



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



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 6235 Hathaway Rd., Garfield Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio 44125

To: Micah Ault, Assistant Attorney General, Special Prosecutions  
Cc: Chuck Moran, Special Agent Supervisor, Ohio BCI  
From: Joseph Goudy, Special Agent, Ohio BCI  
Date: February 9, 2024  
Involves: Benard Russell  
Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident  
BCI Case Numbers: Special Investigations (SIU): 2023-3023  
Crime Scene (CSU): 2023-3023  
Cyber Crime (CCU): 2023-3023  
BCI Laboratory: 23-39875

**Investigative Request**

On Tuesday, November 14, 2023, Chief Mark Kaye of the Garfield Heights Police Department 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 shooting incident. The incident reportedly occurred on November 14, 2023 in the area of 6235 Hathaway Road and resulted in the death of Benard Russell.

*Preface:*

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the November 14, 2023 officer-involved shooting in Cuyahoga 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 to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for most 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 Joseph Goudy (Goudy) was assigned as the lead SIU case agent. SA Goudy received assistance in the investigation from SA Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Andrew Harasimchuk (Harasimchuk). BCI Special Agents Ed Staley (Staley) and Crime Scene Technician (CST) Mike Rostocil (Rostocil) of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident, documenting, preserving, and collecting possible evidence. BCI Computer Forensic Specialist (CFS) Natasha Branam of the Cyber Crimes Unit conducted an extraction and analysis of Matrix Item #14 – Blue Motorola, Moto g power cellular phone recovered from the computer desk in the basement nearby where Benard Russell was located. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor, Jon Lieber. 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 this investigation, by the investigative team, to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview(s) of the 2 officers who discharged their weapons.
- Recorded interviews of 3 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(s) of the involved subject and others subjects directly involved in the incident.
- Interviews of 5 civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interviews of family members or associates of the decedent
- Special agent attendance to postmortem examination (autopsy) of the deceased
- Obtained and reviewed postmortem 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.
- 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 body cameras involved in the incident.
- Review of Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL) data for all equipped police vehicles



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- 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 Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) communications relative to the incident
- Reviewed phone/text records obtained via search warrant from wireless service provider.
- 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.
- Obtained search warrants for the subject's phone and performed an analysis of the data present.
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
  1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets.
  2. Firearm operability testing
  3. Gunshot residue testing (GSR)
  4. DNA
- Obtained search warrant to analyze electronic evidence, to include:
  1. Cellular phones
- 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.
- Enhancement of audio/video recordings through the assistance of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through court order
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered.
- Reviewed tips, social media posts, and pertinent statements made in the media regarding the incident.



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**Incident Summary/Overview**

On Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 1225 hours, the Garfield Heights Police Dispatch Center received a call from Benard Russell (Russell) asking for the number to the suicide hotline. Shortly thereafter, Russell hung up the phone. Garfield Heights Police (GHPD) officers were dispatched immediately to his residence, located at 6235 Hathaway Road. When officers arrived on scene at 1232 hours, they met with Russell's wife, Wilma Jean Russell (Wilma) at the front door. After Wilma let GHPD officers into the residence, she indicated that she and Russell have been having marital issues along with a disagreement over the disbursement of an inheritance Wilma received from her late grandmother's estate over the past week. Wilma stated Russell was in the basement. When officers attempted to go into the basement, the basement door was locked. Wilma then gave the officers a key to access the basement from a rear exterior door.

When officers entered the rear exterior door to the basement, they encountered Russell sitting in a chair holding a handgun to his head. During this time, officers attempted to negotiate with Russell to put the gun down and to comply with their orders. Russell refused to comply and insisted that officers leave him alone. As officers continued to negotiate, Russell began to lower his gun down from his head and pointed it in the officer's direction. It was at this point when officers fired their duty weapons, striking Russell. After the gunshots were fired, officers moved up to secure Russell and began to render emergency medical aid to him. Russell was eventually transported to Marymount Hospital where he eventually succumbed to his injuries.

