



**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary**



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – Portage Hike and Bike
Trail near North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

To: Connie Lewandowski, Portage County Prosecutor
Cc: SAS Charles Moran, Special Agent Supervisor, Ohio BCI
From: SA Allison Fletcher, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
Date: December 30, 2024
Involves: Matthew Fries, RPD [REDACTED] and RPD [REDACTED]
Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage Hike and Bike Trail near North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266
BCI Case Numbers: Special Investigations (SIU): 2024-3294
Crime Scene (CSU): 2024-3294
Cyber Crime (CCU): 2024-3294
BCI Laboratory: 24-37623

Investigative Request

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at approximately 1148 hours, The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by the Ravenna Police Department (RPD) to conduct an independent investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting which occurred on the Portage Hike and Bike Trail near North Freedom Street in Ravenna, Ohio, Portage County, 44266. The shooting incident involved a subject identified as Matthew Fries (Fries) and RPD [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. During the incident, Fries confronted officers with a large axe and knife and was shot multiple times. Fries was later pronounced dead on scene. The BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) and the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) were requested to investigate the incident.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the October 22, 2024 officer-involved shooting in Portage County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail have not been presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

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This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher from the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) was assigned as the lead investigator. She received assistance from BCI SIU SA Nick Valente, SA Joseph Goudy, SA Cory Momchilov, SA William Conn, and SA Jesse Bynum.

BCI CSU SA Dan Boerner and SA Lurna McClintock documented and collected pertinent evidence at the scenes.

BCI Criminal Intelligence Analyst Gabrielle Kendall obtained records and background information utilized in the investigation.

The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Charles Moran.

Various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Responded to and processed the crime scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, 3D scanning, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- Audio recorded interviews of two civilian witnesses to the incident during the neighborhood canvass
- Audio recorded interviews of two fire department/EMS personnel who were witnesses during the incident
- Video recorded interviews of the two officers involved in the use of force
- Video recorded interviews of two witness officers who were on scene during the incident

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- Audio recorded interview of the involved subject's girlfriend
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to the care of the involved subject
- Obtained and reviewed records of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subject, including criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Reviewed relevant dispatch/CAD reports generated by the Ravenna Police Department
- Reviewed the Ravenna Police Department's incident report and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, (excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement)
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident (no dash cam available)
- Review of all available surveillance videos which captured any portion of the incident
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officers involved in the incident
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding Use of Force
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations, to include:
 - Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
 - Firearm operability testing
 - DNA
 - Latent print identification

Incident Summary/Overview

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at approximately 1103 hours, an unidentified female named "Beth" contacted 911 stating there was a male on the Hike and Bike Trail near North Freedom Street who had been stabbed. Beth did not witness the stabbing, nor did she observe anyone else in the area. Beth left the area for her own safety. A second 911 call was received confirming someone had been stabbed on the Hike and Bike Trail. The second caller also did not see any other subjects in the area. While the

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second caller was on the phone with 911, they relayed information given by the stabbing victim that the person who stabbed him was below State Route 14 near the trail.

RPD [REDACTED] and Joshua Twigg (Twigg) were dispatched to the Hike and Bike Trail near North Freedom Street in Ravenna, Ohio. [REDACTED] and Officer Matthew Meyers (Meyers) also responded to the location.

Officer Twigg arrived at the Hike and Bike Trail first. He was flagged down by a subject in a blue shirt and bike helmet. This male was later identified as Jack Chandler (Chandler). Chandler led Officer Twigg to the stabbing victim, Larry Burghy (Burghy), who was lying on the ground on the Hike and Bike Trail. Burghy had been stabbed multiple times in the arm and buttock. While speaking with Burghy, Officer Twigg observed someone quickly approaching their location from the area under the bridge.

Moments later, [REDACTED] arrived at the Hike and Bike Trail and stood to the left of Officer Twigg. Officers Twigg and [REDACTED] began walking east on the trail towards the approaching the subject. Officers observed the subject holding some kind of weapon. They initially believed the weapon might be a sword or hatchet.

Officers began giving commands for the subject to “stop,” “drop the weapon,” and “get on the ground.”

The subject was a shirtless, bald, white male, wearing dark-colored pants, and carrying a double-sided axe in one hand and a knife in the other.

Officer Meyers arrived at the Hike and Bike Trail and stood to the left of Officer [REDACTED] arrived moments after. The officers formed a line spanning the width of the Hike and Bike Trail.

The officers repeatedly gave the subject commands to drop the weapons and get on the ground. The subject did not comply and continued to approach.

When the subject was approximately fifteen feet away from the officers, [REDACTED] fired their guns almost simultaneously, striking the subject in multiple locations.

The subject, identified as Matthew Fries, fell to the ground and succumbed to his injuries. Police and fire personnel attempted to render aid to Fries. However, he was pronounced dead on scene.

A large double-sided axe and curved blade knife were moved by RPD officers from the area where Fries fell to the ground. These items were later collected by BCI CSU during

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processing.

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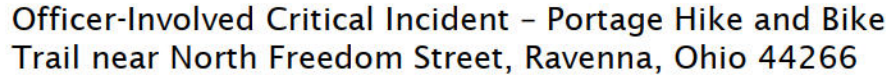
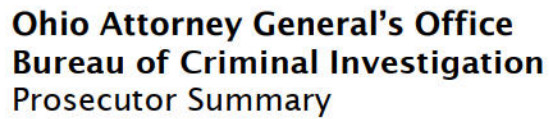
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Matthew Fries was identified as the involved subject in the officer-involved shooting that occurred on October 22, 2024. Fries was shot multiple times and was pronounced dead on scene.

Background information for Fries was compiled and reviewed. It included researching past police reports involving Fries, criminal history records, court records, open/closed source database inquiries and social media posts.

A LexisNexis report was obtained and reviewed. Nothing relevant to the investigation was noted.

The chart below lists all entries on Fries' CCH:

[illegible]

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[illegible]

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	Department	sex offender (F) Escape (F) Parole Violation (F)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Gang Affiliations

According to information received from the Ohio Law Enforcement gateway (OHLEG), a security threat analysis was completed which found Fries to be [REDACTED]

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Social Media

Fries had multiple Facebook profiles. They were located and identified with the following usernames:

- Matthew James Fries (Matt)
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100075938885986>.
- Matt Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565028802988>
- Matthew Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559723042357>
- Matthew Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555292318253>
- Matt Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091664472922>
- Matthew Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091376179082>
- Matthew Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082094773028>
- Matthew Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081441087905>
- Matthew James Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077689856134>
- Matthew James
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077065855768>
- Matthew Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100073919082787>
- Matthew Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100073375263866>
- Matthew Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/matthew.fries.353>
- Matt Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/matt.fries.566>
- Matt Fries
<https://www.facebook.com/matt.fries.7>

One Instagram account was located and identified with the following username:

- Dubliner4life32

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<https://www.instagram.com/dubliner4life32/>

Nothing relevant to the shooting incident was located on any of publicly available social media profiles.

Prior Law Enforcement Contacts

The RPD provided all the prior encounters the agency had with Fries. Below is a summary of those prior encounters.

October 1, 2021

Ravenna Police Department – Incident #2212740011

Call Type: Suspicious Person

RPD received information about a male walking around the RPD station at 0323 hours. When officers encountered the male, he was recognized as Fries from prior encounters. Officers indicated that Fries was outside removing his pants and underwear and attempted to place them into the drug take back box. When asked what he was doing, Fries told officers that he had drugs on him and wanted to place them into the box. Fries put his clothes back on soon thereafter. Fries told officers that he just got released from the Portage County Justice Center and he has no money or cell phone. Officers eventually transported Fries to University Hospital for a voluntary evaluation.

[REDACTED]

Ravenna Police Department – [REDACTED]

Call Type: Suspicious Activity

RPD responded to a suspicious activity complaint involving Fries and NEO MED Police Department. Fries said he was trying to get home to Akron. Upon further investigation into the matter, officers discovered that Fries was medically cleared from University Hospital. Furthermore, officers contacted the Oriana house and determined that Fries was supposed to be there. Fries was eventually dropped off at the Oriana house in Akron without incident.

December 13, 2021

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Ravenna Police Department – 2213470074

Call Type: Warrant Other Agency

While RPD officers were checking the area around City Park for gunshots, they encountered Fries riding a bicycle around the park. Officers recognized Fries from a previous encounter. Officers asked Fries if he heard any gunshots in the area, and he replied that he did not. After officers ran Fries through LEADS, it was determined that Fries had a felony warrant through the Adult Parole Authority. After Fries was advised that he had a warrant, Fries said, “fuck that” and began to ride away on his bicycle. At that time, Fries resisted arrest and tried to escape. Fries was eventually taken into custody and transported to the Portage County Justice Center. After Fries was turned over to the correction officers, he fought with them which resulted in Fries getting tased and placed into a restraint chair.

January 13, 2024

Ravenna Police Department

Call Type: Warrant Other Agency

Fries turned himself in on two active misdemeanor warrants through University Hospital Police Department and the Portage County Sheriff's Office.

August 28, 2024

Ravenna Police Department

Call Type: Warrant Other Agency

It was reported that a female, identified as Kimberly Hutchings (Hutchings), living in a tent with her boyfriend, Fries, had two active warrants. One warrant was through Streetsboro Police Department and another through Geauga County Sheriff's Office. Hutchings was eventually placed under arrest and turned over to Streetsboro Police Department.

Ravenna Police Department

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Call Type: Disorderly Conduct

While responding to a brush fire, officers were flagged down by a passerby indicating that a male, later identified as Fries, threw something at his vehicle. When officers located Fries nearby, they attempted to speak with him. Fries became irate and approached the officer's driver's side door. Fries was yelling at the officer and the complainant. When officers were able to speak with Fries, he came off as sweaty and was also talking fast. It was reported that Fries also was pacing back and forth during this encounter. Fries was eventually taken into custody and questioned about the brush fire. Fries admitted to setting the fire which started inside his tent. Fries said the reason he set the fire was to spread awareness for the "Hep C community" where his tent was located. Fries eventually invoked his right to an attorney before answering any more questions.

For additional details refer to the Investigative Report titled *2024-10-28: CCH, Social Media, Prior LE Contacts Review*.

Jessica Kotecki – Subject's Girlfriend

After the shooting incident, Jessica Kotecki (Kotecki), requested to speak to law enforcement about Fries. She agreed to an interview that was conducted over the telephone and it was audio recorded. The purpose of the interview was to gather background information on Fries and his demeanor and behavior the day/hours prior to the shooting incident. Below is a summary of the interview:

Jessica began the conversation by discussing her relationship with Fries. She met Fries approximately eleven years ago at a friend's house. Jessica had recently ended a violent relationship with her ex-boyfriend, who had allegedly stabbed her multiple times. While at the friend's house, she observed Fries playing with knives which "scared her" due to her recent victimization. Fries "put the knives away" and began to "comfort" Jessica. Jessica and Fries became friends and would not begin a romantic relationship until August 15, 2024.

Jessica was originally from Streetsboro, Ohio and Fries was originally from an unknown city in Alabama. Fries did not have any permanent residence after coming to Ohio and would often sleep at different friend's houses or hotels when he could afford them. When Jessica and Fries began their relationship, they would often stay at hotels or friends' houses together.

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Jessica was able to provide additional background information on Fries which included some of his medical diagnoses and prescribed medications. According to Jessica, Fries was diagnosed with schizophrenia, "split personality" disorder, anxiety, depression, and bi-polar disorder. He was also prescribed six or seven different medications, although Jessica could not recall specific medication names. She did recall Fries taking a "night terror" medication every night before bedtime to help with his night terrors. Fries was not known to be suicidal and never made any suicidal statements to Jessica. Fries would often make comments about wanting to be a "better person," or feeling "like a failure."

Jessica mentioned Fries' love of knives and how he always had a knife on his person. She also recalled a few altercations that involved Fries carrying a knife.

The first incident occurred at an unknown date at "Kurt's" house where Fries was temporarily staying. Fries was "playing with his knives" and allegedly dropped one of his knives on the floor. An unknown person "stepped on" the knife causing Kurt to kick Fries out of the house. Kurt did not allow Fries to gather his personal belongings prior to leaving, including his prescribed medication. This caused Fries to become very upset and stressed.

The second incident occurred a few weeks prior to the shooting incident. Fries got into a physical altercation "at the tents" (referring to the tent encampment that was located near the Hike and Bike Trail off of North Freedom Street) with a male named "Carl." During the altercation, Fries had a knife on him. Jessica did not know if the knife was used during the altercation. At some point, one of the tents caught fire and the police responded. Jessica could not provide any additional details on the incident.

A few days prior to the officer-involved shooting incident, Fries relapsed and began using drugs and stopped taking his prescribed medications. Jessica told Fries to get help and said she could not be around him until he was sober. This caused Fries to become very upset and irate.

The day prior to the shooting incident, Fries began sending "threatening" text messages to Jessica stating he was going to come to her place of work to see her. Fries continued to text Jessica but never showed up. Jessica talked to him the next day (10/22/24 – day of the shooting incident) at 0400 hours. During the conversation, Jessica and Fries made plans to see each other later that day. After the phone call ended, Fries sent a text message to Jessica stating he loved her, that he was sorry, and that he would see her later that day.

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That was the last time Jessica heard from Fries. She was then notified by friends of Fries' involvement in the officer-involved shooting incident.

For additional information refer to the audio recording and the investigative report titled *2024-10-24: Phone Interview – Jessica Kotecki*.

Autopsy – Matthew Fries

The autopsy report for the decedent (Matthew Fries) was obtained from the Portage County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Below are screen shots of the "ANATOMIC DIAGNOSES" section contained on page one (1) of the report.

