



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



Officer-Involved Critical Incident - Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4482 Hampton Woods Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43230 (L)

To: Shayla Favor, Franklin County Prosecutor
Cc: SAS Kevin Barbeau, Special Agent Supervisor, Ohio BCI
From: SA Chad Holcomb, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
Date: July 28, 2025
Involves: CPD [REDACTED] & Jerry D. Smith
Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4482 Hampton Woods Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43230 (L)
BCI Case Numbers: 2025-1603
BCI Laboratory: 25-115671

Investigative Request

On Tuesday, May 20, 2025, Sergeant Terry McConnell of the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved critical incident. The incident reportedly occurred on May 20, 2025 around 4482 Hampton Woods Court, Columbus, OH 43230 and resulted in the death of Jerry Smith.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the May 20, 2025 officer-involved shooting in Franklin 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 is not 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.

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.

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Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) was assigned as the lead FIU case agent. SA Holcomb received assistance in the investigation from SA Craig Call, SA Dan Boerner, SA Jame Gore, SA Lauren Frazier, SA Brady Curry, SA David Wieging, SA Matt Collins, SA Ryan Scheiderer & SA Eric Runyan and SA Aja Chung & SA Brittney VanBibber of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident, documenting, and collecting possible evidence. BCI Computer Forensic Specialist (CFS) Ryan Pacala of the Cyber Crimes Unit conducted an extraction and analysis of Marybeth Bright's cell phone recovered from her person. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Kevin Barbeau. Additionally, 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:

- Recorded interview(s) of the two officers who discharged their weapons
- Recorded interviews of twenty-eight (28) officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview of the victim directly involved in the incident
- Interviews of two civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interviews of one medical personnel on scene
- Interviews of family members or associates of the decedent
- Obtained and reviewed post-mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen)

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- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) trace on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine ownership history)
- Review of all available dash cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans / model of incident area
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
 2. Firearm operability testing
- Obtained consent to analyze electronic evidence, to include:
 1. Cellular phone
- Reviewed data obtained from aforementioned items of electronic evidence
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Reviewed medical records of those injured.
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered

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Incident Summary/Overview

On May 20, 2025, Ohio BCI was requested by the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) to investigate an officer-involved critical incident that occurred on May 19, 2025, around 2347 hours. Agents were informed that CPD had received two 911 calls of possible domestic violence (DV) situation at 4482 Hampton Woods Court. The DV was involving Jerry Smith (Smith) and Marybeth Bright (Bright).

Upon CPD officers arriving at the scene, gunshots were heard. CPD SWAT was requested and responded to the scene. As SWAT was on scene, additional gunshots were heard coming from the residence. Eventually, CPD [REDACTED] discharged their firearms critically injuring Smith; he was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Decedent

Jerry Smith had recently moved from North Carolina to Ohio and was currently staying with his girlfriend, Bright.

Smith had a criminal history from North Carolina including robbery, kidnapping, assault, and larceny.

Autopsy Report

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

The cause of death for Smith was determined to be [REDACTED]. The manner of death was ruled [REDACTED]. The toxicology report indicated that:

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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- [REDACTED]

Physical Evidence

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting in order to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. Multiple agents responded and processed the scene, to include photographing and mapping the area, as well as the search for documentation and collection of items of possible evidence. Detailed crime scene reports were completed with the below information only summarizing some of the more significant findings.

BCI crime scene agents collected a total of three (3) firearms and six (6) casings from the scene.

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.

All firearms and casings were submitted to the BCI laboratory for analysis.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene, and autopsy (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

- The Stoeger, 9mm handgun (Lab #6) was source identified to the following cartridge cases: Lab #5, 7, 8 & 9.
- The Stoeger handgun was operable. The Daniel Defense Rifle (Lab #10) was source identified to the following cartridge case: Lab #3.
- The Accuracy International rifle (Lab #1) was source identified to the following cartridge case: Lab #2. The fired bullet jacket fragment recovered from autopsy (Lab #11) was inclusive (similar class characteristics but insufficient corresponding individual characteristics to identify or exclude).

Witnesses

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Marybeth Bright Interview:

Bright stated that she met her boyfriend, Jerry Smith (Smith), about a month ago on Facebook. The evening of the shooting, Smith picked up Bright from work and was in a bad mood from a poor job interview earlier in the day. She noticed he had been drinking. They went home and Smith began to drink some more alcohol.

Upon arriving home, Smith began to ransack and destroy the inside of the home. Smith then grabbed Bright's 9mm Stoeger handgun. Bright stated, "He just started beating me up. He hit me with the handle of the gun, just throwing me down, and it just got worse." Multiple 911 calls were then made by a neighbor and one of Bright's coworkers.

Bright stated later that Smith broke the glass from the front door and then "... shot the gun several times out there." SA Holcomb asked how many times Smith shot the gun. Bright believed it was three (3) times. Twice out the door and once in the bedroom.

Eventually Smith told the officer on the phone that he was going to let Bright go and that he was going to walk out after. At this point, the glass on the storm door had been completely broken. Smith then opened the door and "... had the gun in his hand and he put it, he put it up, but the glass was broken up. And he put his hand, with the gun, outside of the door and he dropped the clip and that's when he got shot. He fell over on me." Bright saw a large gunshot on his left chest.

Bright was asked how many times Smith had put his hands on her and hurt her. She replied around eight times. She proceeded to show investigators an old bruise on her left arm. Smith has also threatened her life prior.

SA Holcomb asked Bright throughout the whole event if she ever feared for her life. She replied, "yes." Smith told her, "If I'm gonna die, you're going with me."

