



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



2025-3488
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 371 SR 180, Chillicothe,
OH 45601 (L)

Investigative Activity: Civilian Witness Interview
Involves: Tonya Rothe
Activity Date: 10/26/2025
Activity Location: 28 N. Paint Street, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601
Authoring Agent: SA Amanda North

Narrative:

On Sunday, October 26, 2025, at 2017 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Amanda North (SA North) and SA Josh Schlie (SA Schlie) interviewed Tonya Rothe (Tonya), relative to the officer-involved critical incident which took place on Sunday, October 26, 2025. The interview took place at the Ross County Sheriff's Office, located at 28 N. Paint Street, in Chillicothe. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

Tonya stated that the incident started when visitors to the tow yard next door parked in the Rothe's driveway. Tonya indicated that it had been an ongoing issue for a year and a half to two years. Tonya stated that she told the visitors to move the vehicle because the driveway wasn't part of the tow yard. Tonya further stated that the Rothe's had been in communication with the owner of the tow yard and had asked them to put a sign up, because their visitors were blocking Tonya's son from being able to exit the driveway.

Tonya stated that she, her son, and daughter were all down at the driveway when Bryan Rothe (Bryan) pulled up on the tractor and also told the visitors to move the vehicle or Bryan would move it with the tractor.

Tonya further stated that the tow truck operator had been outside and told the visitors that it was okay to park in the Rothe's driveway.

Tonya stated that a man in jeans and a camouflage shirt or hat came onto her property and started fighting with Bryan. Tonya said the tow truck driver, wearing a reflective shirt, came around the tree and grabbed Bryan, which prompted Tonya's son, Wesley Rothe (Wesley) to grab the tow truck driver, and began fighting.

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Tonya assumed that Bryan got off of the tractor because the man in camouflage had come onto the property and was near Tonya, and Bryan may have believed that the man was "coming at her."

Tonya stated that following the altercation, one of the men were looking for their glasses on the ground and somebody said they were calling the police. Tonya stated that the owner of the tow yard showed up and told the tow truck driver that he "should have beat his ass."

Tonya believed everything was over, but one of the females then "started running her mouth" and Tonya told the female to get back to the tow yard property.

Tonya stated that Bryan then moved the tractor to the top of the driveway and went back to the house.

Tonya said the police arrived and took all of the Rothe's information and then told the daughter to go back to the house to get Bryan. According to Tonya, Bryan had stated that he wasn't coming back out because he thought things would get started again, but the police had said that nothing would happen because they were there.

Tonya stated that the police then went back toward the back house, at the fence, and told Bryan that he was under arrest. Tonya stated, "they all were fighting, why was Bryan the only one that was going to go?" Tonya said that Bryan said no and then the police tased Bryan, and Bryan ran back into the house. Tonya then said, "I'm still back by the fence and the next thing I know, shooting, he was at the door at the mesh screen, and then they started shooting."

Tonya said that she had looked up and Bryan had a gun, but she didn't believe that he had fired it. Tonya said that "all three of them started shooting" and that Bryan went down to his knees and Tonya heard Bryan say, "you got me" or "you shot me." Tonya said that Bryan fell over and she went to run to him but was then arrested by one of the officers that fired his weapon. Tonya was told to stay back by the fence with her kids that had come back after the shooting, until they put her in the cruiser.

Tonya said she saw the officers doing chest compressions on Bryan. The ambulance arrived and Tonya heard somebody say that they "pronounced him at 3:57."

Tonya clarified that Bryan had been holding a rifle in the position as if to fire. Tonya could not recall any of the officers telling Bryan to drop his rifle or put it down. Tonya did not know how many gunshots she heard but said "a lot."

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Tonya said that after the police shot Bryan, the three deputies were walking back toward the fence/gate and one of them threw his hat and said something about a misdemeanor.

The interview concluded at approximately 2043 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording is attached to this report. Please see the attachment for further details.

References:

- None

Attachments:

- Tonya Rothe audio interview

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