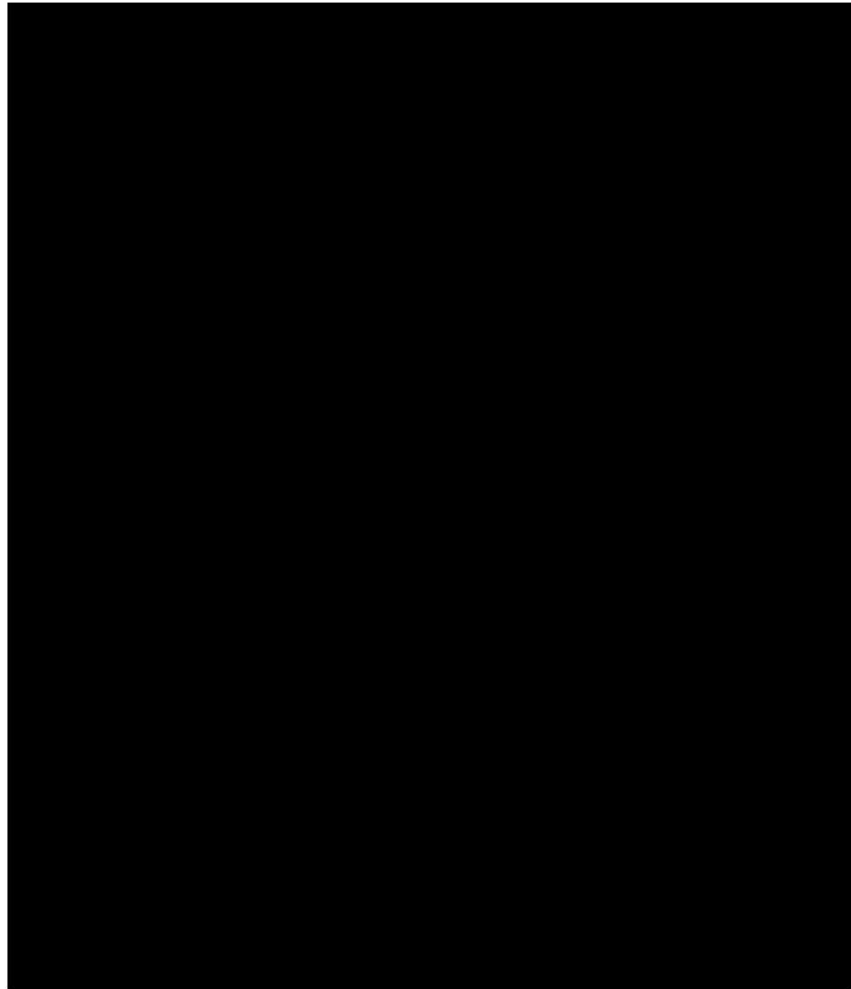
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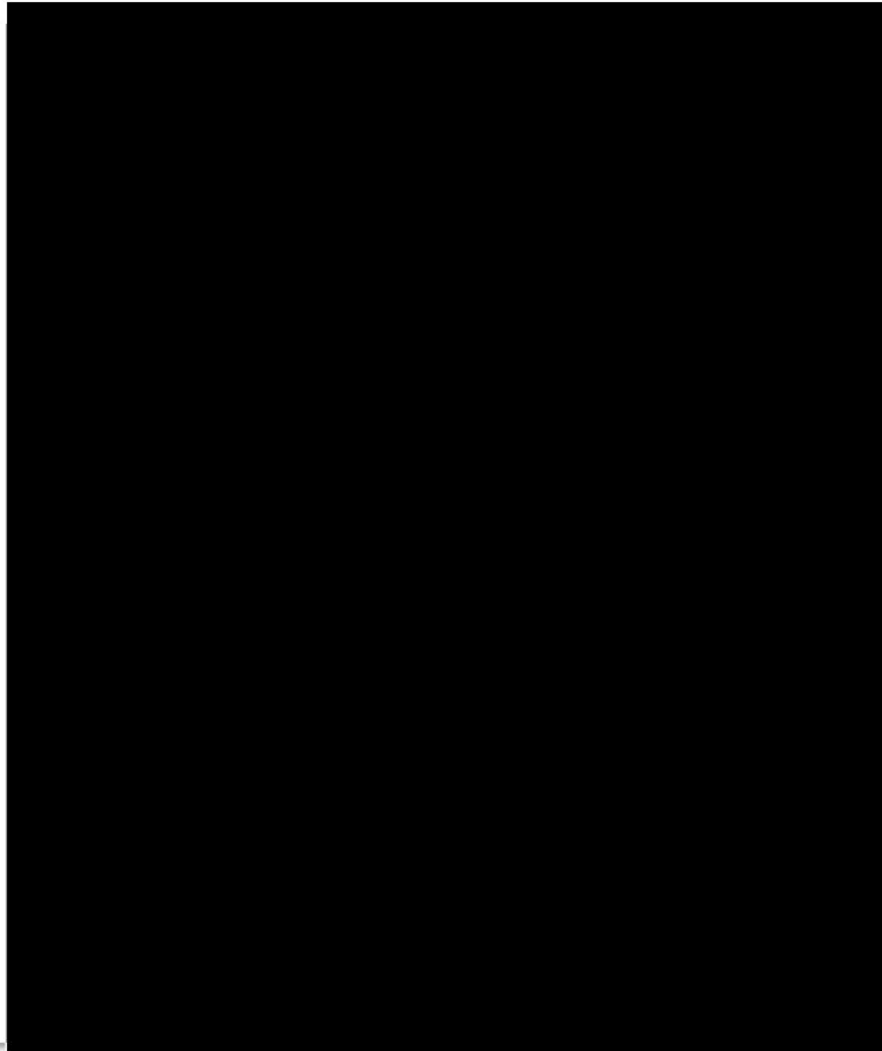
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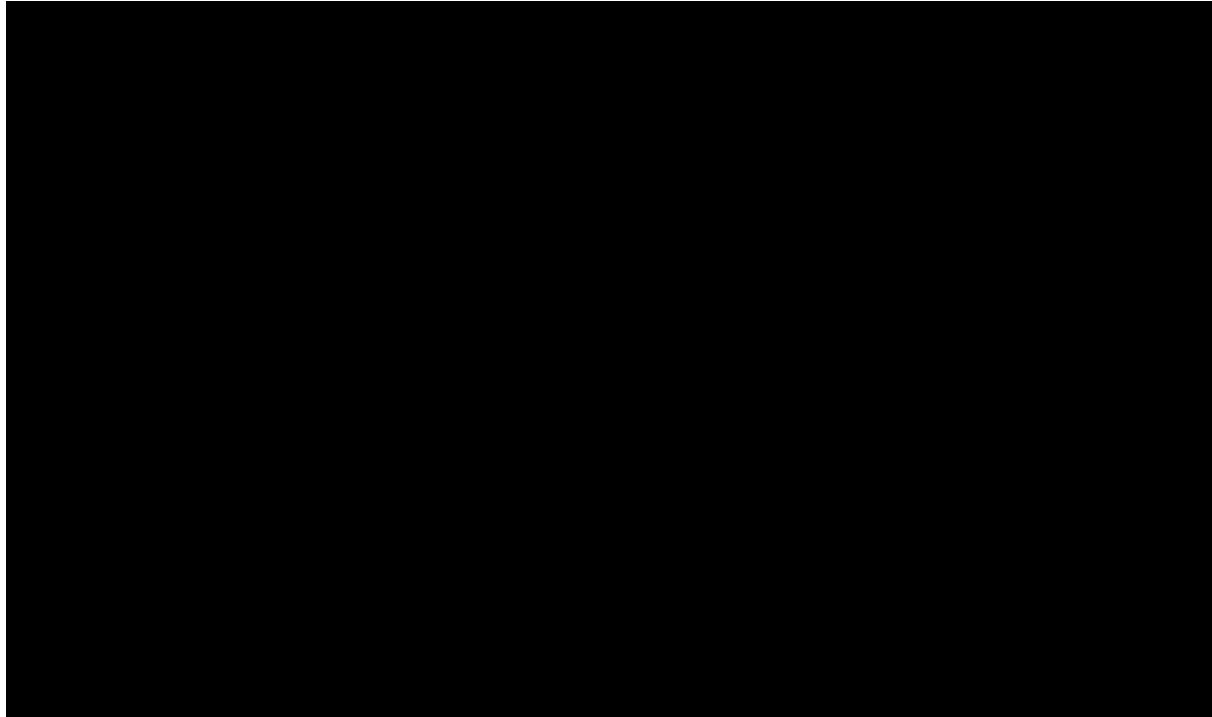


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The toxicology report indicated that Fries tested positive for the following substances:



Methamphetamine is a highly addictive synthetic drug that is classified as a schedule II stimulant with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) (Methamphetamine, 2024). Although methamphetamine can be prescribed by a medical provider in prescription form for certain medical conditions, it is most often used illegally and is more commonly known as crystal meth (Methamphetamine, 2024). Methamphetamine when used improperly (or the use of the street drug), can often cause anxiety and paranoid episodes in users (Methamphetamine, 2024).

Amphetamines are also stimulant drugs that can be legally prescribed to patients, often with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD (Amphetamines, n.d.)). However, there is also a propensity for abuse and the street slang used for the drug is again, crystal meth (Amphetamines, n.d.). "Chronic abuse produces a psychosis that resembles schizophrenia: paranoia, hallucinations, violent and erratic behavior" (Methamphetamine, 2024) (Amphetamines, n.d.).

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Crime Scene Processing

The BCI CSU responded to the scene to document, process, and preserve items of potential evidence. The process included the search for documentation and collection of potential evidence. Detailed photographs and crime scene reports were completed. The information below only summarizes some of the more significant findings.

BCI CSU SA Boerner and CSU SA McClintock processed two scenes that included the scene of the stabbing (homeless encampment) and the scene of the shooting (hike and bike trail). This included mapping each scene with a Leica RTC360 scanner. Agents began an examination of each scene once RPD officers and BCI agents obtained a search warrant for the tent where the initial stabbing occurred.

Scene Processing – Portage County Bike Trail at North Freedom Street

The scene of the shooting is approximately 460 ft. Northeast of the intersection of the Portage County Bike Trail and North Freedom St. The scene was photographed as it was found and examined for items of suspected evidence¹. Several items of suspected evidence were observed, documented and collected (*Table 1, Items of Suspected Evidence*) (*Figures 1-6, Matrix Evidence Items 1-16*).

Item #	Description	Location
1	Sweatshirt w/suspected bloodstains	Bike path closer to North Freedom St.
2	Knife – curved blade w/suspected bloodstains	Bike path near area of reported shooting
3	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
4	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
5	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
6	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting

¹ The scene was photographed with evidence of first aid in place and again after the evidence of first aid was collected.

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7	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
8	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
9	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
10	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
11	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
12	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
13	Cartridge case – 45 cal.	Bike path near area of reported shooting
14	Cell phone- Blk Trac-phone	Near body
15	Axe w/suspected bloodstains	Bike path near area of reported shooting
16	Eyeglasses	Near body

Table 1, Items of Suspected Evidence

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Figure 1, Matrix Evidence Item 1 (hoodie w/ suspected blood)



Figure 2, Overall photograph

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Figure 3, Overall photograph



Figure 4, Overall photograph

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Figure 5, Matrix Evidence Item 2 (knife)



Figure 6, Matrix Evidence Item 15 (axe)

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The scene was further documented using a Leica BLK360 laser scanner and a drone. Using the drone video, an overhead diagram both with and without placards was created (*Figure 7, Overhead diagram with placards*).

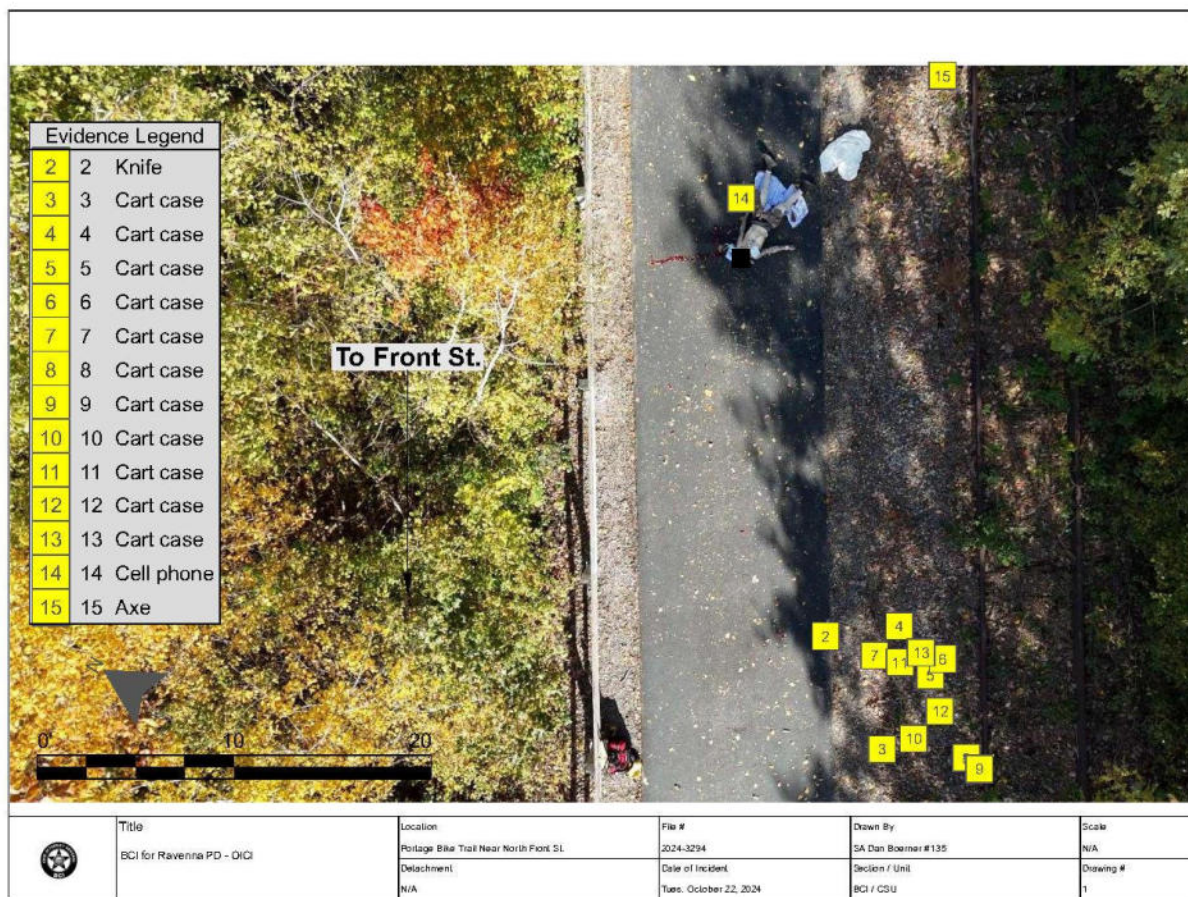


Figure 7, Overhead diagram with placards

Several suspected bloodstains were observed between the reported scene of the shooting and the reported scene of the stabbing. A suspected bloodstain was located on the bike trail between the scene of the reported shooting and of the reported stabbing was photographed as it was found (Stain A). Stain A was tested with the presumptive test Tetramethylbenzidine (TMB), which produced a positive result for

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blood. A representative swab was collected from suspected bloodstains, preserved and secured as evidence (Item 19, Stain A).

The body of Fries was photographed as it was found (Figures 8-10, Overall photographs). His body exhibited multiple suspected gunshot wounds.



Figure 8, Overall photograph

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Figure 9, Overall photograph



Figure 10, Overall photograph

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**Scene Processing – Homeless Encampment North side of Portage County Bike
Trail, Northeast of SR14**

The scene of the reported stabbing was photographed as it was found (Figures 11-14, Overall photographs). The scene was processed with the authority of a search warrant. The scene was located approximately 1600ft from the intersection of the Portage County Bike Trail and North Freedom St. and approximately 1000ft. from the area of the reported shooting. The scene was examined for items of suspected evidence and two items of suspected evidence were located, documented and collected (Item 17, white blanket with suspected bloodstains, Item 18, sleeping bag with suspected bloodstains).



Figure 11, Overall photograph

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Figure 12, Overall photograph



Figure 13, Overall photograph

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Figure 14, Matrix Evidence Items 17-18 (blanket and sleeping bag)

For additional information refer to the Leica scan, photos, and Investigative Reports titled *2024-10-22: Initial Crime Scene Processing* and *2024-10-22: Search Warrant Obtained, Executed, and Returned*.

Response to University Hospital Portage Medical Center

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, SA Fletcher, SA Bynum, and CSU SA McClintock responded to University Hospital Portage Medical Center (UHPMC) located at 6847 North Chestnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio, 44266, to meet with the RPD involved officers and witness officers who were transported to the hospital for evaluation. Agents also met with the stabbing victim, Burghy, who was transported by Ravenna Fire Department (RFD) personnel due to the nature of his injuries.

Officer Documentation and Collection of Firearms

Photographs were taken of [REDACTED] in the uniform they were wearing during the incident.

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██████████ firearm was collected. It was a black Heckler & Koch 45 caliber, model 45, serial # ██████████ (Matrix Evidence Item #21). There was one cartridge in the chamber and four cartridges in the magazine. Two additional magazines were collected with ten cartridges in each magazine.

It was later learned ██████████ had ten (10) rounds in her magazine and one (1) round in the chamber prior to firing. A total of six (6) rounds had been fired by ██████████ during the incident.

██████████ firearm was collected. It was a black Heckler & Koch 45 caliber, model 45, serial # ██████████ (Matrix Evidence Item #22). There was one cartridge in the chamber and two cartridges in the magazine. Two additional magazines were collected with ten cartridges in each magazine.

It was later learned ██████████ carried nine (9) rounds in his magazine and one (1) round in the chamber prior to firing. A total of 7 rounds had been fired by ██████████ during the shooting incident.

For additional information refer to the photographs and the investigative report titled *2024-11-05 Response to Hospital*.

Stabbing Victim – Larry Burghy

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, SA Fletcher and SA Bynum met with the stabbing victim, Burghy, who was being treated at UHPMC for his injuries. Burghy was located in a hospital room with visible wounds to his left arm. Burghy also had multiple bandages covering additional injuries. He agreed to be photographed as he was found (*Burghy 1, Burghy 2, Burghy 3*). Burghy also agreed to participate in a recorded interview.

Burghy stated that he had one boot on, and a guy (Fries) came into his tent and said, "Sorry to inform you" and then stabbed him. Burghy described his attacker as a bald male without a shirt and that he had a swastika on his chest. Burghy stated that his tent had a broken zipper and a tarp that was over it. Burghy stated that the knife that was used had a curved blade and that he was stabbed approximately six times. After the altercation, Burghy walked to the trail to get help. When asked about the shooting portion of the incident, Burghy stated that he observed the shooting. Burghy stated he told officers who stabbed him, and they told Fries "Drop the weapon", "Drop the axe", "We are informing you one last time", and then he heard two to five gunshots. Burghy described the axe as double edged and chrome.