Officer Interviews

The following paragraphs are extremely abbreviated versions of each officer's account of his or her actions pertaining to this incident and/or discharging their weapon. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview.

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██████████ Interview / Statement:

██████████ that he was on his day off when an 'SWAT All Call' notifying officers of a barricade situation with a hostage. ██████████ drove his unmarked SWAT vehicle to the scene located at 4484 Hampton Woods Court.

██████████ took a position approximately 50-60 feet north of the suspect's front door. ██████████ wrote in his statement, "Another minute or two passed and the suspect came to the door again. He had a gun in his hand and multiple officers aired that, including myself. However, he did not level or discharge the gun at anyone, so I maintained my position."

██████████ wrote, "Approximately another five minutes went by and the suspect turned the porch light on. A couple more minutes passed, and the suspect briefly came to the door and then went back inside the apartment. Command Post aired that the suspect was coming to the door with his gun in his hand. A second or so later, the suspect came back to the door. I did not see the female hostage. Initially he waved his hand out the window of the screen door. Then, suddenly, he pointed his gun out the window and leveled it directly towards the Bearcat-where I knew multiple officers were positioned. I squeezed the trigger of my rifle and fired one round at the suspect. The suspect went down. I did not see the female hostage even after the suspect went to the ground."

██████████ wrote, "I fired one round at the suspect during this incident. I believe I was approximately 50-60 feet from the suspect when I fired". Later he wrote, "At the moment I fired at the suspect, I was in fear for the lives of the SWAT officers around the Bearcat. The suspect had previously fired at officers and had fired several rounds while I was on scene, including one that officers aired struck the Bearcat." He continued to write, "I do not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the lives of those SWAT officers, as well as the life of the female hostage in the apartment with him from the deadly threat that presented by the suspect's actions."

██████████ Interview / Statement:

██████████ stated that he was monitoring his SWAT radio channel from home and was alerted of a possible barricade situation. He eventually received a text informing him of a SWAT call out at 4484 Hampton Woods Court. He was told that the suspect, Jerry Smith (Smith), had shot twice at patrol officers.

In his statement, ██████████ talks about the numerous times that Smith opened the door and had a firearm in his hand. ██████████ also wrote, "The suspect was

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oscillating between and/or releasing the hostage to immediately becoming amped up and announcing he wanted to die and was ready to die and that he was going to 'come out with the fire'. I interpreted the last comment as a threat to shoot at officers, especially since he had already fired at officers multiples times."

██████████ wrote, "Moments later the suspect opened the front door again. I did not see the hostage. At first, I could not see the suspect's hands, but a second after he opened the door he raised and levelled his weapon towards the Bearcats, and it was then that I fired."

██████████ continued to write, "At the time I fired my weapon, I believed the suspect posed a deadly threat to the hostage's life and to the lives of all the officers on scene, including my own life." "I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect my life, the other officers' lives, or the hostage's life from the deadly threat presented when the suspect raised and levelled his weapon towards officers after having already shot at officers several times."

Dispatch-Related Information

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Records:

- 22:02:21: MALE COMING TO DOOR W/ 33 [FIREARM] IN HAND
- 22:03:34: MALE SHOOTING AT OFFICERS
- 22:17:47: SHOTS FIRED
- 22:18:38: LAST SHOT FIRED BY SUSP THRU FRONT DOOR
- 23:56:25: MEDICS PRON AT 2355 PER SWAT

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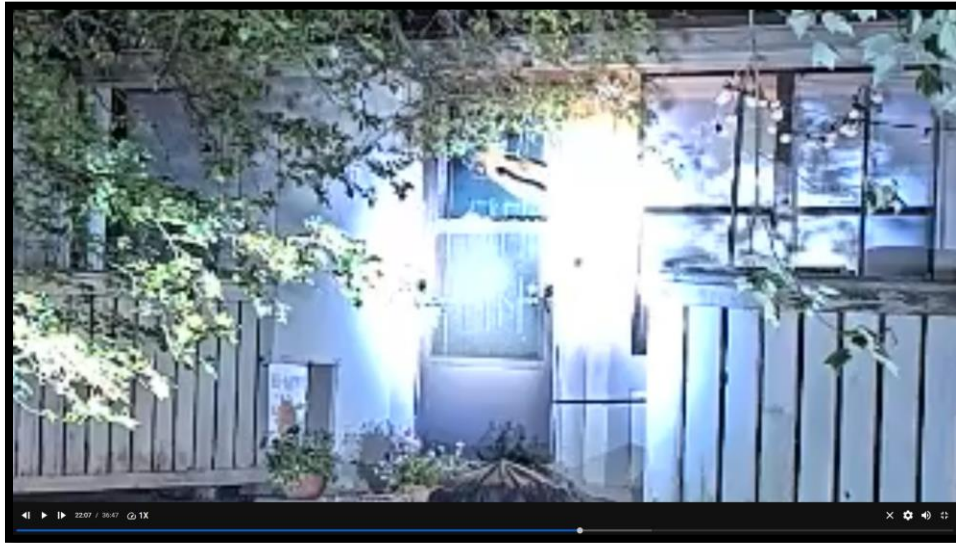
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Video Recordings

ARV #1 Camera:



(22:07 into the recording: Both hands and presumably a firearm in the doorway)



(22:07 into the recording: black item dropping to ground)

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████████████████████ BWC do not show any pertinent video.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved critical incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents 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 Chad Holcomb. SA Holcomb can be reached via email at Chad.Holcomb@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at 614-813-8496.

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