries: Cuts [redacted] - Glass	**Equipment Damage:** Damage to cruiser [redacted]
Training or Areas of Specialty: CIT & SRT	**OPOTC Certification:** [redacted] Hocking College # [redacted]
Military Experience/Training: None	**Use-of-Force Training:** SRT Training – CPT – Departmental
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:** None

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Glock	**Model:** 45
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	**Serial:** [redacted]
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	**Method of Carry:** Holster
Magazine Capacity: 17	**Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):** 18
Extra Magazines: 2	**Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:** N/A
Discharged During Incident? Yes	**Primary or Backup Weapon:** Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 12	**Number of Rounds Fired:** 6
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	**Ownership:** Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: 09-09-24 with Exp. Date of 03-17-27	**Type of Holster, if any:** Retention

Narrative:

[redacted] was asked by SA Emahiser if he had any previous calls with Jeffrey Sergent (Sergent). [redacted] indicated that his only prior knowledge came from a discussion the previous night with [redacted]

> At the 06:18 mark, "*Just from a discussion that me and [redacted] had the night before. I'd seen the call and the call log when I looked to see what happened over the weekend. Um, me and [redacted] were just discussing, um, you know, the charge and stuff that was going to be coming down for him. I kind of, I was familiar with the name mm-hmm. But not that I'd ever dealt with him. Um, just knew of him and some issues that they'd had with him in the past. Uh, I knew that there was going to be the felony charge coming down. Yeah. Uh, from, from us for tomorrow on Tuesday. I knew there was going to be that. Other than that, I didn't have much knowledge of him.*"

SA Emahiser asked [redacted] what historical knowledge he heard regarding Sergent.

> At the 07:28 mark, "*Well, he tried to wreck one of our officers in a pursuit like 20 years ago and I was aware that he was in a fight with one of our other deputies about five years ago and tried to take his, or I was informed he tried to take his gun during that whole issue.*"

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[redacted] described how he became involved in the incident on July 7th, 2026.

> At the 08:11 mark, "*So I heard Officer Scherley say on the radio that he was heading, I think they said eastbound on 224. Um, so I just called* [redacted] *and was, asked him if that was, if it was about, uh, Jeffrey Sergent and he said, yeah, we're, they found him, we're trying to get him stopped. And I was like, all right, I'm going to head your guys' way then because I was probably 30 minutes away, inside the county 25 minutes away. Um, so I knew they were, uh, familiar with the area where they were at. They were trying to get him stopped. I knew the other two guys,* [redacted] *were trying to get to the area. Um, so I just kind of started heading that way, just normal traffic. Um, I got about halfway there, and they had got him stopped, uh, at that intersection.*
>
> *Then I heard him say that, uh, he wasn't, he wasn't cooperating or wasn't getting out of the vehicle. It was kind of, kind of hard to understand. I could just, I could tell by their voices that, you know, they were a little, wasn't a normal situation if there is anything normal. But, uh, so I, when I got that, I bumped it up to went lights and sirens to get there. Uh, and then I got three, four minutes out and I heard* [redacted] *call for backup on the radio if anybody else was available. Um, I pulled up on scene."*

[redacted] described who was at the scene and their locations relative to the Sergent's vehicle.

> *At the 10:06 mark, "So when I pulled up on scene, uh,* [redacted] *was on the passenger side trying to talk to, uh, Jeffrey. Uh,* [redacted] *was over by the driver's side kind of rear of the vehicle, which is, I believe that's where Officer Scherley and* [redacted] *were as well. Okay. Um, so I pulled up behind the other vehicles, uh, kind of came up to get an idea of what was going on. I mean, I knew they'd been talking to him for probably 10 to 15 minutes already. Uh, based off the radio traffic, he wasn't being cooperative. It was a felony traffic stop. Um, you know, at that point none of us had, nobody had their, their guns or anything out. They were just trying to talk to him to get him out of the vehicle. Uh, nobody was yelling."*

[redacted] related that he initially tried to assess what was happening and made contact with [redacted] at the scene. He stated that [redacted] asked him to move his marked patrol vehicle to a better spot in the intersection to prevent Sergent from fleeing.

> At the 11:32 mark, "[redacted] *asked me to move my, my cruiser around here, uh, just in case he decided to try to, to flee the area that way we didn't have, you*

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know, another safety concern if somebody was coming down the road here or if he did take off, you know, and we're in a pursuit then that, you know, somebody could have gotten hurt or something like that. So, I pulled my car around here in case he tried to go around."

