



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



2023-3223  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 807 Alan Page Dr SE, Canton,  
OH 44707

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness  
**Involves:** [REDACTED] (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 12/06/2023  
**Activity Location:** Canton Police Department – Business – 221 3rd Street SW, P.O.  
Box 24218, Canton, OH 44701  
**Author:** SA Eric Lehnhart, #84

**Narrative:**

On Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 0142 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Eric Lehnhart (SA Lehnhart) and SA John Tingley (SA Tingley) interviewed [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), relative to the officer-involved shooting which took place on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. The interview took place at 221 3rd Street SW, Canton, Ohio 44702, the Canton, Ohio, Police Department. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

[REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED] Canton, Ohio 44705. He continued to state that he has been married to [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) for three (3) years and this relationship has produced two (2) children and two (2) stepchildren. He and [REDACTED] have been separated since February of 2023 and living in separate residences, although they are in the process of a reconciliation.

[REDACTED] stated that he and Zachary Fornash (Fornash) were childhood friends and after his separation with [REDACTED] she provided a place for Fornash to stay as he also was estranged from his wife. [REDACTED] was fully aware that his wife and Fornash were engaged in a sexual relationship.

Earlier in the day, [REDACTED] contacted [REDACTED] to talk with him about reconciliation of their relationship and that Fornash was being difficult and wanted his belonging back immediately, even though most of his clothes were taken to be laundered. As the day went on and Fornash's behavior continued, [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] to come over to her apartment as Fornash was on his way over and she didn't want any issues with him.

As [REDACTED] arrived at the apartment complex, [REDACTED] was outside near her vehicle. [REDACTED] spotted Fornash coming across the lawn towards [REDACTED]'s vehicle. During the

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verbal confrontation with Fornash, ██████ advised that he heard a gun slide being manipulated by Fornash. ██████ stated that he didn't see a weapon, but as a concealed carry permit holder, he was familiar with firearms and he could not mistake the sound he heard as anything other than a gun.

██████ stated that as he entered the disagreement with Fornash, ██████ began honking the horn on her vehicle. This noise caught the attention of the off duty Canton police officer who was working at the complex.

As the officer approached, ██████ advised the officer that Fornash had a gun. Fornash then ran from the area with the officer chasing him. ██████ stated that he told ██████ to shut the car door and that the two of them quickly headed for her apartment. ██████ stated that he heard something that sounded like "the cop hit something." ██████ Stated that he did not hear any gunshots during the incident.

After the incident was over, ██████ and ██████ were preparing to leave the complex for the evening when the Canton Police approached ██████ and asked if he has "flagged" the officer down. Both he and ██████ were asked to go to the police department to provide witness statements.

The interview concluded at approximately 0205 hours.

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

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2023-12-06 ██████ ██████ Interview