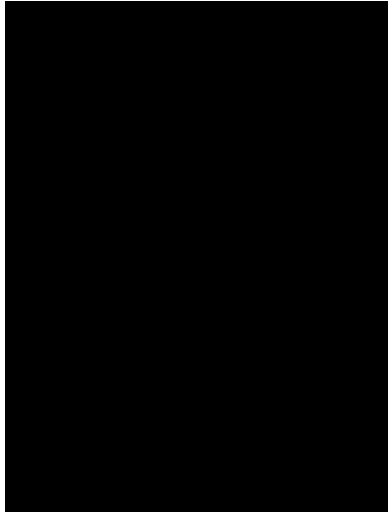


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**Decedent**



Name: Benard Russell  
 DOB: August 10, 1956  
 SOC: [REDACTED]  
 OL#: [REDACTED]  
 Height: 6'00"  
 Weight: 195  
 Hair / Eyes: Black / Brown  
 Address: 6235 Hathaway Road  
 Garfield Hts, OH (OHLEG)

Benard Russell was transported to Marymount Hospital emergency department in Garfield Heights for life-saving emergency measures from the gunshot wounds.

**Background:**

Benard Russell

(Ohio)

- 67-year-old male
- Driver's license status: Valid
- Computerized Criminal History (CCH): None
- Suspensions: None
- Accidents: 4 reported accidents (2001, 2008, 2010)
- Convictions: 1 reported conviction (2011)



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**Autopsy Report**

The autopsy report for the decedent (Benard Russell) was obtained from the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Physical Evidence**

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. Multiple agents responded and processed the scene, including 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.





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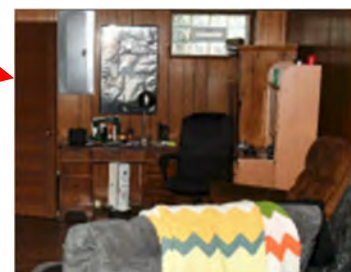
This photo depicts the items of suspected evidence collected on-scene.

Item	Description	Location
1	SPEER 9MM LUGER+P fired cartridge case	Floor in NE corner of basement
2	SPEER 9MM LUGER+P fired cartridge case	Floor in NE corner of basement
3	SPEER 9MM LUGER+P fired cartridge case	Floor in NE corner of basement
4	SPEER 9MM LUGER+P fired cartridge case	Floor in NE corner of basement
5	SPEER 9MM LUGER+P fired cartridge case	Floor in NE corner of basement
6	SPEER 9MM LUGER+P fired cartridge case	Floor in NE corner of basement
7	SPEER 9MM LUGER+P fired cartridge case	Floor in NE corner of basement
8	SPEER 9MM LUGER+P fired cartridge case	Floor of pantry
9	SPEER 9MM LUGER+P fired cartridge case	Floor of pantry
10	Fired projectile	Floor of living area
11	Fired projectile	Floor of living area, near desks
12	Fired projectile	Floor of living area, under desk
13	(4) .38 SPL unfired cartridges	On desk along South wall, living area
14	Motorola cell phone	On desk along West wall, living area
15	Note	In desk along West wall, living area
16	SPEER 9MM LUGER+P fired cartridge case	Under shelf unit in pantry

This photo depicts the overall point of view from where [REDACTED] was standing and the room Benard Russell was in at the time of the incident. Russell was initially seated in the black office chair at the far end of the room.



*(Overall view)*



*(Zoomed in view)*

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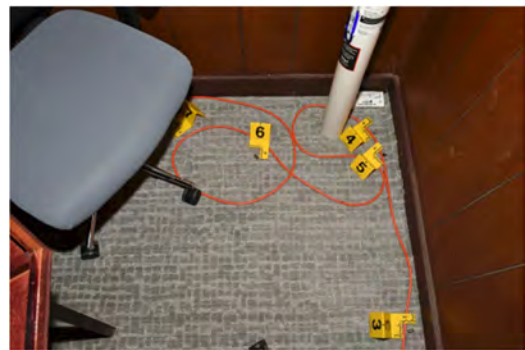


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The following photos depict the evidence placards showing the fired cartridge casings from ██████████ ██████████ on the floor to the right of where she was standing.



*(Item #1 & #2)*



*(Items #3 - 7)*

The following photo depicts evidence placards #8 and #9 showing the fired cartridge casings from ██████████ ██████████ on the floor near where he was standing. ██████████ ██████████ was standing inside the room adjacent to where Russell was initially sitting.