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Burghy 1



Burghy 2



Burghy 3

After the interview, Burghy signed a consent form agreeing to the collection of a biological sample to be used later as a DNA comparison during lab testing.

BCI Laboratory Analysis

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

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The following twenty-eight (28) items were submitted to the lab for analysis:

- Knife with suspected blood on it (Matrix Item #2)
- Eleven (11) Fired Cartridge Casings (Matrix Items #3-13)
- Axe (Matrix Item #15)
- Swab of suspected blood (Matrix Item #19)
- Buccal Swab (DNA standard) from Larry Burghy (Matrix Item #20)
- [REDACTED] firearm – Heckler & Koch HK45 semi-auto pistol SN# [REDACTED] (Matrix Item #21)
- [REDACTED] firearm – Heckler & Koch HK45 semi-auto pistol SN# [REDACTED] (Matrix Item #22)
- One (1) fired bullet and one (1) fired bullet fragment (EB1 & EB2)
- Eight (8) fired bullets

DNA Analysis

Forensic Scientist Angela Khrestian completed the DNA analysis. A review of her report revealed the following:

Matrix Item / Lab Item #	Conclusions
Matrix Item 2(1.1) - Swab of stain on blade of knife	Presumptive positive for blood; DNA profile consistent with Matthew Fries - Larry Burghy excluded
Matrix Item 2(1.2) - Swab of handle of knife	DNA profile consistent with Matthew Fries - Larry Burghy excluded
Matrix Item 2(1.3) - Swab of blade cover for knife	Mixture (1 major contributor); Major contributor consistent with DNA profile of Matthew Fries; Larry Burghy not the major contributor
Matrix Item 15(13) - Swab of stain on blade of axe	Presumptive positive for blood; DNA profile consistent with Matthew Fries; Larry Burghy excluded
Matrix Item 15(13.2) - Swab of stain on handle of axe	Presumptive positive for blood; DNA profile consistent with Matthew Fries; Larry Burghy excluded

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Matrix Item 15(13.3) - Swab of entire handle of axe	DNA profile consistent with Matthew Fries; Larry Burghy excluded
Matrix Item 19(14.1) - Swab of suspected bodily fluid recovered from scene	Presumptive positive for blood; DNA profile consistent with Larry Burghy; Matthew Fries excluded
Matrix Item 20(15.1) - DNA standard from Larry Burghy	Profile used for comparison purposes
Matrix Item 25(27) - DNA standard from Matthew Fries	Profile used for comparison purposes

The DNA profile consistent with Matthew Fries (Fries) was located on the handle of the knife and the axe. Larry Burghy's (Burghy) DNA profile was excluded from the handles of those items. This finding was consistent with reports that Fries was holding the knife and axe in his hands.

The blood located on the blade of the knife and the blood located at the scene (homeless encampment) that matched the DNA profile of Burghy was also consistent with reports that Fries had stabbed Burghy multiple times.

Firearms Analysis

Forensic Scientist Dylan Matt completed the firearm analysis. A review of his report revealed the following:

BCI Lab #/Matrix Item #	Comparison	Conclusion
Item #16/(Matrix Item 21): One (1) HK 45 Auto semi-automatic pistol, model HK45, serial [REDACTED]	N/A	Operable
	Items 2 (Matrix Item 3), 7-9 (Matrix Items 8-10), and 11 (Matrix Item 12): Five (5) fired cartridge casings	Source Identification
	Item 22: one (1) fired bullet	Source identification

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	Items 18 -21, and 23-26: eight (8) fired bullets and one (1) fired bullet fragment	Inconclusive*
Item #17/(Matrix Item 22): One (1) HK 45 Auto semi-automatic pistol, model HK45, serial # [REDACTED]	N/A	Operable
	Items 3-6 (Matrix Items 4-7), 10 (Matrix Item 11) & 12 (Matrix Item 13): six (6) 45 fired cartridge casings	Source Identification
	Items 18-21 & 23-26: eight (8) fired bullets and one (1) bullet fragment	Inconclusive*
Items 18-21 and 23-26: eight (8) fired bullets and one(1) bullet fragment	Intercompared	Inconclusive*

The report indicated all firearms submitted were operable.

The HK 45 Auto semi-automatic pistol, model HK45, serial # [REDACTED] was issued to Ravenna Police Department (RPD) [REDACTED]. The firearm was identified as the source of five (5) fired cartridge casings (Matrix Evidence Items #3, 8-10, 12) and one fired projectile.

The HK 45 Auto semi-automatic pistol, model HK45, serial # [REDACTED] was issued to RPD [REDACTED]. The firearm was identified as the source of six (6) fired cartridges casings (Matrix Evidence Items #4-7, 11, 13).

Items 18-26 (fired projectiles; Matrix Evidence Items 32-40) were examined and determined to be 45 auto jacketed hollow point fired bullets.

Items 20-23 and 26 (fired projectiles – 5 total) were consistent with the Federal branded ammunition submitted with Item 16 (Matrix Evidence Item #21). Item 16 was the firearm issued to [REDACTED]

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Items 18,19, 24, and 25 (fired projectiles - 4 total) were consistent with the Speer branded ammunition submitted with item 17 (Matrix Evidence Item #22). Item 17 was the firearm issued to [REDACTED].

Latent Prints Analysis

Forensic Scientist Jenna Kolb completed the latent print analysis. The following items were submitted to the lab for testing:

- Knife (Matrix Evidence Item #2)
- Axe (Matrix Evidence Item #15)

No evidence of latent prints was located on either item.

For additional information refer to the Investigative Reports titled *2024-10-23: Evidence Submitted to Lab*, *2024-12-20: BCI Lab Report – DNA*, *2024-11-11: BCI Lab Report – Firearms*, and *2024-11-15: BCI Lab Report – Latent Prints*.

Witness Interviews

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, BCI Agents identified two potential civilian witnesses and two potential RFD EMS personnel witnesses. All four were interviewed, only three witnessed relevant details to the stabbing and shooting incidents. A summary of the three relevant interviews has been provided below.

Civilian Witness – Jack Chandler

At approximately 1055 hours on October 22, 2024, Chandler was riding his bike on the Portage Hike and Bike Trail near North Freedom Street. He was flagged down by two elderly women who stated a man was yelling for help and asked if he could check on him. Chandler looked down the trail and observed a male on the trail calling for help. Chandler approached the male and asked if he was okay. The male stated he had been stabbed, prompting Chandler to call 911. Officers then arrived and began to assist the victim.

Chandler then stated that he and the officers noticed a male walking towards them on the trail and the officers asked the victim what the person looked like who stabbed him. Chandler could see that the male walking toward them was carrying an axe. The officers approached the male carrying the axe and began telling him to drop the axe and get on the ground. The male ignored the officers' instructions and kept walking

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toward the officers yelling “fuck you” and other similar things. The male was carrying the axe in an aggressive manner, waving the axe over his head. Chandler said that the male wouldn't do anything the officers asked but just kept coming towards the officers. Chandler began filming the incident with his cellular phone. At about the same time he started filming the incident, he heard shots being fired. Chandler stated that he could not tell which officers fired their weapons or exactly how many shots were fired.

For additional information, refer to the audio recording and Investigative Report titled *2024-10-24 Witness Interview – Jack Chandler*.

Civilian Witness – Carl Smith

Carl Smith (Smith) was a resident of the homeless encampment that was located northeast of the shooting incident scene. Smith did not witness the shooting incident but provided insight into the stabbing incident that had occurred prior to.

According to Smith, Burghy and Fries were on and off residents of the encampment. At approximately 1000 hours, Fries entered the camp and walked past Smith mumbling. Smith mentioned Fries was schizophrenic. Smith then heard Burghy yell “what did I do?” and “stop!” in a trailing off fashion, as if he was moving away from the encampment. Fries then walked past Smith again stating, “I stabbed Jr. (referring to Burghy), I should have killed him.” A few minutes later he heard inarticulate yelling along with five to seven gunshots. Smith did not see Fries attack Burghy or the shooting incident. He only heard yelling and gunshots.

For additional information refer to the audio recording and the Investigative Report titled *2024-10-24 Witness Interview – Carl Smith*.

Ravenna Fire Department – Firefighter Anthony Tomeko

Firefighter Tomecko explained that Ravenna Fire Department was dispatched, at approximately 1104 hours, to the area of the “bike trail” for a possible stabbing. Firefighter Tomecko stated they responded from University Hospital-Portage. When they arrived on scene, Firefighter Tomecko stated that a Ravenna Police officer was standing near a guardrail. The officer was asked if it was safe for them to approach the stabbing victim. Firefighter Tomecko stated the officer responded, “Stand back for a second” because they could not locate the “suspect.” However, Firefighter Tomecko stated, “but there was someone walking towards them down the hike and bike trail a little further.”

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At that point, Firefighter Tomecko stated they were told they were clear to “try and get the victim.” Firefighter Tomecko then began walking down the trail. When he arrived at the stabbing victim, Firefighter Tomecko stated there was also a “witness” (Jack Chandler) with the stabbing victim.

Firefighter Tomecko stated, “

At that point, P.D. (Police Department) made contact with the suspect, further down. They were giving him multiple commands, I guess he had some sort of weapon in his hand coming towards them, lawful commands for him to drop the weapon. When I got to the victim, I told him if he was able to walk, to get up, with the witness and start moving away, towards the street. As soon as I helped the victim off the floor, that’s when the shots were fired. My partner was able to get the victim and the witness away from that general area and after the shots stopped, they secured the weapon, I made my way down to the second victim (Fries) and once I got there, I checked for a pulse, once they secured the weapon. No pulse, started, called for them to bring our trauma bag down there, started assessing the patient. He had no pulse.

RFD personnel then began treatment on Fries.

SA Momchilov asked Firefighter Tomecko how far away the “suspect” was away from the stabbing victim. Firefighter Tomecko estimated approximately 50 feet. SA Momchilov asked if the individual who was shot was walking towards officers. Firefighter Tomecko replied, “Yes, he was walking toward them.” However, Firefighter Tomecko explained that there was a “wall” of officers (approximately 4 to 5) and it was difficult for him to see past the officers.

SA Momchilov stated, “You said he had an object in his hand, you said was a weapon.” Firefighter Tomecko interrupted and stated, “They said, ‘drop the axe’ or ‘drop the knife,’ it was something big.” Firefighter Tomecko stated he did not actually see the individual with the object in his hand, but he did see it lying on the ground after the shooting. Firefighter Tomecko further explained that his view was obstructed by the officers and that his main concern was getting the stabbing victim and the witness out of the area.

SA Momchilov stated, “So you pretty much grabbed the victim and you guys got out of there.”

Firefighter Tomecko replied, “I started, I had my back turned and they were starting to walk and they started running and at that point when they, when the victim and the

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witness started running, my partner was already, had the stretcher out by right where the trail starts and was instructing them to come to the stretcher.”

Firefighter Tomecko continued, “Once I saw the victim get onto the stretcher that’s when I heard the shots and I kind of just stayed there for a second, cause at that point I knew they were shooting at him and once he dropped and the gunshots stopped and they secured the weapon, that’s when I ran down there to start aid on him.”

SA Momchilov asked Firefighter Tomecko if he could tell how far away the officers were from the individual when they fired. Firefighter Tomecko stated that he could not tell but then stated, “maybe 10 feet.” Firefighter Tomecko also stated that the individual was walking toward officers when they fired.

For additional information refer to the audio recording and the investigative report titled *2024-10-22: Interview with Anthony Tomeko – Ravenna Fire/EMS*.

Law Enforcement Witnesses

Ravenna Police Department Officer Joshua Twigg

Officer Joshua Twigg (Meyers) has been an officer with the RPD for approximately seven years. On October 22, 2024, he was wearing his department uniform and an exterior vest. He believed he was well represented as a police officer during the incident.

On October 22, 2024, he and other officers of the RPD were dispatched to a stabbing on the bike trail off Freedom Street. The dispatcher indicated the caller was a passerby on a bike who reported a male came out of the woods and said he was stabbed by a person in the woods.

Officer Twigg was the first on scene. He met with the caller near the roadway who said the victim had just collapsed. Officer Twigg could see a male lying on the ground approximately 30 feet away. When he approached the male, he could see the male’s arm was wrapped in a shirt with blood all over it. He had the male remove the shirt and he could see a large cut across his arm. When Officer Twigg asked if the male had been stabbed anywhere else, he indicated he had been stabbed in his butt. The male said a guy in the woods had stabbed him.

When Officer Twigg asked where the suspect was, the victim replied he was over in the tent area. He described the suspect as shirtless with a knife. Officer Twigg then looked

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in the direction of where the tents were and saw a shirtless male walking out of the woods. He had his arms spread open and could see he had a sword or machete. The male was yelling and began walking toward him and the victim.

Officer Twigg and the other officers gathered and began moving toward the subject because it appeared the subject was seeking the victim. As the subject moved toward them, Officer Twigg could see the subject was holding an axe in his left hand and claw looking knife in his right hand. Officer Twigg then drew his weapon and ordered the subject to stop multiple times. As the subject continued moving toward them, he was screaming and shaking the axe and knife around. Officer Twigg identified himself as a police officer multiple times and the subject still advanced toward them. During that time a cyclist on the bike path rode around the subject and continued down the bike path. The cyclist was within approximately 4 feet of the subject at the time he passed the subject.

Officer Twigg explained that he and the other officers were positioned relatively close together in a "U" shape between the subject and the victim. When the subject was approximately 20 feet from them, Officer Twigg began to pull the trigger on his gun. The subject was yelling "Fuck you" and other stuff. Officer Twigg believed the subject was on a mission to come after them or the victim who was directly behind them. Officer Twigg heard [REDACTED] say "I have a shot." He then heard two or three rapid gunshots and saw the subject immediately fall to the ground. At that point, he had not fired, and he did not fire because the subject had fallen to the ground.

[REDACTED] instructed him to remove the axe away from the subject. He then picked up the axe and moved it off to the side near the railroad tracks. The knife had fallen near the subject's hand, but he could not remember if he or another officer moved the knife away from the subject.

After the weapons were moved away, the fire department came up and began rendering aid to the subject. Officer Twigg assisted them in rendering aid.

Officer Twigg estimated he heard four gunshots fired rapidly. [REDACTED] was to his left and he knew [REDACTED] was firing but he did not know who else was firing.

During the incident, he feared for his safety and the safety of others. As the subject advanced toward them, Officer Twigg believed the subject was trying to get to the victim to further injure him.

For additional information, refer to the video recorded interview, the audio recording, and the Investigative Report titled *2024-110-05: Witness Officer Interview – Joshua Twigg*.

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Ravenna Police Department Officer Matthew Meyers

Officer Matthew Meyers (Meyers) has been an officer with the RPD for approximately eighteen years. On October 22, 2024, he was wearing his department uniform and an exterior vest. He believed he was well represented as a police officer during the incident.

On October 22, 2024, he and other officers of the RPD were dispatched to a possible stabbing on the Headwaters Trail east of Freedom Street. The dispatcher indicated the subject may have been stabbed in the buttocks and the arm. While driving to the area he heard Officer Twigg say he had confirmed that someone had been stabbed and that someone was walking toward him with a sword. When he arrived, he heard Officer Twigg giving commands saying "Stop! Police Stop! Drop it!" He then jogged toward Officer Twigg and [REDACTED]. He believed [REDACTED] was close behind him.

When he made it to them, he could see a subject approaching them with a double-bladed axe in his left hand. He estimated the subject approached from approximately 150 yards away. They all began moving forward to create space between them and the stabbing victim. Officers continued to give commands repeatedly, but the subject kept approaching them. At one point the subject stopped and raised the axe above his head in an attack position. They began retreating but the subject kept coming toward them saying "Fuck you! Fuck you! (05:55)" He added the subject also continued toward them with a "1000-yard stare", the axe in one hand, and a knife in his right hand.

At one point he remembered the subject was not stopping and he said, "God we have to do it" or "We're going to have to do this." He could feel his trigger clicking as he squeezed it, but he did not fire. As he was squeezing his trigger, he heard [REDACTED] say, "I have a shot (04:45)." He also heard more than one gun being fired and saw the subject fall to ground.