[redacted] explained that he and [redacted] were communicating about the use of a glass punch if it became necessary to remove Sergent from the vehicle at some point.

At the 12:40 mark, "*I had given my window punch to* [redacted] *you know, we can't felony warrant, we can't, you know, safety concerns be on the side of the road forever. Um, he ended up handing it back to me, uh, when I came around, which, you know, I took as he wanted me to go ahead and do, you know, punch the window out if it got to that point.*"

[redacted] described moving to the driver's side of the vehicle to attempt to get Sergent to exit the vehicle.

At the 13:07 mark, "*So once I moved my car, I came not, you know, this was back here further, his truck was. So, I came around to the passenger or driver's side. Uh, you know, when I came around, I don't remember if the windows were up already or not. Um, but I remember asking, either asking him to open the door or something along those lines. And then he started getting elevated and yelling and was refusing to listen. I, I said,* [redacted] *or* [redacted] *did most of the talking. You know, I don't want to, you know, we don't want to me talking on top of that's not going to solve anything. Um, if he's, you know, confused about who he needs to listen to. Uh, I think I told him that I was going to break the window out when we got to that point. Um, I waited until I asked* [redacted] *you know, do you want me to do it?*

[redacted] related that [redacted] told him to break the glass in an effort to get Sergent out of the vehicle.

At the 14:09 mark, "I waited for him to give me the go ahead. Um, at that point, based off of the knowledge I had of him, I was expecting a giant fight when, when we popped the window out. Uh, so I, I asked for somebody [redacted] *to grab a baton so they could break the window after we popped it that way when we tried to pull him out, we didn't get all cut up."*

[redacted] told investigators what happened next.

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> At the 15:00 mark, "*As soon as I did that, uh, he threw it in gear. I believe he went in reverse, turned the wheel. I had to kind of step back when he turned the wheel. So, the front of the vehicle didn't hit me. Uh, when he backed up and hit the guardrail, he was just squared up straight with me. Um, I remember drawing my gun and as soon as he started driving, he was driving straight at me and uh, he was afraid he was going to hit me. And I didn't know exactly where [redacted] was, but I knew [redacted] had had to be pretty close to me because he was standing right next to me and [redacted] or [redacted] had moved off to the side when he backed it up or when he, as soon as he started going forward towards me, like, oh shoot.*"

[redacted] indicated that Sergent's actions with his vehicle took place very quickly. He was asked if he recalled Sergent saying anything prior to accelerating in reverse.

> At the 16:10 mark, "*I just, I remember him screaming. Just, I mean, he had, from when I got there, I mean he was yelling, but you could you could hear words like, what he was saying. I don't remember, off the top of my head. Yeah, I just, I remember when we first, when I first got there, they were still talking to him and he was yelling, but he was understandable. And by the time we were, by the time I spoke with [redacted] got the approval to move to our next step to try to remove him from the vehicle. Um, he was screaming and I couldn't understand what he was saying at that point. I mean, he was, he was in a more elevated [state]. How, what the best way to describe it. Like, he was no longer listening to like communicating. Yeah, he wasn't communicating with us at that point like he was when we had originally gotten there. I was expecting a fight when we popped the window open, not that.*"

[redacted] further described avoiding being hit by the truck and how he came to be in front of it. He related that he feared for his life and the lives of the other law enforcement officials.

> At the 17:56 mark, "*I jumped back pretty much to avoid being struck. I jumped back, um, to move initially and then once I had, I had moved back and [redacted] had moved back. The way that he turned when he did that also took me from the driver's side of the vehicle, you know, halfway back by, pretty much by the bed of the vehicle to standing in between the front of the vehicle and the guardrail. So, then when he hit, hit the accelerator and started driving straight towards me, I, you know, I feared, feared for my life and the other guys that were out there.*"

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[redacted] advised that he didn't recall making contact with the GMC truck until he watched his body worn camera. He described his reaction to the vehicle moving towards him.

> At the 19:05 mark, *"I remember backing up initially when he first turned the wheel and started going backwards. I remember backing up at that point. And then the next thing that I, I, remember was having my gun out. I remember shooting, I don't remember how many times. And then I remember going out afterwards checking, make sure that he wasn't going to be able to move the vehicle again and, and hurt us and then I shut the vehicle off."*

[redacted] further related his concerns for those around him at the scene.