*(Item #8 & #9)*





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The following photos depict fired projectiles recovered nearby where Russell was located throughout the incident. The black chair was the chair Russell was initially sitting in.



*(Item #10)*



*(Item #11)*



*(Item #12)*

This photo depicts item #13, the four (4) unfired .38 special ammunition sitting on the desk next to where Russell was initially sitting.



*(Item #13)*



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This photo depicts item #14, the Motorola cell phone belonging to Russell sitting on the computer desk next to the chair Russell was initially sitting in at the time of the incident.



*(Item #14)*

This photo depicts the note (Item #15) that was passed back and forth between Russell and his wife Wilma prior to the incident. The subject of the note was a discussion as to how money should be utilized. The money in question was initially received from the estate of Wilma's mother. Russell insisted on keeping it for themselves, while Wilma wanted to divide it up amongst her siblings and the church she attended. The note was on the right side of the computer desk next to where Russell was sitting.



*(Item #15)*

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This photo depicts item #16, a fired cartridge casing fired by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the room adjacent to where Russell was initially located. The casing was discovered underneath the shelving.



*(Item #16)*

The photos below depicts the department owned Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm handgun bearing serial number [REDACTED] issued to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. In addition, the two spare magazines contained 17 rounds of 9mm ammunition each and the magazine removed from the handgun contained 13 rounds of 9mm ammunition.





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The photos below depicts the department owned Smith and Wesson M&P 9mm handgun bearing serial number [REDACTED] issued to [REDACTED]. In addition, the two spare magazines contained 17 rounds of 9mm ammunition each and the magazine removed from the handgun contained 10 rounds of 9mm ammunition. Also, 1 round of 9mm ammunition believed to be from the chamber.



The photos below depicts the Taurus .38 special revolver bearing serial number 1143654 possessed by Benard Russell. In addition, 6 rounds of .38 caliber ammunition were removed from the revolver.



The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene, vehicles, and autopsies (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 following items were submitted for comparisons and analysis:

1. Envelope containing cartridge case (CS#1)  
-One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case.
2. Envelope containing cartridge case (CS#2)

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- One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case.
- 3. Envelope containing cartridge case (CS#3)
  - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case.
- 4. Envelope containing cartridge case (CS#4)
  - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case.
- 5. Envelope containing cartridge case (CS#5)
  - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case.
- 6. Envelope containing cartridge case (CS#6)
  - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case.
- 7. Envelope containing cartridge case (CS#7)
  - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case.
- 8. Envelope containing cartridge case (CS#8)
  - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case.
- 9. Envelope containing cartridge case (CS#9)
  - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case.
- 10. Envelope containing bullet (CS#10)
  - One (1) fired bullet. Returned to [REDACTED] s firearm.
- 11. Envelope containing bullet (CS#11)
  - One (1) fired bullet. Inconclusive result.
- 12. Envelope containing bullet (CS#12)
  - One (1) fired bullet. Returned to [REDACTED] s firearm.
- 13. Envelope containing cartridge case (CS#16)
  - One (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case. Returned to [REDACTED] s firearm.
- 14. Envelope containing bullet (CS#17)
  - One (1) fired bullet. Returned to [REDACTED] s firearm.
- 15. Envelope containing bullet (CS#18)
  - One (1) fired bullet. Returned to [REDACTED] s firearm.
- 16. Envelope containing bullet (CS#19)
  - One (1) fired bullet. Returned to [REDACTED] s firearm.
- 17. Envelope containing bullet (CS#20)
  - One (1) fired bullet. Returned to [REDACTED] s firearm.
- 18. One cardboard box containing firearm (SN [REDACTED] with magazine and cartridges (CS#21) -One (1) Smith & Wesson 9mm Luger semi-automatic pistol, model M&P9 M 2.0, serial number [REDACTED] three (3) magazines and forty-five (45) cartridges. This firearm was used by [REDACTED]
- 19. One cardboard box containing firearm (SN [REDACTED] with magazine and cartridges (CS#22) -One (1) Smith & Wesson 9mm Luger semi-automatic pistol, model M&P9 M 2.0, serial number [REDACTED] three (3) magazines and forty-seven (47) cartridges. This firearm was used by [REDACTED]