When they moved up to the subject, he kicked the axe away and Officer Twigg removed the knife from the subject's right hand. He believed Officer Twigg secured the knife. They immediately began treating the subject. He remembered Officer Twigg packed a wound. The medics were close behind them. One of the medics ran to them and began treating the subject.

He believed he was to the left of the other three officers. [REDACTED] was to his right followed by [REDACTED] and then to the far right was Officer Twigg. He was not certain of the positions of [REDACTED] and Officer Twigg and said they could have been reversed.

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He believed Officer Twigg asked for another squad and he remembered hearing sirens in the background. After moving away from the subject, he asked [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] if they had fired their guns. They indicated they did.

When the shots were fired, he estimated the subject was less than 12 feet from them and continued toward them. He reiterated that he heard [REDACTED] say, "I have a shot" and believed that was the reason he did not fire. However, he knew from the video that [REDACTED] actually said, "Shot's fired" and that [REDACTED] never said, "I have a shot." He believed he heard between 4 and 6 quick gunshots. Originally, he believed everyone, but he, was firing.

Ofc. Meyers said he feared for his safety during the incident. It was hard to describe how he felt during the incident, but as the subject advanced toward them he believed the subject intended to get to the victim and finish what he started.

Officer Meyers consented to agents reviewing all body camera video including any potential Garrity derived information and any written reports he may complete.

For additional information refer to the video recorded interviews stored in Reference Item G and the investigative reports titled *2024-11-05: Witness Officer Interview – Joshua Twigg* and *2024-11-05: Witness Officer Interview – Matthew Meyers*.

Involved Law Enforcement Officers

BCI conducted video recorded interviews with the involved officers and reviewed their personnel files and training records. Included within this section are abbreviated versions of the involved officers' account of their actions pertaining to this incident and the discharging of their weapon.

Ravenna Police Department [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had been employed as an officer with the Ravenna Police Department for [REDACTED] years. On October 22, 2024, she was wearing her department issued uniform and external vest. She considered herself to be well represented as a police officer.

[REDACTED] Interview

Prior to the shooting incident, [REDACTED] responded to an unrelated call for service with RPD Officer Twigg. While handling the call, dispatch notified all available units of a stabbing that had occurred on the hike and bike trail near North Freedom

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Street. [REDACTED] and Officer Twigg cleared the unrelated call and began responding to the Hike and Bike Trail.

While [REDACTED] was responding, dispatch provided updated information that the victim had been stabbed multiple times.

[REDACTED] arrived at the Hike and Bike Trail off North Freedom Street shortly after Officer Twigg. She observed multiple pedestrians and bicyclists walking and cycling the trail. She also observed Officer Twigg speaking with the stabbing victim (Burghy) who was lying on the bike path a good distance from the roadway.

After approaching Burghy and Officer Twigg's location, [REDACTED] heard Burghy say the person responsible for stabbing him was further down the Hike and Bike Trail. Personnel from the Ravenna Fire Department (RFD) arrived shortly after and began rendering aid to Burghy.

While standing near Burghy and the RFD personnel, [REDACTED] saw a subject approaching in the distance. The male was walking aggressively and "with a purpose."

Officer Twigg began walking towards the subject. At first, he was so far away, [REDACTED] was unable to see what the subject was holding in his hands. The subject continued to aggressively approach their location, allowing [REDACTED] to better observe the subject and the objects he was carrying. She described the subject as a bald male with no shirt carrying a double-bladed axe in one hand and a knife in the other. The subject was carrying both the axe and the knife in a raised position. Officers began giving commands to the subject to drop the weapons.

The subject continued to approach officers in an aggressive manner holding the knife above his head "like he was going to stab somebody" [18:18] ([REDACTED] Interview 1).



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Interview 1

██████████ drew her firearm and pointed it at the subject as she continued to give commands to the subject to drop the axe and knife. The male did not comply and continued to approach while yelling something unintelligible. “He was walking very aggressively towards us like he’s gonna kill somebody” [18:36]. Meanwhile there were multiple pedestrians walking and biking on the path in close proximity to the subject.

RPD ██████████ and Officer Meyers arrived at the location and took a position near ██████████ and Twigg. The officers formed a line spanning across the Hike and Bike Trail. All four officers then attempted to move backwards to retreat from the subject; however, they could only move a short distance due to the fire personnel providing aid to Burghy.

“He [the subject] had this imminent look in his face that he’s going to kill somebody” [19:24]. It was at that moment ██████████ fired her gun at the subject’s center mass. ██████████ did not recall the subject falling but observed the subject lying on the ground and eventually becoming still.

██████████ approached the subject and moved the axe and knife away from him. She and the other officers began rendering aid to the subject until the fire personnel, who were already present, took over care.

██████████ feared for her safety, the safety of the other officers, and the pedestrians who were walking and biking the path. She felt she gave every opportunity to the subject to comply with commands. ██████████ believed if the officers did not attempt to stop him with deadly force, the subject was going to kill someone.

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The subject was less than ten feet away from the officers when [REDACTED] fired her gun. She believed [REDACTED] also fired his gun, although she did not know who fired first. [REDACTED] fired in an eastern direction, aiming at the subject's center mass. She also believed her rounds hit the subject's center mass.

[REDACTED] believed her actions were consistent with her training. She did not believe she had any other option available to her other than using deadly force. She had no prior knowledge or contact with the subject involved in the shooting incident.

For additional details refer to the video recorded interview stored in Reference Item G and the Investigative Report titled *2024-11-05: Involved Officer Interview – [REDACTED]*

[REDACTED] Employment and Training Records

Records regarding [REDACTED] employment as a police officer were received from the RPD. The records included performance evaluations, commendations, training records, employment records, and miscellaneous documents. No discipline related to the use of force was located within the personnel file.

Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission records indicated [REDACTED] attended Garrettsville Basic Police Academy as a part of [REDACTED] took the state certification exam on [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] was appointed as a full-time police officer by the Ravenna Police Department on [REDACTED] had previously served with the Aurora, Brimfield Township, Munroe Falls, and Hiram Police Departments.

[REDACTED] completed numerous law enforcement related training courses to include the following courses directly related to this incident or the use of force:

- Crisis Mitigation – An Ohio Model (08/15/2024)
- Use of Deadly Force and Legal Guidelines (08/07/2024)
- Use of Body-Worn Cameras (08/05/2024)
- Responding to Mental Health Issues (07/09/2024)
- Arrest, Search, and Seizure 2023 (07/18/2024)
- Objective Reasonableness (06/30/2022)
- Communication Disabilities (06/30/2022)
- Critical Thinking in Use of Force Situations (06/29/2022)
- Effective Communication and Safe Interaction with Persons in Crisis (06/17/2022)

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- Mental Health Response (04/29/2022)
- Crisis Intervention (04/28/2022)
- BCI Lethal Use of Force and OIS Investigations (04/26/2022)
- Female Only – Subject Control (11/13 to 11/14/2019)
- Judgmental Firearms Simulator (11/12 to 11/14/2019)
- De-escalating Mental Health Crises (03/31/2018)

██████████ completed the following departmental training:

- Defensive Pistol Level 1 & 2 (05/16/2021) – Geauga Firearms Academy
- Taser Recertification (10/12/2017)
- Practical Application of Force (10/06/2017)
- Crisis Intervention Team Training (03/08/2007) – Mental Health Recovery Board of Portage County

On October 16, 2024, ██████████ completed departmental firearms qualification with a Heckler & Koch (HK), model 45, semi-automatic pistol, serial # ██████████. Note that the qualification record lists the serial number as written above. However, the correct serial number should have a '█' at the end ██████████.

Based on the records received, it is noted that ██████████ was a duly certified and sworn Ohio Peace Officer at the time of this incident.

For additional details refer to the actual records and the Investigative Report titled *2024-11-19: Personnel and Training File Review – ██████████*

Ravenna Police Department ██████████

██████████ had been employed as an officer with the Ravenna Police Department for █ years. On October 22, 2024, he was wearing his department issued uniform and external vest. He considered himself to be well represented as a police officer.

Interview

██████████ was working as the ██████████ on the date of the incident. Three other RPD officers were assigned to work patrol ██████████ ██████████ and included ██████████ Officer Twigg, and Officer Meyers.

██████████ and Officer Twigg were dispatched to the Hike and Bike Trail near North Freedom Street for a male victim who had possibly been stabbed. Additional information was provided that the victim had been stabbed multiple times in the

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buttock and arm.

██████████ began responding to the location due to the nature of the call. ██████████ planned on providing scene security for fire personnel while they provided emergency medical services to the male victim.

██████████ and Officer Meyers arrived at the location at the same time. ██████████ met with fire personnel who began asking questions about the stabbing incident. During this brief conversation, ██████████ heard one of the other officers on scene state a subject was approaching them with a hatchet or an axe in his hand.

██████████ observed multiple pedestrians and bicyclists on the trail near officers and the approaching subject. The three officers were standing in a line spanning the Hike and Bike Trail.

██████████ described the Hike and Bike Trail as a narrow-paved path (only a few feet wide) with railroad tracks on one side and a split rail fence on the other. A dense wood line was behind the fencing.

██████████ ran up to the location of the other officers who had their firearms pointed at the subject and were yelling commands to drop the weapons. ██████████ positioned himself in line with the other officers and pointed his firearm at the subject who was approximately twenty-five feet away. ██████████ observed the subject holding a double-sided axe in one hand and a knife in the other hand. He began giving commands to the subject to drop the weapons. The subject did not comply and continued to approach in an aggressive manner.

██████████ described the subject as a white male with a shaved head, dark-colored pants, and a swastika tattoo on his chest. As the subject continued to approach “aggressively,” he would also flex “like the hulk.” The subject was using “profanity” and explicit language yelling at the officers.

The officers continued giving commands and attempted to back up from the subject. However, the stabbing victim and fire personnel were behind the officers, preventing them from being able to back up further. There were also pedestrians and bicyclists on the trail who were passing the subject in close proximity. ██████████ said one of the bicyclists could have brushed elbows with the subject, he was so close to him.

The subject continued to approach and failed to comply with commands given by officers. The subject was approximately fifteen feet away from their location. ██████████ feared for the safety of himself, the officers, and others who were present at the



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location. At that time, he fired his gun at the subject aiming at his center mass. The subject fell to the ground.

██████████ approached the subject and assisted in clearing the knife and axe away from the subject. He then requested fire personnel who were already present to assist in rendering aid to the subject.

██████████ felt, when the subject was approaching officers in an aggressive manner, he was not only “walking with a purpose,” but he was also “preparing to attack” [23:30]. ██████████ felt he did not have any other options available to him other than the use of deadly force.

██████████ fired his gun in a northeastern direction. He believed his rounds struck the subject in the center mass area and possibly the legs. He also believed his actions were consistent with his training.

██████████ described the weather on the day of the incident as a “perfect day.” He elaborated by saying it was a perfect day for people to be outside walking and riding their bikes.

██████████ d have two prior encounters with the subject who was later identified as Matthew Fries (Fries). ██████████ said approximately one to two months prior to the incident, he responded to a call for service where Fries was one of the parties associated with the call. Fries had set his tent on fire at the same location and was acting belligerent and violent towards responding officers.

The second encounter mentioned by ██████████ was on an unknown date in downtown Ravenna. Fries was at the courthouse because his girlfriend had been arrested on a warrant. ██████████ said his interaction with Fries was very calm. Fries was able to communicate and seemed like a completely different person.

For additional details refer to the video recorded interview store in Reference Item G and the Investigative Report titled *2024-11-05: Involved Officer Interview – ██████████*

██████████ Employment and Training Records

Records regarding ██████████ employment as a police officer were received from the RPD. The records included commendations, training records, employment records, and miscellaneous documents. No discipline related to use of force was located with the personnel file.

Ohio Peace Office Training Commission records indicated ██████████ attended the

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Kent State Police Academy as part of class [REDACTED] [REDACTED] took the state certification exam on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was appointed full-time by the Ravenna Police Department on [REDACTED] had previously served with the Robinson Memorial Hospital Police Department and the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office.

[REDACTED] completed numerous law enforcement related training courses to include the following courses directly related to this incident or the use of force:

- Use of Deadly Force and Legal Guidelines (09/24/2024)
- Arrest, Search, and Seizure 2023 (09/19/2024)
- Use of Body-Worn Cameras (09/15/2024)
- Responding to Mental Health Issues (09/15/2024)
- Crisis Mitigation – An Ohio Model (09/05/2024)
- Police Rifle-Carbine Instructor (07/09 to 07/12/2024)
- Semi Auto-Pistol Instructor (04/17 to 04/21/2023)
- Objective Reasonableness (10/01/2022)
- Critical Thinking in Use of Force Situations (10/01/2022)
- BCI Lethal Use of Force and OIS Investigations (10/01/2022)
- Crisis Intervention (10/01/2022)
- Mental Health Response (09/30/2022)
- Effective Communication and Safe Interaction with Persons in Crisis (09/30/2022)
- Communication Disabilities (09/03/2022)
- Judgmental Firearms Simulator (11/12 to 11/14/2024)
- Use of Force, Liability and Standards (10/02/2019)
- De-escalating Mental Health Crises (04/05/2018)

[REDACTED] completed the following departmental training:

- Taser Recertification (10/10/2017)
- Practical Application of Force (10/06/2017)
- Controlled F.O.R.C.E. Departmental Instructor Certificate (05/26/2016)

[REDACTED] last qualified with his department issued Heckler & Koch (HK), model 45, semiautomatic pistol, serial # [REDACTED] on October 15, 2024.

Based on the records received, it is noted that [REDACTED] was a duly certified and

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sworn Ohio Peace Officer at the time of this incident.

For additional details refer to the actual records and the Investigative Report titled
2024-01-19: Personnel and training file review – [REDACTED]

Dispatch Related Information

This section contains dispatch-related information associated with the incident. The information reviewed was obtained from the Ravenna Police Department.

Audio Recorded Calls to Police

Two audio files were provided that contained recordings of the phone calls received to dispatch. Both callers contacted dispatch in regard to the stabbing victim, Burghy. Neither caller witnessed the actual stabbing. A summary of each phone call has been provided below:

911 1

The call was 2 minutes and 48 seconds in duration. The female caller was identified as “Beth” with no other identifying information provided.

When the dispatcher answered the phone, the female, Beth, stated that while she was walking on the hike and bike trail near that area where the homeless people live, she stated, “We believe somebody was hurt.” When the dispatcher asked if she knew what was wrong with the individual, Beth stated that she heard another individual on a bicycle say that the male was stabbed. Beth stated, “He’s trying to walk towards us too, moaning.” When dispatch asked if she saw anyone that may have stabbed the male, she replied, “No.” At this point, the dispatcher stated she had sent officers to the area and hung up the line. The call ended.



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The call was 3 minutes and 34 seconds in duration and the male call was identified as Jack Chandler.

The call was transferred from the Portage County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) dispatch center to the Ravenna Police Department dispatch. The PCSO dispatcher stated they were on the line with a male caller reporting that there was another male stabbed on the freedom trail. The male caller reported that while he was riding his bicycle down the trail another male was walking down the trail yelling for help. It appeared that the male was, "stabbed in the, like, the back of the leg around the buttocks and then his arm...that's where I see blood." The male caller stated that the stabbing victim told him that he lived in the homeless camp nearby and somebody attacked him. The male caller did not see anyone else nearby. Nothing further from this audio file.

Audio Recorded Police Radio Traffic

One audio file was provided with recorded police radio transmissions. The recording was 7 minutes and 10 seconds in duration. The table below summarizes the contents of the radio traffic deemed to be the most relevant to the shooting incident.

Unit / Officer	Audio File Time	Content of Radio Transmission
Dispatch	00:00	"I have a possible stabbing...they are going to be on the hike and bike trail, they are going to be east of freedom between freedom and 14...believe possibly stabbed in the arm. My PR was just a passerby, I don't believe, not sure of any other situation or anybody else in the area at the moment."
Unknown Officer	00:38	"Copy, be en route."
██████████	00:42	"Copy, hike and bike, east or west of freedom, did you say?"
Dispatch	00:49	"██████████, I'm sorry, I think I cut you off."
██████████	00:55	"What was the 39 again please?"
Dispatch	00:58	"they're gonna be, hike and bike, uh. just east of north freedom street, I believe. My PR did not see anybody else in the area. Apparently, he was possibly stabbed in the buttocks and the arm, got the 29 started."

