



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



2024-3954

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 3487 Belmont Avenue,
Youngstown, Ohio, 44505

Investigative Activity: Subject Vehicle Processing
Involves: Liberty Township Police Department
Activity Date: 12/20/2024
Activity Location: 1315 Churchill-Hubbard Rd, Youngstown, Ohio 44505
Authoring Agent: S/A Chad Doran #177

Narrative:

On 12/20/2024 at 1000 hrs., BCI CSU Special Agents Larry Hootman and Chad Doran responded to the Liberty Township Police Department (LTPD), 1315 Churchill-Hubbard Rd, Youngstown, Ohio 44505, for evidence processing on the subject vehicle from the officer-involved critical incident on 12/16/2024 at Harbor Freight Tools, 3487 Belmont Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44505. BCI SIU Special Agent Joseph Goudy obtained written consent to search the vehicle from the registered owner, Sally Cowan.

Agents contacted LTPD Detective Jeff Palmer and were escorted to the secure garage where the vehicle had been stored. The subject vehicle, a white 2001 Jeep Grand Cherokee, VIN 1C4RJKAG1M8160830, bearing Ohio registration KMQ4492, was photographed as it was found.



Fig. 1: The involved 2001 Jeep Grand Cherokee.

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Several ballistic impacts were observed in the passenger cabin of the vehicle, to include the driver's side "B" pillar, driver's door, steering wheel, driver's side headliner / sun visor, and dashboard. S/A Doran obtained photographs of the ballistic impacts with and without scale. S/A Doran then deployed the Leica BLK360 scanner and documented the passenger cabin with the scale placards in place.

Once the vehicle had been documented, agents conducted a search of the passenger cabin. On the floor of the driver's area, agents located two fired projectiles (evidence items 10 and 11), a fixed blade knife inside a nylon sheath (item 12), and a Motorola touchscreen cell phone (item 13). The projectiles and cell phone were sealed into paper envelopes, and the knife was sealed in a cardboard box.



Fig. 2: Fired projectiles (items 10 and 11, circled) on the floor of the driver's area.

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Fig. 3: A fixed blade knife in a nylon sheath and a Motorola cell phone on the driver's floor.

A projectile fragment (item 14) was found to have terminated in the front row headliner near the rear-view mirror. It was recovered from the headliner and photographed with scale, then sealed into a paper envelope.



Fig. 4: Ballistic impact in the front row headliner where the projectile fragment (item 14) was recovered. The front right corner of the driver's sun visor is visible at right.

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Fig. 5: The recovered projectile fragment.

A green “Buck” brand folding knife was located on the front passenger seat. It was photographed and sealed into a cardboard box.



Fig. 6: Green “Buck” folding knife on the front passenger seat.

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On the left second row seat, agents located a black tote bag with one ballistic impact on the side of it. A fired projectile (item 16) was found inside the bag. It was photographed and sealed into a paper envelope.



Fig. 7: Black tote bag from the left second row seat. A ballistic impact is marked with a scale.

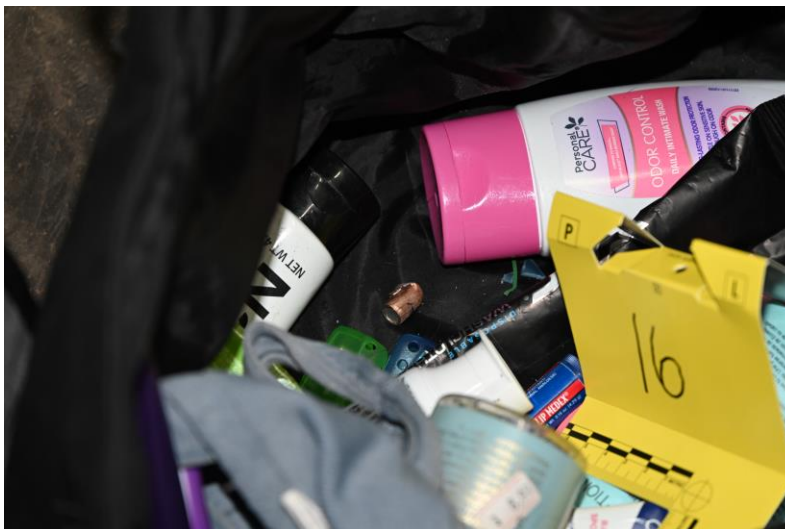


Fig. 8: A fired projectile located inside the tote bag shown in fig. 7.

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A second touchscreen cell phone was found on the floor of the second row. It was sealed into a paper envelope.

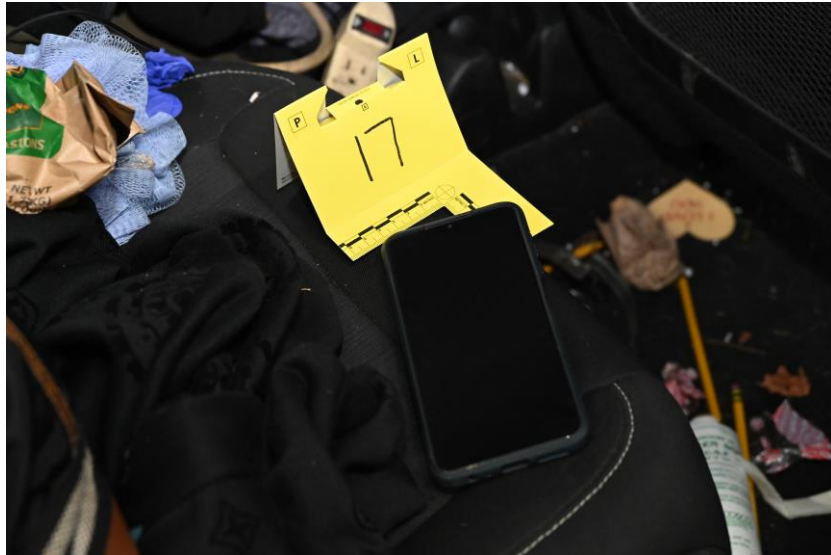


Fig. 9: Touchscreen cell phone found on the second-row floor.

Detective Palmer advised agents that, after the initial crime scene was processed on 12/16/2024, one of their township maintenance workers went to Harbor Freight Tools the following day. He located a fired cartridge casing in the parking lot and brought it to LTPD where it was turned over to LTPD Captain Ray Buhala. The cartridge casing was secured into LTPD evidence until BCI agents arrived for the vehicle processing. The fired cartridge casing, which was already sealed in a paper envelope with an LTPD evidence label, was turned over to S/A Doran and collected as item 18.

All evidence collected was transported by S/A Doran to BCI Richfield, where it was secured into a temporary evidence storage locker.

The CSU photographs and evidence receipt were uploaded to Matrix. The scan data was later prepared for viewing using the Leica Cyclone Register360 software and was transferred to the "BCI Scanner" folder on the shared directory.

References: None

Attachments: None

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