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- 20. One cardboard box containing firearm (serial# 1143654) cartridges recovered from the scene (CS#23) -One (1) Taurus 38 Special double action revolver, model 80, serial number 1143654 and six (6) cartridges. This firearm was possessed by Russell during the incident.
- 21. Envelope containing bullet (Matrix Item 36)
  - One (1) fired bullet. Removed from the [REDACTED] of Russell during autopsy. Returned to [REDACTED] s firearm.
- 22. Envelope containing bullet (Matrix Item 37)
  - One (1) fired bullet. Removed from the [REDACTED] of Russell during autopsy. Returned to [REDACTED] s firearm.
- 23. Envelope containing bullet (Matrix Item 38)
  - One (1) fired bullet. Removed from the [REDACTED] of Russell during autopsy. Returned to [REDACTED] s firearm.
- 24. Envelope containing bullet (Matrix 39)
  - One (1) fired bullet. Removed from the [REDACTED] of Russell during autopsy. Returned to [REDACTED] s firearm.

**Findings**

Item Description	Comparison	Conclusion
Item #18: One (1) Smith & Wesson pistol (SN: [REDACTED])	N/A	Operable
	Items #1-7: each containing one (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case.	Source Identification
Item #18: One (1) Smith & Wesson pistol (SN: [REDACTED])	Items #10, 12, 14-17 and 22: each containing one (1) fired 9mm Luger bullet	Source Identification
	Item #11: one (1) fired 9mm Luger bullet	Inconclusive*
Item #19: One (1) Smith & Wesson pistol (SN: [REDACTED])	N/A	Operable
	Items #8, 9 and 13: each containing one (1) fired 9mm Luger cartridge case	Source Identification
	Items #21, 23 and 24: each containing one (1) fired 9mm Luger bullet	Source Identification
	Item #11: one (1) fired 9mm Luger bullet	Inconclusive*

\*Similar class characteristics but insufficient corresponding individual characteristics to identify or exclude.





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As [REDACTED] *"cautiously"* made her way to the front door, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] walked around towards the rear of the residence. After [REDACTED] began knocking on the front door, a female opened the door and, *"looked very confused as to why we were there."* After advising the female of the reason for them being there, [REDACTED] stated the female *"seemed very annoyed."* [REDACTED] further stated that the female wasn't annoyed because they were there but just annoyed at the situation.

The female told [REDACTED] that it was probably her husband and he's in the basement. When [REDACTED] asked the female if there were any weapons in the house, the female paused for a second, but then said, *"no."* At this point, the female was leading [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] through the house to the basement door. When [REDACTED] tried to open the door, it was locked. [REDACTED] then stated that the female retrieved the keys to another basement door. The female stated that door can be accessed from outside the rear of the residence.

After retrieving the keys to the basement door, [REDACTED] stated she began knocking on the door and used the doorbell. While she was knocking on the door, she said, *"Benard, its Garfield... nothing, no answer."* [REDACTED] stated she did not hear or see anything. Prior to opening the door, [REDACTED] stated she was peeking through a little window on the door and saw a room with no one there. At this point, [REDACTED] decided to use the keys to enter the basement.

When [REDACTED] entered the basement, she stated, *"Benard, you in here, its Garfield Police."* [REDACTED] stated she heard mumbling and knew he was close by. [REDACTED] stated she went to the right and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] went to the left. When [REDACTED] went around the corner, she saw the male Benard Russell (Benard) sitting in an office chair with a gun pointed to his head. At this point Benard yelled out to get the light out of his face. [REDACTED] stated she lowered her light and gun knowing that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was positioned to her left.