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██████████	01:15	"Copy"
██████████	01:18	████ copies"
Dispatch	01:24	"My PR is advising that the perp, the vic reported that the perp would be below 14 on hike and bike."
424/Meyers	01:39	"24 to 6, I'm gonna respond until we figure it all out."
██████████	01:46	"Copy."
Dispatch	02:29	"The victim is gonna be almost to freedom street at this point, almost freedom. There's going to be a bicyclist trying to flag you down."
426/Twigg	02:48	"26 UNINTELLIGIBLE"
██████████	03:28	████'s out with 26."
Dispatch	03:35	"1107."
426/Twigg	04:25	"26 400"
Dispatch	04:29	"26, go ahead."
426/Twigg	04:32	"Does have a stab wound to the arm, advise one on, on his butt. I believe I see a male coming down the bike trail now."
Dispatch	04:49	"Copy."
Unknown Officer	04:58	"Is the female supposed to be the suspect?"
██████████	05:01	"We got one walking up here."
424/Meyers	05:20	"24 and █████ are 74"
Dispatch	05:24	"1109."
426/Twigg	05:36	"He's approaching, looks like he has a knife or sword of some kind."
██████████	05:50	"Got a hatchet."
424/Meyers	06:00	"UNINTELLIGIBLE"
424/Meyers	06:40	"4, shots fired, shots fired!"
Dispatch	06:42	"Copy, shots fired."
Unknown Officer	06:58	"UNINTELLIGIBLE."
Dispatch	07:01	"Go ahead."

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Unknown Officer	07:04	"Alright, we are gonna need a UNINTELLIGIBLE down here, and another squad."
Dispatch	07:09	"Squad 712 gonna be en route, UNINTELLIGIBLE."

Ravenna Police Department CAD Report

The RPD CAD Report documented times and personnel assigned to the call. The report contained the dispatch, en route, and arrival times of the officers who responded to the incident. The call was initiated on October 22, 2024, at 11:03:19 AM. The call type was entered as a "stabbing."

For additional information, refer to the recorded phone calls and radio traffic, the CAD report, and the Investigative Report titled *2024-10-29: Dispatch Review*.

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Video Recordings

A video review was completed on all video footage collected throughout the investigation. This included a review of a cellphone video recording captured by a witness and body worn camera (BWC) video files from RPD Officers [REDACTED], Twigg, Meyers, and [REDACTED].

To the extent possible the percussive sounds believed to be gunfire have been identified as such in this report. It should be noted that those references are based on the totality of corroborating information and evidence gathered throughout this investigation. Time references made by the author correlate with the video player time stamp.

Ravenna Police Department Body Worn Camera Recordings

The BWC videos for Officers [REDACTED], Twigg, Meyers, and [REDACTED] were reviewed individually. A summary of each video review has been provided below.

Officer Matthew Meyers BWC

At 02:33 Officer Meyers parked his vehicle and began walking down the hike and bike trail towards the location of Officer Twigg, [REDACTED] and the stabbing victim, Burghy.

At 02:55 [REDACTED] could be heard on the radio stating “we got one walking up here.”

At 03:22 Officer Meyers began running down the path towards Officers Twigg and [REDACTED] someone could be heard yelling “put it down” (*Meyers BWC 1*).

At 03:29 Officer Meyers passed Burghy lying on the bike trail and a male wearing a bike helmet and blue shirt (witness – Jack Chandler). Meanwhile, Officer Twigg could be heard on the radio stating the subject had a knife or sword (*Meyers BWC 2*).

At 03:47 Officer Meyers was next to [REDACTED] (on her left side). A male riding a bicycle wearing a yellow shirt could be seen passing officers on the left. It appeared as though the bicyclist passed the area where the subject was (*Meyers BWC 3*).

Officers could be heard giving multiple commands to the subject to “drop it” and “get on the ground.”

At 03:50 Officer Meyers’ firearm was visible on camera. It appeared to be pointing in the direction of the subject (*Meyers BWC 4*).

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At 03:54 Officer Meyers announced the subject had an axe. The subject could be observed walking towards officers on the path. Officer Meyers appeared to still have his firearm pointed in the direction of the subject (*Meyers BWC 5*).

At 03:56 Officer Meyers could be heard saying “put the axe down.” The subject continued to walk towards officers.

At 04:02 the subject briefly stopped walking and appeared to get in a flexed stance. The axe was in the subject’s left hand (*Meyers BWC 6*). The subject continued to walk towards officers.

Officer Meyers gave multiple commands to the subject to “drop the axe now.” The subject responded by yelling “fuck off” as he continued to approach officers.

At 04:21 an officer could be heard stating the subject also had a knife in his hand. The subject was walking quickly towards officers (*Meyers BWC 7*).

The subject continued to approach officers at a quick walking pace.

At 04:25 the subject yelled something unintelligible and flexed his upper body while approaching officers. The firearm of an officer standing next to Officer Meyers was visible. This was likely [REDACTED] who approached moments before shots were fired (*Meyers BWC 8*).

At 04:28 a gunshot could be heard, and [REDACTED] firearm could be observed recoiling back due to [REDACTED] firing his weapon (*Meyers BWC 9*). Gunshots continued and the subject fell to the ground, dropping the axe (*Meyers BWC 10*). There were approximately thirteen (13) gunshots.

At 04:30 the gunshots stopped, and the subject could be observed lying on the ground. [REDACTED] could be observed pointing his firearm in the direction of the subject (*Meyers BWC 11*).

Officer Meyers stated, “shots fired.” Moaning could be heard, and officers began yelling “rollover.” Additional medical personnel were requested to respond to their location. The subject was lying on the ground with his head on a large axe (*Meyers BWC 12*).



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Officer-Involved Critical Incident – Portage Hike and Bike
Trail near North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266



Meyers BWC 1

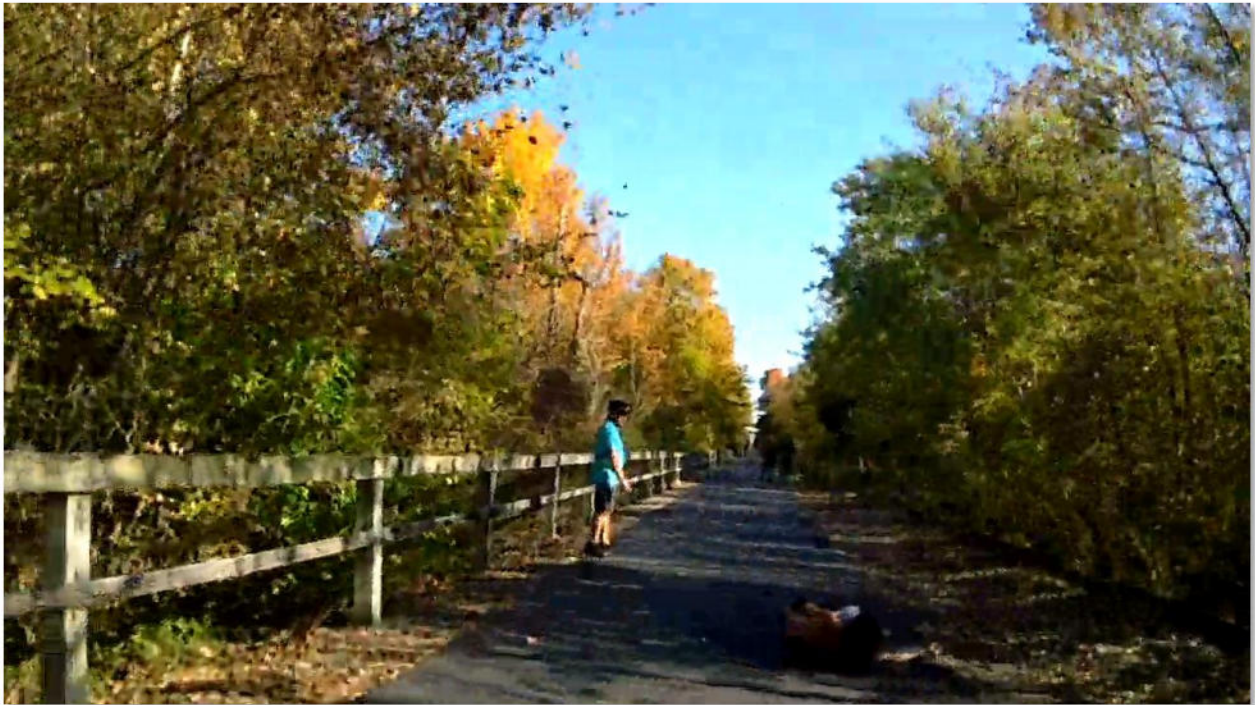
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Meyers BWC 2

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Meyers BWC 3

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Officer-Involved Critical Incident – Portage Hike and Bike
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Meyers BWC 4

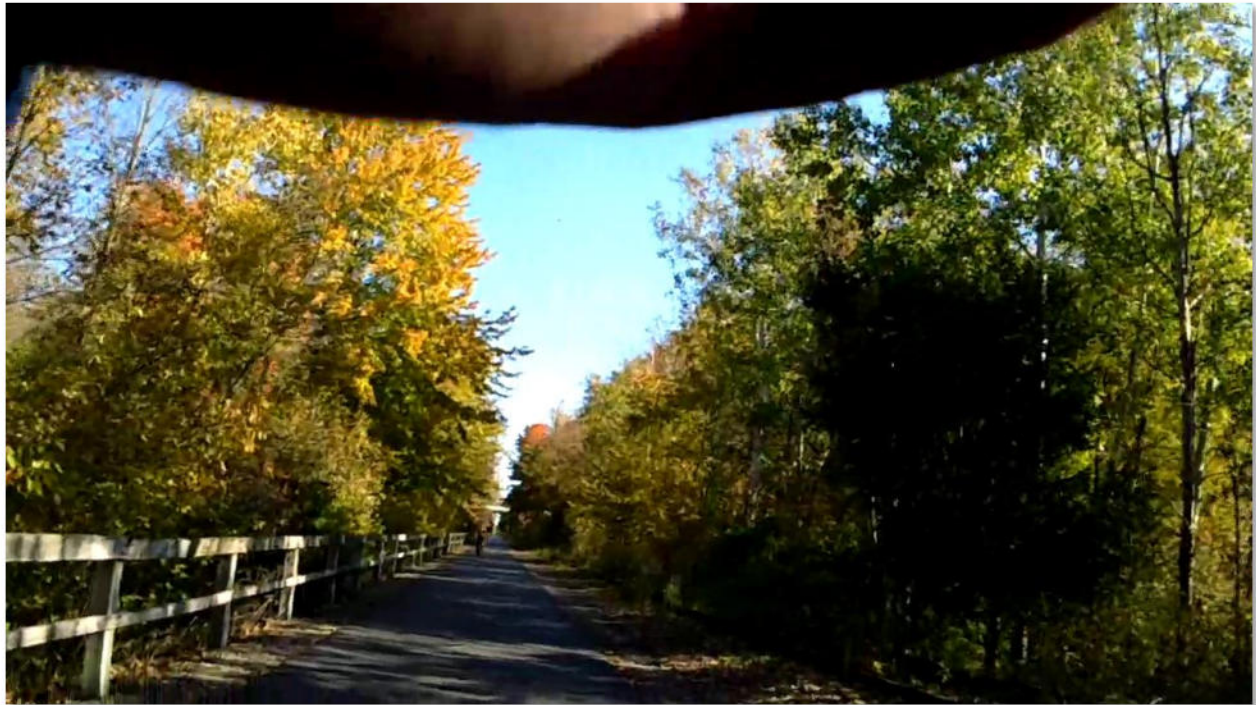
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Meyers BWC 5

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Meyers BWC 6

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Meyers BWC 7

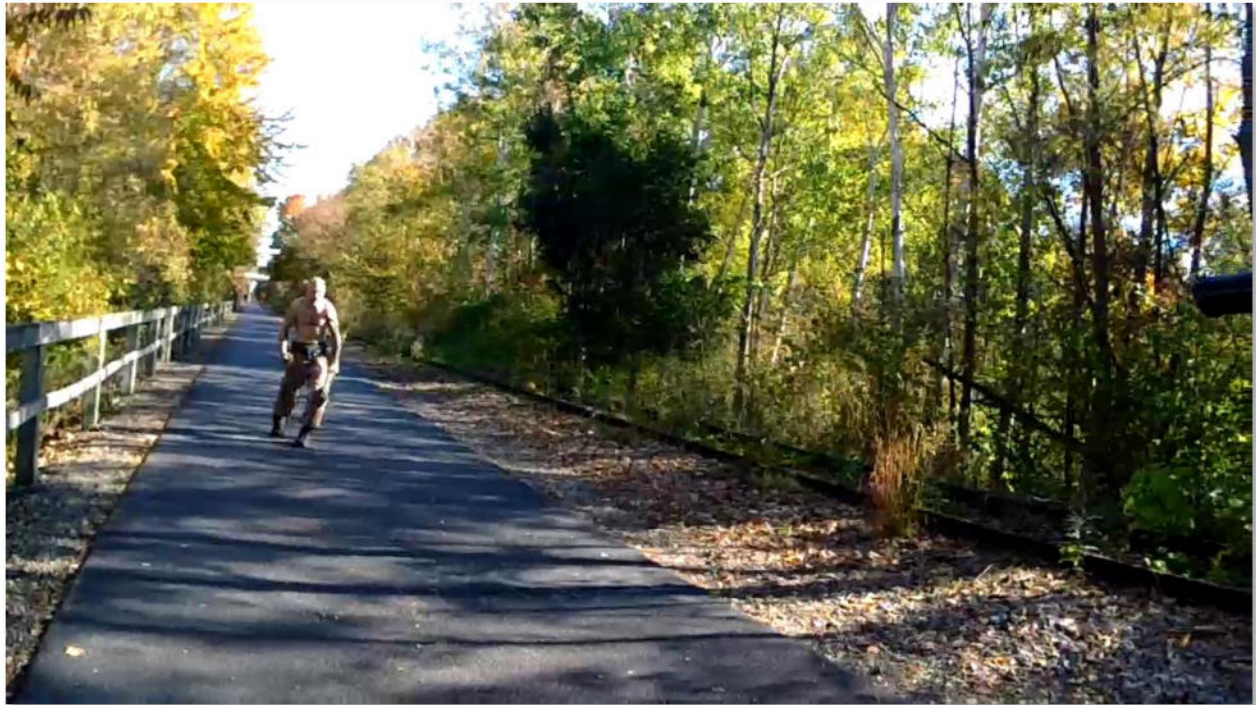
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Meyers BWC 8

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Meyers BWC 9

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Meyers BWC 10

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Meyers BWC 11

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Meyers BWC 12

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██████████ **BWC**

At 25:11 ██████████ continued walking on the hike and bike trail. Two dark figures could be observed in the distance on the trail. This was likely Officer Twigg speaking with the stabbing victim, Burghy (██████████ BWC 1). Sirens could be heard in the background.

At 25:31 ██████████ continued to walk on the hike and bike trail. Officer Twigg, the 911 caller/witness (Jack Chandler), and Burghy could be observed in the distance ██████████ BWC 2).

At 25:35 radio traffic could be heard that a male was now walking down the bike path towards officers, Burghy, and Chandler.

At 25:40 Officer Twigg could be observed walking around Burghy and then continuing down the hike and bike trail.

At 25:44 Officer Twigg appeared to reach towards his right side ██████████ BWC 3).

At 25:54 ██████████ used her portable radio and stated, "I got one walkin' up here."

At 26:03 a small figure could be seen in the distance on the hike and bike trail ██████████ BWC 4).

At 26:16 Officer Twigg can be clearly seen with his arms forward. His back was towards ██████████ camera. ██████████ stated, "he's got a sword?" (██████████ BWC 5).

At 26:18 Officer Twigg yelled, "sir, get on the ground." A small figure could be observed in the distance on the hike and bike trail (this was the involved subject, Fries walking towards officers ██████████ BWC 6).

Officer Twigg continued giving the command "get on the ground" to Fries.

At 26:27 Officers Twigg and ██████████ stopped walking. Officer Twigg announced the subject (Fries) had a "knife" or "sword of some kind." Multiple small figures could be observed on the hike and bike trail in the distance (██████████ BWC 7).

At 26:41 Officer Twigg was walking on the right side of the hike and bike trail near the train tracks. Two small figures could be observed on the trail. One was likely a bicyclist who was riding west on the trail. The second small figure was likely Fries in the distance. ██████████ continued walking behind Officer Twigg and said, "he's got a hatchet" ██████████ BWC 8).