> At the 20:10 mark, "*I was worried about all of us. I just didn't know where all of us scattered to when it started. Yeah. I mean, everybody had to move and you know, when he went backwards, he, we had two guys that were back by kind of not in between the back of his car and, and Bloomville cruiser, but I mean, they were back in that area and I didn't know, you know, where they went when he, he put it in reverse, you know, if they went, you know, if they were behind his vehicle when he was turning or I just, I knew they were off to my, my right from where I was at. And then* [redacted] *just when he went back, I know he went towards the guardrail, whether or not, I don't really, I don't wanna say I lost track of him, but I mean, I didn't know in reference to his vehicle. I mean, he was straight in line with me and so I knew there was nobody behind him. Yeah. Um, but I don't know where, I didn't know if any of the other people got hit initially, uh, or where everybody ended up after we all scattered, but try and get out of the way."*

[redacted] related that if Sergent had been able to flee the immediate area, there was a risk to passing motorists, along the busy highway intersection. He also described the law enforcement official's restraint with Sergent and attempts to deescalate the situation.

> At the 22:51 mark, "*The whole time I was there, we never had our guns out. Which, I mean, on a typical felony traffic stop, we would, um, you know, on a, on a typical felony vehicle take down, you know, you're behind him, guns are out ordering them out of the vehicle to come back. But when I got there, they were trying to calm him down, speak with him, get him out of the vehicle. Um, but I said it's a felony traffic stop on the side of a inter or at an intersection on the side of a busy road that, I mean, can't, there's, there's steps that would have to be taken to try to end this as safe as possible.*

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I know they had been negotiating with him for 10 to 15 minutes already before I got there. And at that point, you know, the next step to try to remove him from the vehicle because I mean, I check, I remember checking the door before I popped the window out. The door was still locked. So best thing that we could try to do to get him out is to break the window and try and pull him out of the car, whether that's through the window or whether we can get the door open and pull him out through the door then. Yep. Um, you know, that was the plan was to remove him from the vehicle since he didn't want to.

Since he, he wasn't listening to the commands and stuff that were being given to him. And then, I mean I can't control what he did at that point. I just had to react to the situation that was creative when he backed up and almost it us."

[redacted] was asked if a vehicle was a deadly weapon.

At the 25:10 mark, "*Yes. That's defined in the ORC as one of the, the things that could be a deadly weapon."*

[redacted] was asked what type of injuries he may have suffered if Sergent's vehicle had impacted him.

At the 25:39 mark, *"It probably would've killed me as hard as if he hit the front of my car and the guard rail when we were at the reverse."*

[redacted] described what went through his mind as the GMC moved forward towards him.

At the 30:04 mark, "*I just thought, uh, crap, I'm going to have to do this All. I, I, just remember drawing my gun and then I just, I didn't have any other options."*

[redacted] was asked about [redacted] location behind the GMC just prior to breaking the driver's window glass and the precaution that he took in asking her to move to a better location [guard rail area on driver's side].

At the 30:37 mark, "[redacted] *was kind of in between the back of his vehicle in the front of the Bloomville cruiser. Um, I mean, just in case he did back straight up, I just didn't want her in between them. If, you know, if he, if he backed straight up and she was behind the vehicle, I just didn't want her to get hit. And there's always a chance I, I, know I can't control his actions, but you know, when I do something or any of us do something, everybody always reacts to it. So, there was a chance that he was going to back up. I just didn't want her to get hit."*

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[redacted] indicated that he felt he did all that he could do within his training and experience as a deputy sheriff.

The interview concluded at approximately 0936 hours.

The audio recording was uploaded to Axon Evidence.com as Reference Item L – Involved Officer Interviews Axon Capture Audio 2026-07-22 090422 [redacted] The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

Reference Item L – Involved Officer Interviews Axon Capture Audio 2026-07-22 090422 [redacted]

Attachments:

1. [redacted] Criminal Investigation Notification Form
2. 2026-2566 Diagram without placards

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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

7/22/2026 9:05
Date / Time

[redacted]

BCI Agent (Printed)

BCI Agent (Signature)



BCI Case Number:	Location:	Date of Occurrence:
2026-2566	E Township Rd. 8 & SR 67, Republic, OH	Jult 7, 2026
Offense:	**Involved Agency:**	**Lead Investigator:**
Officer Involved Critical Incident	Seneca County Sheriff's Office	Special Agent Hammond

Drawn By:
Emily Miller, Crime Scene Technician - Overhead Diagram w/o Placards