[REDACTED] stated she *"tried very hard to talk to him and to get him to put the gun down, he, uh, didn't want to."* Benard wanted [REDACTED] to leave, and [REDACTED] replied, *"I couldn't leave, I said I can't leave you. I can't do that."* [REDACTED] stated that Benard told her, *"Then pull up a chair and enjoy the show."* [REDACTED] replied, *"please don't do that, please don't do that. He was giving off indications he was going to pull the trigger."* At one-point Benard puts his head in his lap and mumbles. *"We all die someday."* [REDACTED] stated, *"No Benard, please don't do this."* Shortly after that, [REDACTED] offered to take Benard to go get help if he puts down the gun. [REDACTED] stated Benard asked her *"if she wanted to go home to her family too."* [REDACTED] stated Benard didn't really respond to anything other than asking [REDACTED] if she wanted to go home to her family again.



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At this point, additional GHPD officers were entering the basement, and it was upsetting Benard. [REDACTED] then stated, "*Benard lowered the handgun right at me, and uh, I remember screaming no!*" At this point, [REDACTED] began to fire her weapon at Benard. As Benard fell from his chair, Benard was yelling and still had the gun gripped in his hand. [REDACTED] stated she wasn't sure exactly where the gun was located after he went to the ground. [REDACTED] wanted to move up quickly to administer first aid. Shortly thereafter, [REDACTED] heard another shot which was fired by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] began to administer emergency first aid.

*(For further details, please refer to the audio and video interview of Garfield Heights Police [REDACTED] [REDACTED] along with the interview report (Matrix Investigative Report - IRW-13) originally authored by SA Goudy.)*

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] explained he was in the parking lot, Garfield Height Police Department, sitting in his cruiser. While in the parking lot, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] advised he was assigned a welfare check call from dispatch. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was informed that dispatch had received a call, from a male, who wanted the phone number to the suicide hotline. The male then hung up the phone.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] advised that he and Unit [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] [REDACTED]) were assigned the call. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated he left the police department and proceeded to the scene (6235 Hathaway Road). [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated, "*I looked at my CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch) map where the house was situated, and it was between two side streets and right in the middle and I think there were like 6 or 7 houses between those side streets. I parked, we haven't been there, it was just a weird call, the way the call came in and then the, I asked radio (Dispatch) if we had any history at the house and they said, 'not since 2009' like barking dog complaints but there might be a person there with a lot of weapons and that's all I got.*"

Officers then approached the house and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was able to make contact with someone inside the residence by knocking on the front door. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] then approached [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s location and met with a female, who [REDACTED] [REDACTED] described as the wife of the "person." The female was later identified as Wilma Russell (Wilma).

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] explained that officers told Wilma that they had received a 911 call from a cellular phone that traced back to the residence. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] advised that Wilma seemed surprised and stated, "*Well I didn't call you.*" [REDACTED] [REDACTED] informed Wilma that it was a male caller and asked if anyone else was home. According to



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██████████ ██████████ Wilma replied, *"My husband, he called?"* ██████████ ██████████ advised that Wilma seemed *"a little frustrated"* that her husband would have called. Wilma then informed officers that her husband, later identified as Benard Russell (Benard), was in the basement.

██████████ ██████████ explained that Wilma *"guided"* officers through the house, past the kitchen. ██████████ ██████████ stated he asked Wilma if she and Benard had some sort of fight. ██████████ ██████████ advised that Wilma replied, *"We had a discussion about divorce."* ██████████ ██████████ stated that ██████████ ██████████ went to the basement door and discovered it was locked. ██████████ ██████████ then asked Wilma if Benard had any weapons and she replied, *"I don't think so."* Wilma then handed ██████████ ██████████ a key that was to the outside entrance to the basement and stated, *"This is the key to the basement door that's outside, you have to go outside, I don't know why he's locking the door."*

██████████ ██████████ stated before they went outside, he again asked Wilma, "Are you sure he doesn't have any weapons?" According to ██████████ ██████████ Wilma replied, "I don't think so." ██████████ ██████████ approached the outside basement door and rang the doorbell, while calling out Benard's name and knocking on the door.

██████████ ██████████ unlocked the basement door and the officers entered. ██████████ ██████████ stated, "We get into this rec room, it's like this dark paneled, just spooky looking room." ██████████ ██████████ explained that straight ahead and off to his right he observed a threshold which appeared to lead into a room." Off to ██████████ ██████████'s left, he observed another threshold which led into a "small, really dark room." Through that room, ██████████ ██████████ stated he observed another threshold that "with a little bit more light in it but all in all it was kind of dim."