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26:47 Officer Twigg continued giving the commands “get on the ground” and “drop it.” His arms were not visible and appeared to be forward (██████████ BWC 9).

Additional commands to “stop”, “put the axe down”, and “get on the ground” could be heard. A second male voice could also be heard giving commands. This was likely when Officer Meyers arrived at the location.

At 26:54 officers continued giving commands. Fries continued to get closer to officers on the trail (██████████ BWC 10).

Officers continued giving commands to Fries. Fries could be heard in the background yelling “fuck off” and other expletives towards officers.

At 26:56 (██████████)'s arm became visible in the video. This was likely when she drew her firearm. Officers continued giving multiple commands to Fries, who was not visible in the camera.

At 27:10 officers could be heard giving multiple commands to Fries. Fries could be heard yelling “fuck off.” (██████████) and Officer Twigg appeared to begin moving backwards.

At 27:20 (██████████) could be heard stating “were going to have to engage.” She and Officer Twigg appeared to still be moving backwards.

Officers continued giving commands to Fries to “get on the ground” and “put it down.”

At 27:26 the first gunshot could be heard. (██████████) arm appeared to be moving up and down. This was likely due to the recoil of her gun as she fired her pistol.

At 27:28 the last gunshot could be heard. Approximately thirteen (13) gunshots were fired.

Someone said, “shots fired” and the officers could be heard communicating with one another to “move over.” Moaning could be heard in the background and officers continued to give commands to Fries.

At 27:56 (██████████) turned, and Fries could be observed lying on his back on the hike and bike trail with his head on the axe. (██████████)'s firearm could be observed in her right hand pointed towards Fries. Another officer could be observed on the left with their gun drawn and pointed towards Fries (██████████ BWC 11).

Someone requested fire personnel to respond to the location.

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**Officer-Involved Critical Incident – Portage Hike and Bike
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At 28:16 Officers Twigg and Meyers could be observed approaching Fries who was lying on the ground with the axe under his head. Blood could also be seen on the ground and on Fries' back [REDACTED] BWC 12).

At 28:33 Officer Twigg could be seen moving a large double-side axe with a red mark on the handle (likely blood) [REDACTED] BWC 13).

At 28:42 [REDACTED] reached down towards the ground to move a curved knife with a silver blade, black handle, and red stain on the tip [REDACTED] BWC 14). [REDACTED] moved the knife further away from Fries.



[REDACTED] BWC 1

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██████ BWC 2

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██████████ BWC 3

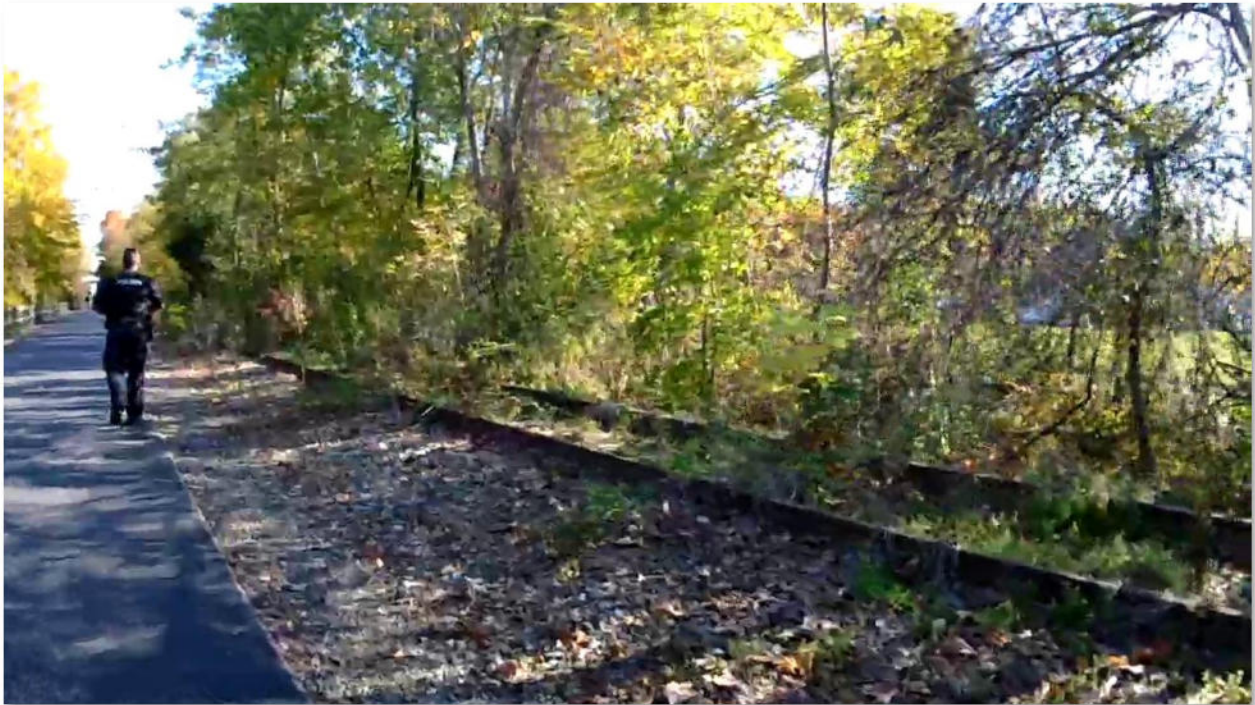
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██████████ BWC 4

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Officer-Involved Critical Incident – Portage Hike and Bike
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██████████ BWC 5

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██████████ BWC 6

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Officer-Involved Critical Incident – Portage Hike and Bike
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██████████ BWC 7

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██████████ BWC 8

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██████████ BWC 9

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██████████ BWC 10

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██████████ BWC 11

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[REDACTED] BWC 12

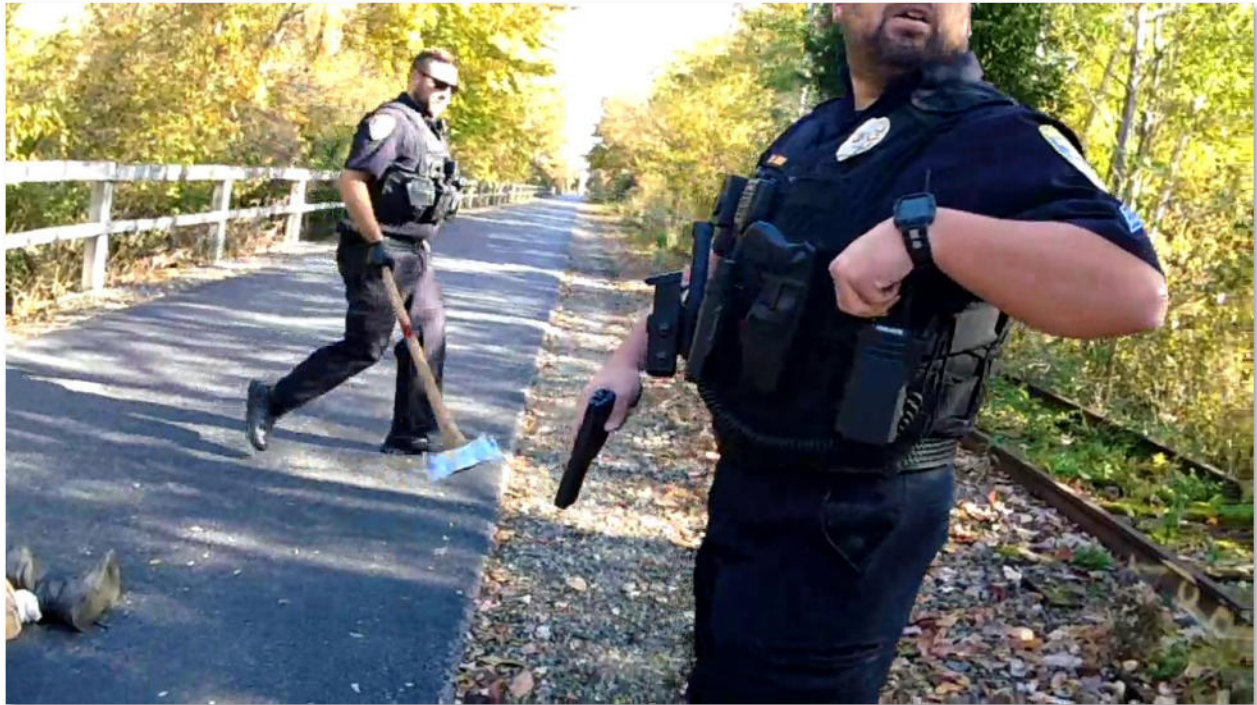
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██████████ BWC 13

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██████████ BWC 14

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Officer-Involved Critical Incident – Portage Hike and Bike
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Officer Joshua Twigg BWC

At 01:55 Officer Twigg arrived at the hike and bike trail near North Freedom Street. He parked his police cruiser, exited the vehicle, and approached three subjects standing on the trail. One of the subjects was a male wearing a bike helmet and blue shirt who was later identified as Jack Chandler. Chandler instructed Officer Twigg to follow him down the path towards the victim.

At 02:07 The victim, Burghy, could be heard yelling in the background. Officer Twigg began moving towards Burghy who was lying on the ground (*Twigg BWC 1*).

Officer Twigg could be heard speaking with Chandler as he approached Burghy. Chandler stated he did not see anyone else in the area when he encountered Burghy who was calling for help.

At 02:25 Officer Twigg reached Burghy's location on the trail. Burghy stated he was stabbed by another male while he was in his tent. Burghy did not know who the subject was but stated the unknown male had a double-side axe and a "hook knife."

At 02:46 a small figure could be observed on the trail in the distance. This was likely the involved subject, Matthew Fries (Fries) approaching Officer Twigg's location (*Twigg BWC 2*).

At 02:54 Officer Twigg began examining Burghy's injuries. He appeared to have wounds to his left arm (*Twigg BWC 3*). Burghy also stated he was stabbed in his "butt."

At 03:07 Fries could be seen as a small figure moving toward the officers.

At 03:39 Officer Twigg utilized his portable radio to notify dispatch that he observed a male on the trail approaching his location. Officer Twigg began to move towards the small figure (Fries).

At 03:59 Officer Twigg continued to move towards the small figure (Fries). [REDACTED] could be heard on the radio stating she observed someone walking towards them on the trail (*Twigg BWC 5*).

At 04:22 Officer Twigg's firearm was visible. He appeared to be pointing it in the direction of Fries who continued walking on the trail towards him. Officer Twigg began giving commands to Fries to get on the ground (*Twigg BWC 6*).

Officer Twigg continued pointing his firearm at Fries and giving commands "to get on the ground." Officer Twigg announced that Fries was carrying a knife or sword of some kind.

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At 04:49 a cyclist wearing a yellow shirt could be observed riding on the trail. He appeared to ride past Fries' location. He also passed Officer Twigg on the left (*Twigg BWC 7*).

Fries continued to walk on the trail closer to Officer Twigg. Officer Twigg continued to give verbal commands for Fries to "drop it" and "get on the ground."

At 04:58 someone could be heard in the background (likely Officer Matthew Meyers) stating "put the axe down now." Fries continued to approach Officer Twigg.

At 05:04 Fries briefly stopped walking and appeared to take a "fighting stance" (*Twigg BWC 8*).

Fries continued to approach Officer Twigg. Other Officers could be heard yelling commands at Fries. Fries periodically yelled back at officers stating, "fuck off."

At 05:22 a double-sided axe could be observed in Fries' left hand. He continued walking quickly towards Officer Twigg's location. Officer Twigg appeared to move backwards.

At 05:29 the first gunshot could be heard (*Twigg BWC 9*).

At 05:30 Fries fell to the ground. Small light-colored clouds could be observed on the trail. This was likely bullets striking the hike and bike trail. Officer Twigg appeared to still have his firearm pointed at Fries (*Twigg BWC 10*).

At 05:32 the gunshots ended. Approximately thirteen (13) gunshots could be heard. Someone could be heard saying "stop." Fries was lying on the ground on his back. The axe was lying under Fries' head.

Radio traffic of "shots fired" could be heard in the background. Officer Twigg appeared to move to his right, closer to the train tracks. Officer Twigg then began giving commands to Fries for him to "rollover."

At 06:17 Officer Twigg and another officer (likely Officer Meyers) approached Twigg and began moving the knife and axe away from Fries. A large pool of blood could be observed under Fries' back. Officer Twigg appeared to locate an object from under Fries. This was likely the curved knife that was carried by Fries in his right hand.

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Twigg BWC 1

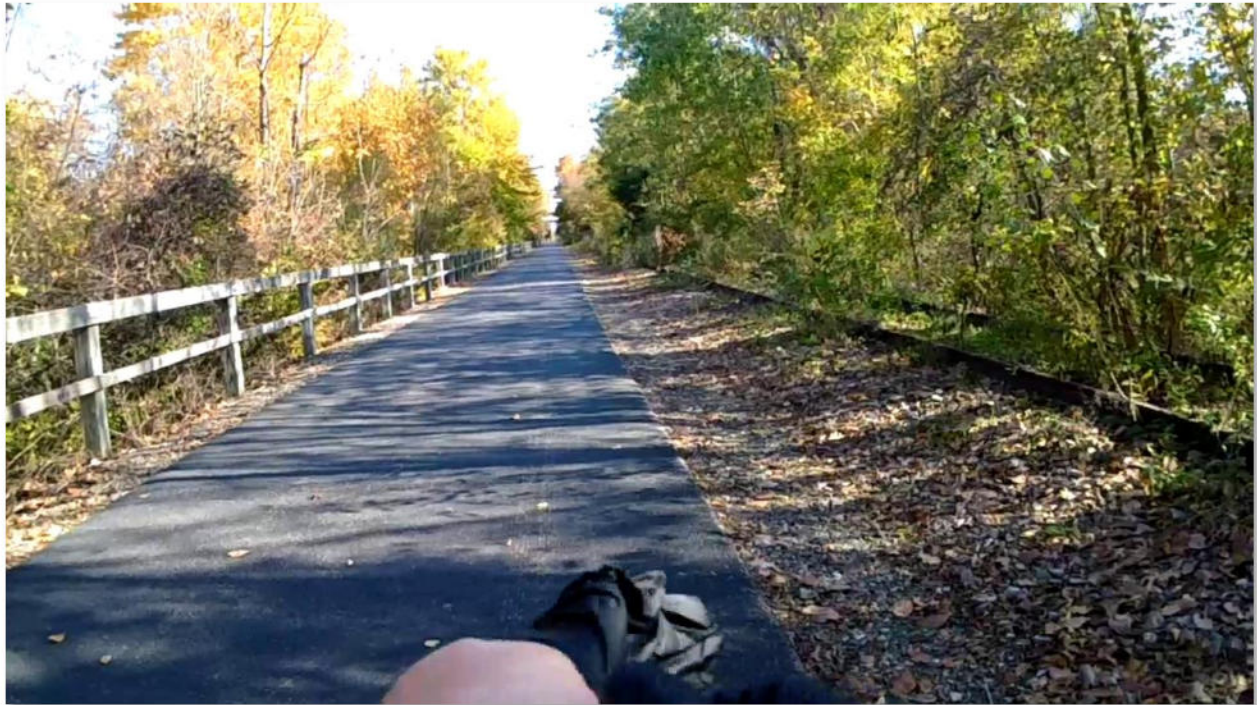
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Twigg BWC 2