██████████ ██████████ stated that he started to walk with ██████████ ██████████ towards the first threshold and that he observed ██████████ ██████████ lean in and say, *"Hey Benard, hey why don't you put that gun down."* ██████████ ██████████ explained that he immediately went to the left, towards the darkened room and he believed that he already had his firearm out.

██████████ ██████████ stated, *"I go only into that threshold and there is a pillar, a load bearing pillar that hold up, you know, and I see Benard sitting in a chair or something and he's got, he's got a pistol, he's got a revolver to his head like this."* ██████████ ██████████ continued, *"So I have visual on the gun, his head, and a little bit of his shoulder and that's about it, so I can see his side and I can see the gun. I immediately get on the air. ██████████ is talking, ██████████ is talking to him trying to talk him down, she's doing a fabulous job. I get on the air and said, 'I need everybody down here, I got a male with a pistol to his head, I need everybody available, I need less lethal, and I need a body-bunker or a shield, um get down here now.'" ██████████ ██████████ stated that he had his*





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radio turned down and was unsure if any other officers heard him, so he broadcasted, "Radio, did you copy any of that?" [REDACTED] [REDACTED] advised that his request was acknowledged, and officers were on their way.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] also stated he requested a squad to respond and to stage. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated he continued to watch Benard and Benard never took the "gun away." [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated, "I have a pretty good visual, and [REDACTED] is still talking to him and she's doing her CIT thing, de-escalating, trying to get him to put the weapon down, she asks him to put the weapon down, you need help, we'll get you some help, this type of thing. I'm hearing all of this but right now I'm just making sure he doesn't hurt my partner."

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] explained that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] continued to talk to Benard. According to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Lieutenant Berdysz made the decision to "pull out" and treat the situation as a barricaded individual. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stated, "We didn't start that, that was just what we were about to do. At some point in time, after that, I just, I just, I felt Lieutenant Berdysz leave my area and head back over there and at another, at some point in time he said again, Benard said it again 'come on in here, watch the show, if you're not going to leave, come in here watch the show.'"

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] continues, "The next thing I know, I'm watching him, and I see him go like this to this." [REDACTED] [REDACTED] demonstrated Russell holding the gun to his head as he referred to "like this." Followed by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] demonstrating Russell lowering the gun from his head to pointing it in Officers direction as he refers, "to this."

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] continued, "I immediately hear shots. I thought he was shooting at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I, I advance on Benard about 2 or 3 steps and I fire, either 2 or 3 rounds, I don't remember what it was, 2 or 3 rounds, I had him in my sight picture and I fired, 2 or 3 rounds. He, he falls but he's, he's out of the chair now but he is like alert, I mean he's conscious and alert, I can tell that he's in pain that he's been hit but he still has the gun up like this." [REDACTED] [REDACTED] demonstrated Russell holding the gun upwards in his right hand.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] continued, "I move back to my original position, and I hear officers on the other side of the room yelling, 'Benard drop that gun, Bernard drop that gun, drop the gun, drop the gun' just, and he's just not doing it. He's, he's kind of like in a crunching position and the gun is up, I can see the gun up, or like, just angled in a way that's not good. So, I can now see from cover now, I didn't have to advance on him, I can see him, I have a good picture on him. I decide to level my gun, see the red dot and I squeeze, because I had this area right here, open because he had the gun up like this, I can this." [REDACTED] [REDACTED] demonstrated Russell still holding the gun in his right hand.



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██████████ continued, *“And I fired off 1 round. He, I can hear like him kind of like gasp, collapse and then officers moved in and I moved in with them, um, I saw another officer, Officer Cwiklinski put his hand, his foot on Benard’s right hand, where the gun was and he couldn’t get it out, he still had the gun in his hand and then I saw Lieutenant Berdysz grasping Benard’s left hand because he had it like this...”* ██████████

██████████ demonstrated Russell making a fist with his left hand while bent at the elbow.

*(For further details, please refer to the video interview and interview report (Matrix Investigative Report IRW-9) of ██████████ ██████████ originally authored by SA Cory Momchilov.)*

Lieutenant (Lt.) Matthew Berdysz

Lt. Berdysz advised that he was on station and did not hear the initial call that ██████████ and ██████████ ██████████ were dispatched to. However, as Lt. Berdysz was dealing with other matters, he did hear ██████████ ██████████ “Call for more units, that the male was armed with a gun.” Lt. Berdysz then began responding to the scene.

As Lt. Berdysz was exiting the station, he recalled that he heard ██████████ ██████████ specifically asking him to respond to the scene. Lt. Berdysz speculated this was likely due to him being a former negotiator. Lt. Berdysz began responding to the scene with his lights and sirens activated. While enroute, Lt. Berdysz recalled that he requested for a shield. Lt. Berdysz stated as he continued to approach the scene, he believed he heard ██████████ ██████████ broadcast that he needed a less-lethal shotgun.

Lt. Berdysz advised that once he reached the residence, he remembered seeing a FedEx driver approaching the house. Lt. Berdysz further advised that he requested the FedEx driver to leave. Lt. Berdysz and another officer, Detective Mark Lee (Detective Lee), then began walking down the driveway toward the rear of the residence. Lt. Berdysz went to the “main back entrance” that led into a kitchen where Lt. Berdysz was “Greeted by the subject’s wife.” The wife was later identified as Wilma Russell (Wilma).

Lt. Berdysz stated, *“And I remember her kind of indifferent to the matter. I said, ‘ma’am how do we get downstairs, how do we get downstairs?’ and I don’t remember exactly what she said but she said ‘you’re gonna have to go outside, they’re down there,’ something along those lines.”* Lt. Berdysz advised that he then instructed the female to leave the house. Lt. Berdysz described the female as being *“a tiny bit hesitant”* at which point Lt. Berdysz reiterated that she needed to leave the house. According to Lt. Berdysz the female responded, something along the lines of *“Okay, I guess it’s pretty nice outside.”* Lt. Berdysz then directed the female to another officer who escorted her down the driveway.



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Lt. Berdysz explained as he was assessing the scene, he heard ██████████ ██████████ talking to Bernard. Lt. Berdysz further explained that he could not hear everything that ██████████ ██████████ said but did state, *“But in my experience as a negotiator, the crisis wise, it was absolutely excellent. I just remember it striking me like ‘man, is she’s doing a great job.’ She’s telling him, I do remember her saying, ‘please drop the gun, drop the gun, we can talk about this, we just want to get you some help.’ Also, that ‘we cannot leave.’ Because he (Benard Russell) was requesting ‘just go away and we’ll drop the gun.’”*

Lt. Berdysz advised that as ██████████ ██████████ was talking, Lt. Berdysz stated, *“Gentleman, I can just say, as a police officer doing this that long, I had never had that feeling. It was a very dark feeling, very heavy. I did not feel good about this, the situation, tactically, it was very dark.”* Lt. Berdysz stated that when he entered the basement he could not “see the male” and that ██████████ ██████████ was “holding cover” next to a refrigerator. Lt. Berdysz said ██████████ ██████████ could see Benard from her position.

Lt. Berdysz approached ██████████ ██████████ and advised her that officers were going to be pulling out. Lt. Berdysz stated, *“As I begin to do that (speak to ██████████ ██████████ I just remember somehow, if she like pushed off me, she then spun, downrange, towards where Benard was, I remember her saying, ‘No, no, no’ and shots opened up. I do not remember how many, I remember seeing smoke, I don’t remember in that initial round of shots how many were fired. Then, I remember dropping, I don’t know if I dropped a magazine from my belt, I don’t know how that happened, but I remember picking my magazine up, joining ██████████ ██████████ and Officer Cwiklinski as they were looking again, downrange towards where Benard was. I also don’t recall who was saying ‘drop the gun, drop the gun,’ I still did not see the male with the gun, I never saw him with it to his head and I never saw it as it was lowered toward ██████████ ██████████ But I did join them, I couldn’t get a clear picture of him. Gentleman, I don’t even recall if I had my weapon drawn at that point.”*