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Twigg BWC 3

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Twigg BWC 4

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Twigg BWC 5

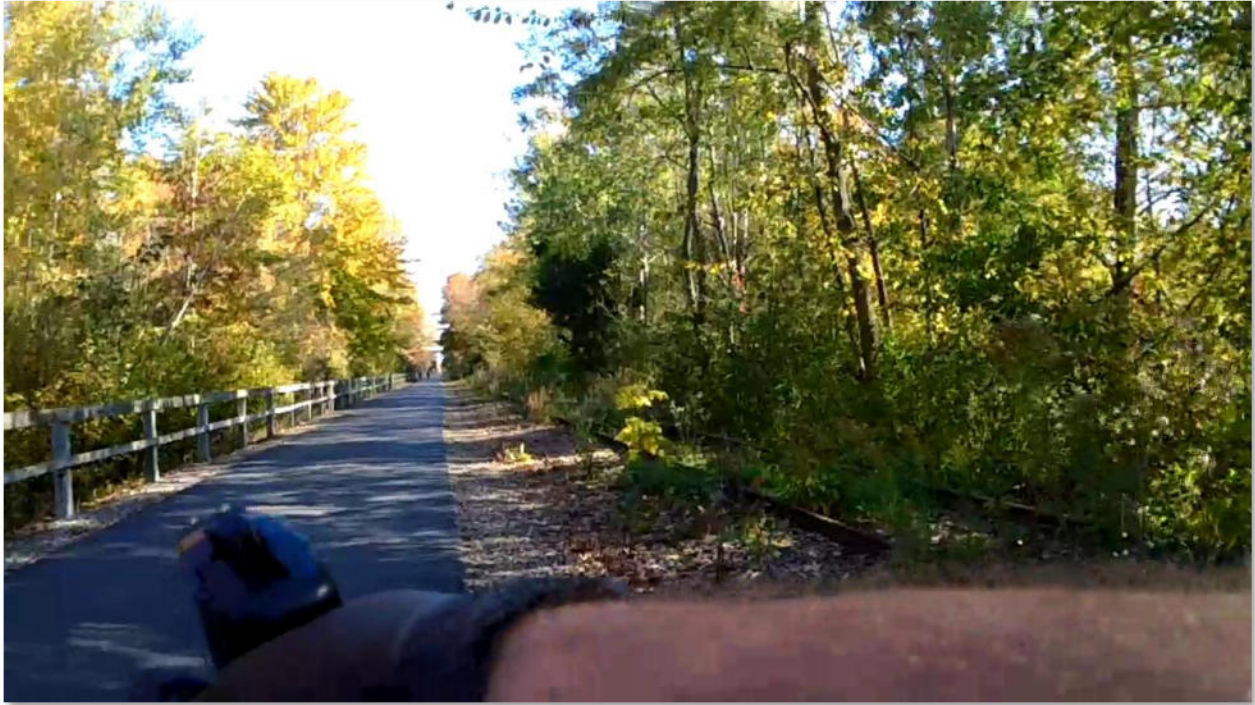
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Twigg BWC 6

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Twigg BWC 7

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Twigg BWC 8

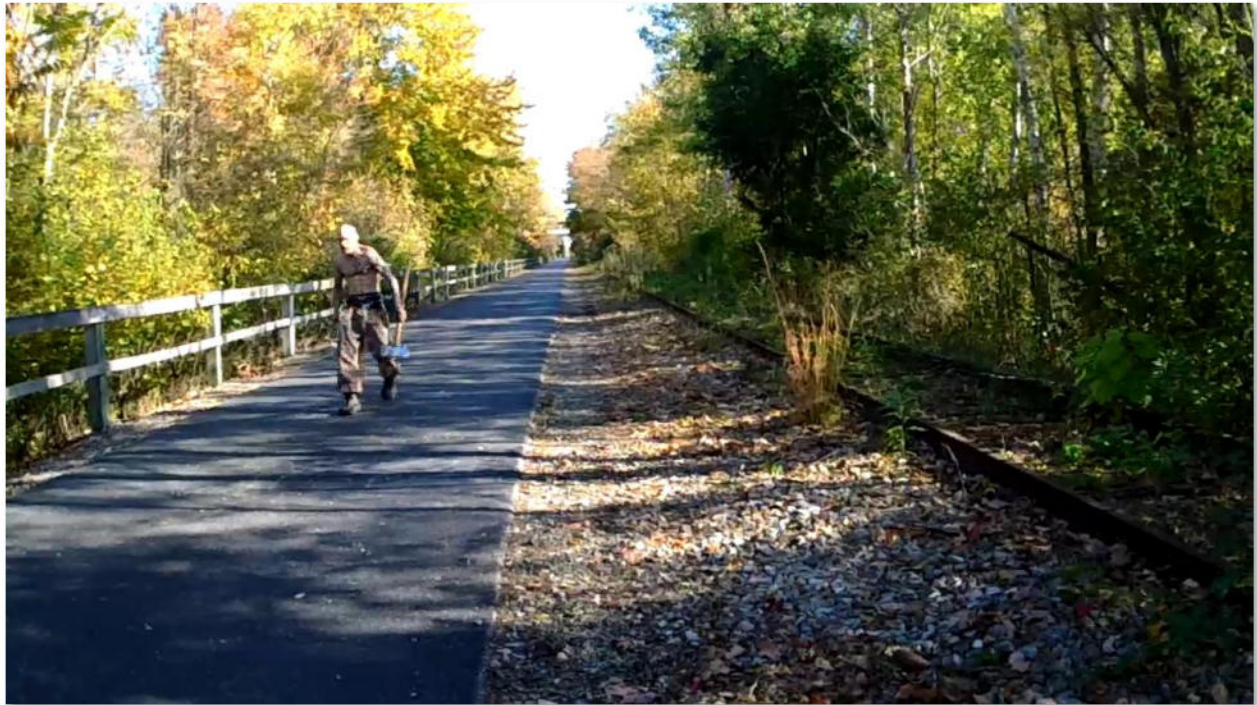
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Twigg BWC 9

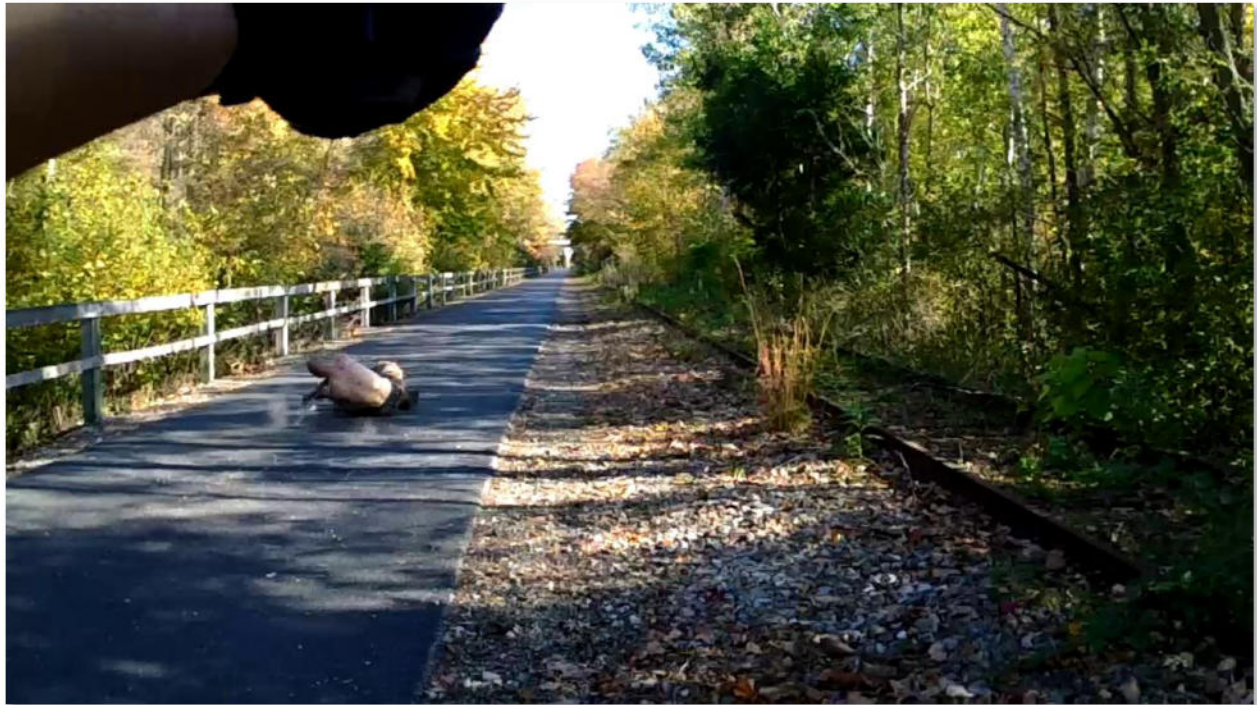
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Twigg BWC 10

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██████████ **BWC**

At 02:54 ██████████ stopped his police cruiser. Radio traffic could be heard in the background with a female officer ██████████ stating, "I got one walking up here."

██████████ exited his cruiser and began walking towards the hike and bike trail.

At 03:29 a male officer (Officer Twigg) stated over the radio that a male was approaching him with a knife. ██████████ began running towards officers who were already present on the hike and bike trail.

At 03:49 ██████████ continued running while a male on a bicycle passed him. It appeared the bicyclist came from the direction of the subject ██████████ **BWC 1**).

Shouting could be heard in the background. This was likely Officer Twigg, ██████████ and Officer Meyers giving commands to the subject.

At 03:56 ██████████ drew his firearm as he continued to run towards the other officers ██████████ **WC 2**).

At 04:01 ██████████ continued to approach Officers Meyers, ██████████ and Twigg. Officer Meyers was on the left side of the hike and bike trail. ██████████ was on the right edge, and Officer Twigg was standing just off the trail closer to the railroad tracks. The subject could be observed between Officers Meyers and ██████████ **BWC 3**).

At 04:06 ██████████ reached the other officers and stood between Officer Meyers and ██████████ then pointed his firearm at the involved subject. Officer Twigg could also be observed pointing his firearm at the involved subject ██████████ **BWC 4**; ██████████ **BWC 5**).

Officers continued to give commands to the subject to "get on the ground" and "put it down." The subject repeatedly yelled "fuck off" at the officers.

At 04:17 an officer could be heard stating he [involved subject] had another knife in his hand. This was likely ██████████ Officers appeared to be backing up while continuing to give commands to the subject.

At 04:24 someone said "alright, shots fired" and the first gunshot could be heard.

At 04:27 someone said "stop" and gunfire ended. Approximately thirteen (13) rounds were fired.

Someone then notified dispatch using their portable radio that shots were fired. Officers appeared to move to the right. ██████████ continued to point his firearm at

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the involved subject. Moaning could be heard in the background. The subject then became visible. He was lying on the trail with his head on the axle. Officers could be heard giving commands to "rollover" (██████ BWC 6).



██████ BWC 1

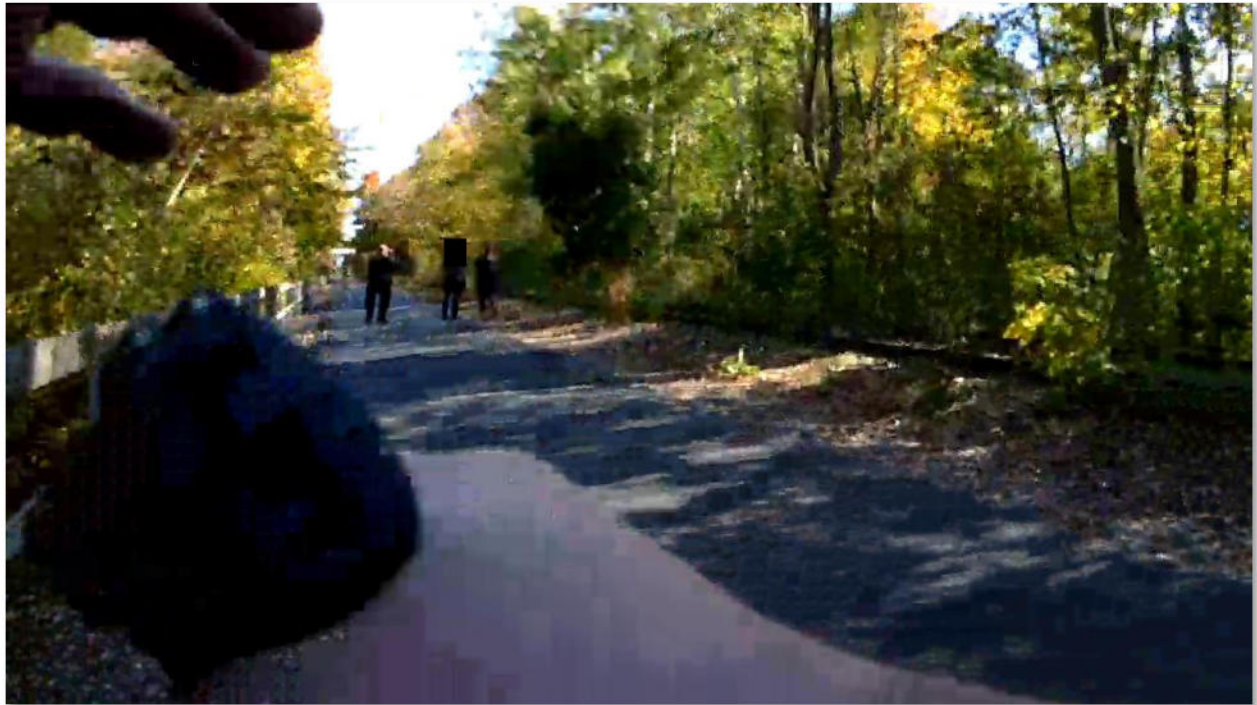
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■■■■ BWC 2

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██████ BWC 3

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■■■■ BWC 4

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██████ BWC 5

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■■■■ BWC 6

For additional information refer to the BWC video files stored in Reference Item C and F, the OOCIC video production stored in Reference Item L, and the Investigative Reports titled *2024-09-05: Receipt and Review of Body Worn Camera Footage* and *2024-09-24: Video Review – OOCIC Video Production*.

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Cellphone Video Recordings

Jack Chandler captured portions of the shooting incident using his personal cellphone video recording function. He was located on the Hike and Bike Trail near North Freedom Street in Ravenna, Ohio, standing next to the stabbing victim, Burghy. Chandler and Burghy were positioned behind the officers.

At 00:01 Chandler zoomed in his camera. Four Ravenna Police Department Officers (RPD) in their uniforms could be observed standing in a line across the hike and bike trail. The officers' arms were not visible and appeared to be forward. A white shirtless male could be observed walking west on the path towards officers. Yelling could be heard in the background (*Chandler Cellphone 2*).

At 00:03 the white male continued to move quickly towards officers. Someone yelled "put it down" (*Chandler Cellphone 3*).

At 00:04 someone continued to yell "put it down" and someone else yelled "fuck off."

At 00:05 "put it down" could be heard in the background. Chandler moved his camera angle towards the ground. A voice closer to the camera said, "stay down" (likely Chandler) and someone else responded "fuck that" (likely the stabbing victim, Larry Burghy).

At 00:08 the first gunshot could be heard followed by multiple other gunshots. Chandler's camera angle remained pointed at the paved path.

At 00:10 the last gunshot could be heard. Chandler's camera angle was still facing towards the ground.

At 00:11 Chandler brought his camera angle up and the officers and involved subject could be observed in the frame. The involved subject was lying on the ground. The four officers were standing in a line across the hike and bike trail. It appeared as though their arms were pointed forward. Someone could be heard moaning and then someone said, "oh my god" (*Chandler Cellphone 4*).

At 00:16 the officers began moving towards the involved subject. Two officers were out of frame. The involved subject could be seen on the ground moving his arms. Someone yelled "roll over" (*Chandler Cellphone 5*).

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Someone continued yelling “roll over.” The officers could be observed shifting their position closer to the train tracks and standing near the involved subject with their arms pointed forward.

At 00:27 the video ended with the subject lying on the ground not moving and the officers standing to the right side of the screen near the train tracks. Someone yelled “roll over” (Chandler Cellphone 6).

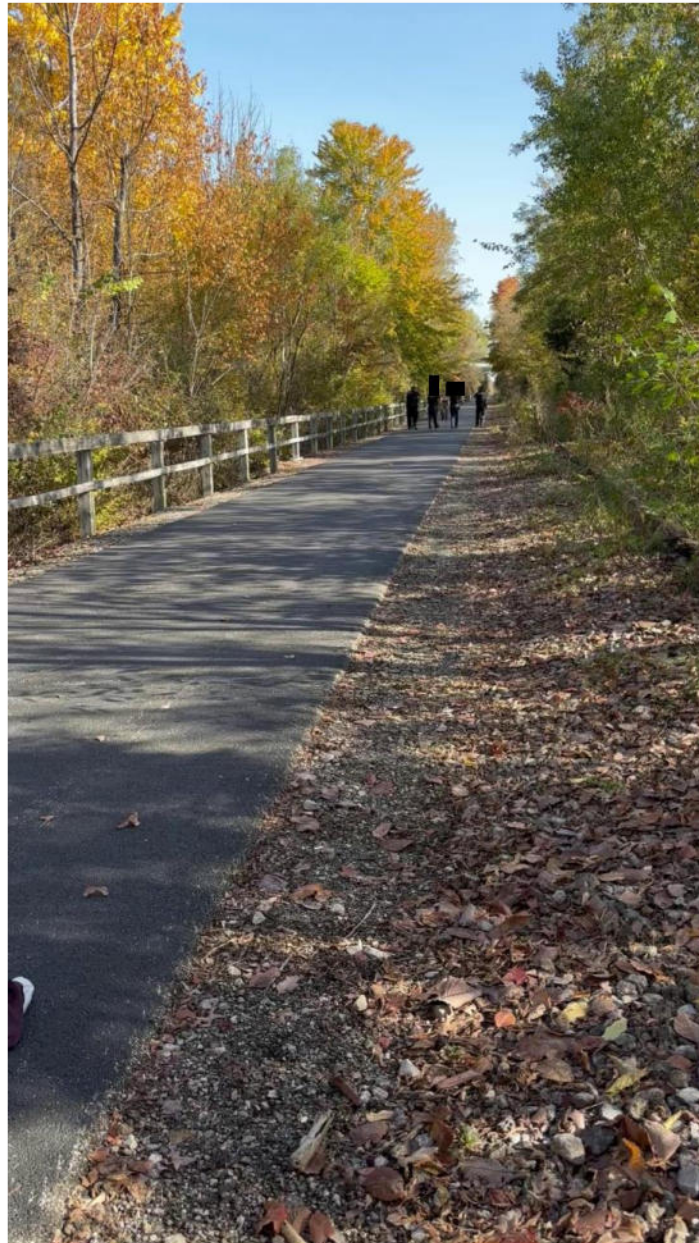
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Chandler Cellphone 1

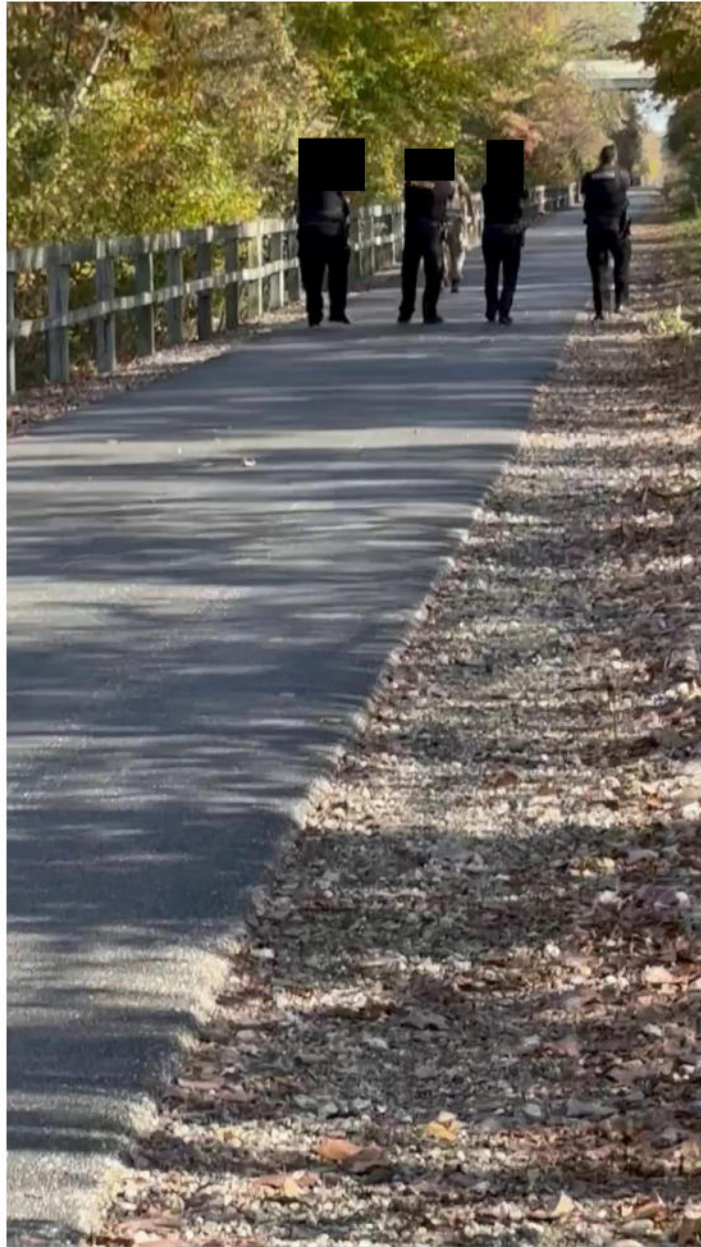
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Chandler Cellphone 2

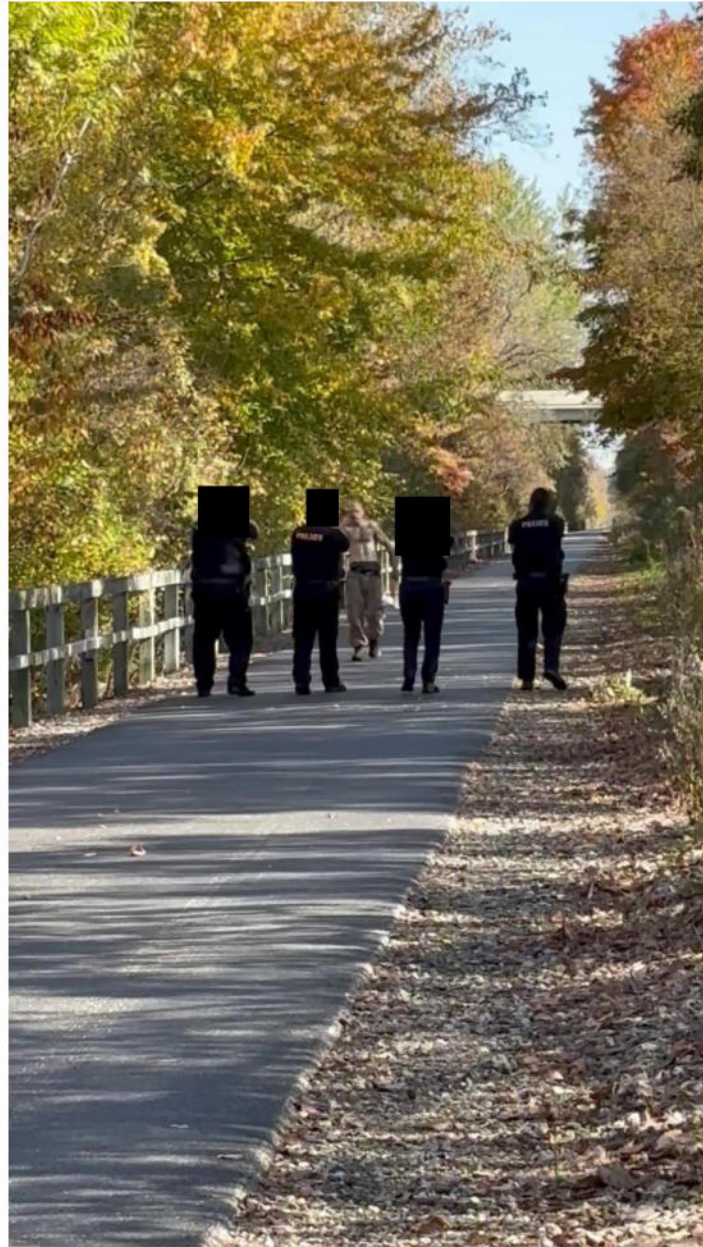
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Chandler Cellphone 3

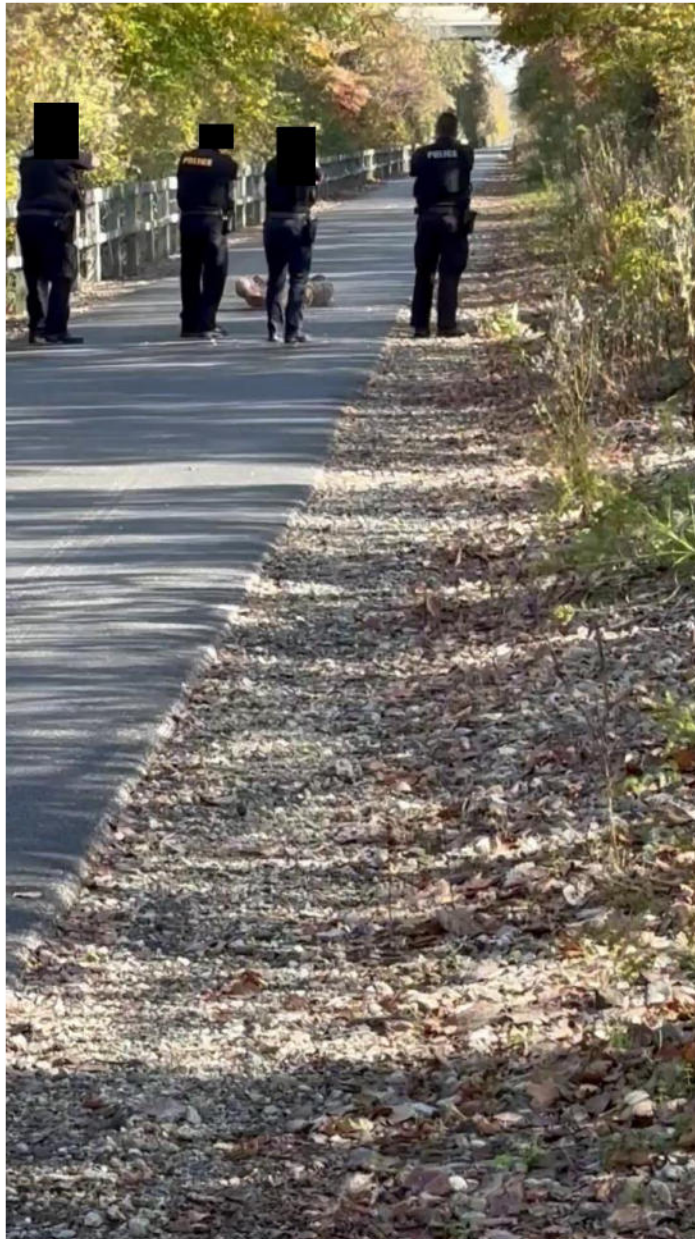
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Chandler Cellphone 4

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Chandler Cellphone 5

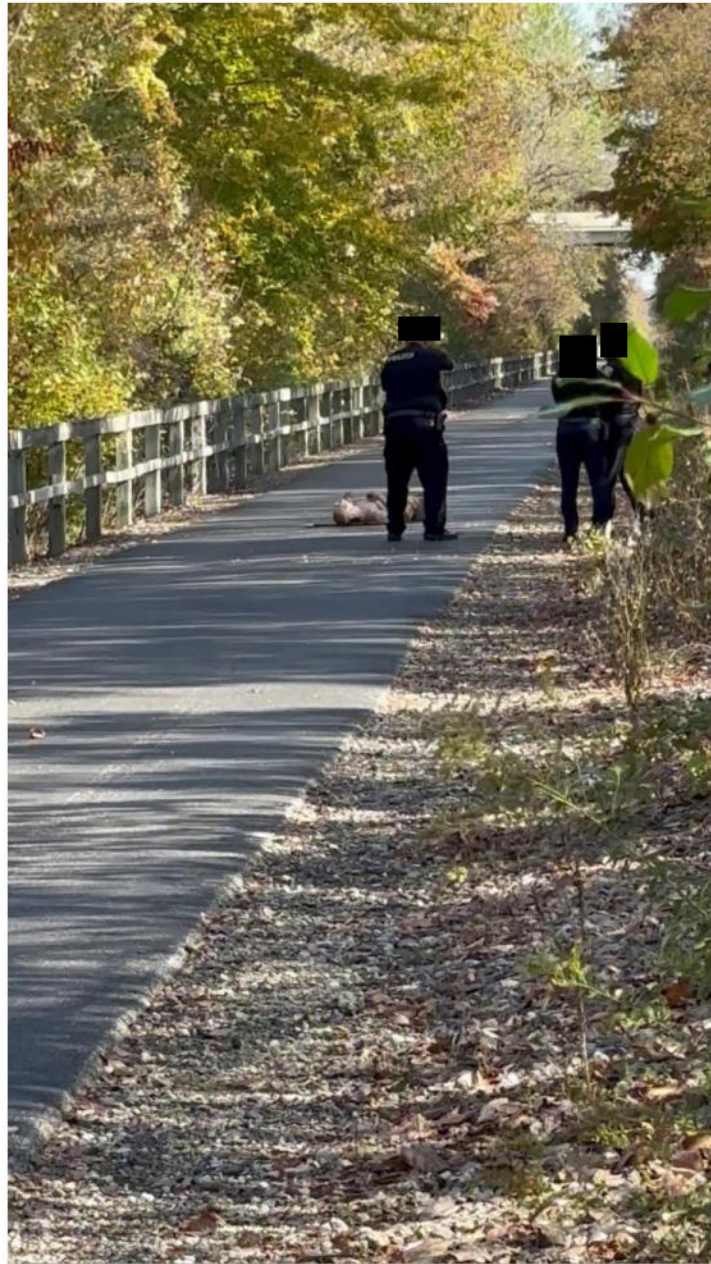
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Chandler Cellphone 6

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For additional information refer to the cellphone video recordings stored in Reference Item B and the Investigative Report titled *2024-08-20: Cellphone Video Review*.

Conclusion

This officer-involved shooting incident involved RPD [REDACTED]. Based upon the tangible/physical evidence, video and audio recordings, statements from law enforcement officers, statements from multiple witnesses, and the totality of the investigation, it was concluded that RPD officers were dispatched to the Portage Hike and Bike Trail near North Freedom Street for a male (Burghy) who had been stabbed by another subject (Fries).

The victim, Burghy, was lying on the Hike and Bike trail with multiple stab wounds to his arm and buttock. Burghy provided a brief description of the subject stating he was bald and not wearing a shirt.

Shortly after making contact with Burghy, officers observed Fries approaching with a double-sided axe and knife in his hands. Fries held the weapons above his head and periodically took a fighting stance. He also continuously yelled expletives at officers as they continued giving commands to stop and drop the weapons.

Fries continued to approach the location of officers. An innocent passerby on a bicycle was observed riding by Fries within arm's reach. Fries did not comply with any of the officers' commands.

Officers continued to command Fries to drop the weapons to no avail. Fries continued his approach, and once he was within approximately fifteen feet of the officer's location, [REDACTED] fired their guns striking Fries in multiple locations rendering him incapacitated.

When officers approached Fries to begin rendering him aid, they observed a large double-side axe lying beneath Fries' head. They also located a small, curved knife lying on the ground next to him.

Fries sustained multiple gunshot wounds and did not make any statements to officers after the shooting.

From the moment witness Officer Twigg first observed Fries and announced the information until the time the first gunshot was fired was less than 2 minutes. Fries was given over thirty commands to stop and drop the weapons before [REDACTED] fired their guns.

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The autopsy indicated Fries was [REDACTED] Bodycam video showed Fries facing officers at the time of the first gunshot. After being struck by the initial gunfire, Fries began to fall to the ground with his left shoulder turning and facing officers. Fries continued to fall to the ground on his left side and then rolled to his back. The gunfire lasted approximately two seconds.

Lab reports confirmed the projectiles recovered from Fries during the autopsy were 45 caliber jacketed hollow point bullets. This was consistent with the ammunition carried by [REDACTED] firearm was identified as the source of one (1) fired projectile recovered from Fries during autopsy. All additional projectiles recovered were inconclusive for their source and could not be differentiated between [REDACTED] firearms. Based upon statements made by officers and video reviews, thirteen (13) shots were fired. [REDACTED] fired six times and [REDACTED] fired seven times.

The conclusion was based on the totality of the investigation. Throughout the investigative process, investigators continually evaluated the physical evidence in conjunction with audio and video recordings, forensic findings, witness statements, involved officer statements and other information to ensure all relevant facts and circumstances surrounding this incident were obtained.

This investigation was focused on the officer-involved shooting incident and the law enforcement use of force that led to the death of Fries.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports, documents, and files from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Allison Fletcher who can be reached via email at allison.fletcher@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone at 330-217-3605.

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