Lt. Berdysz continued, *“Numerous commands were saying ‘drop the gun, drop the gun’ then I heard one more shot fired, from ██████████ ██████████’s directions. I knew at that point that was not myself, ██████████ ██████████ or Officer Cwiklinski. I believe I heard ‘he’s down’ and at that point I immediately told officers ‘Lets go, render aid, render aid’ we then approached Benard. At that point I saw him laying on his back, the firearm, I remember it being a brown handled revolver, was still in his hand. I remember Officer Cwiklinski stepping on his hand, that’s all I remember in regards to the gun. I then come down, on a knee and he had his left hand up in the air and he was either under a desk or some type of table and I remember thinking, what is in his hand, what is in his hand and he would not move his hand down. So, I remember saying, ‘Give me your fucking hand’ because I didn’t know what was in his hand and I didn’t know if he had*



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*been reaching for anything else that may have been under that table or desk. We were able to bring those hands down, I don't remember who secured him in handcuffs."*

*(For further details, please refer to the video interview and interview report (Matrix Investigative Report IRW-17) of Lt. Matthew Berdysz, originally authored by SA Cory Momchilov.)*

Officer Bryan Cwiklinski

Officer Cwiklinski stated he responded after hearing [REDACTED] [REDACTED] asking for additional units. Officer Cwiklinski stated [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said over the radio, "he had a male, uh, in the house with a gun to his head, I believe that's what he said." After hearing this information, Officer Cwiklinski responded and arrived on scene. Officer Cwiklinski stated he saw [REDACTED] [REDACTED] s and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] s vehicle parked down the street, which caused a little confusion as to where the residence was located. Officer Cwiklinski stated once Lieutenant Berdysz arrived on scene, they began heading toward the residence.

As they made their way up the driveway towards the rear of the residence, they made their way to the basement entrance where the other officers entered. As Officer Cwiklinski entered the basement, he saw [REDACTED] [REDACTED] bladed behind a refrigerator attempting to speak with the male trying to help him. Officer Cwiklinski noticed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] inside another room to the left. Officer Cwiklinski stated [REDACTED] [REDACTED] told him he's got a "very narrow window, very small sight." At this point, Officer Cwiklinski moved back out of the room and moved towards [REDACTED] [REDACTED] trying to help. Officer Cwiklinski stated from what he heard of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] she did a great job of speaking with the male. Officer Cwiklinski stated he heard the male say to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] "he wanted her to enjoy the show." During this time, Officer Cwiklinski stated as he moved back to where the [REDACTED] was, Lt. Berdysz made the decision to move everyone out. Officer Cwiklinski stated [REDACTED] [REDACTED] said he was not going to leave [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

At this point, Officer Cwiklinski heard [REDACTED] [REDACTED] yell, "No" and then engaged the male by firing her duty weapon. Officer Cwiklinski stated he could guess that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] fired four or five rounds. Officer Cwiklinski stated he maintained his position due to not having anywhere to go to avoid getting into the line of fire. When Officer Cwiklinski moved to the position where [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was initially, he did not see the male in the room due to the furniture placement. Officer Cwiklinski stated he did not have a target to engage. Officer Cwiklinski stated he heard the final shot coming from his left, in which he knew the [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] [REDACTED]) fired the last shot.



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When they were told to move up, Officer Cwiklinski stated he was the first one into the room and immediately saw the male lying on his back with a gun in his right hand. At this point, Officer Cwiklinski stated he stepped on the male's right wrist where he was still holding onto the gun. After stepping on the male's wrist, Officer Cwiklinski stated he was able to remove the handgun from the male's hand to secure it. Officer Cwiklinski stated the gun was a black revolver and he passed it off to another officer standing behind him so he could assist Lieutenant Berdyz with administering emergency aid to the male.

*(For further details, please refer to the audio and video interview of Garfield Heights Police Officer Bryan Cwiklinski, along with the interview report (Matrix Investigative Report – IRW-12) originally authored by SA Goudy.)*

#### Detective Mark Lee

Det. Lee stated he heard dispatch relay information to the other patrol units about a suicidal male. One of the officers radioed in that the male had a gun to his head and that they needed more units. When Det. Lee arrived on scene, [REDACTED] gave Det. Lee the keys to retrieve a shield and less lethal. As soon as Det Lee exited the basement to retrieve those items, that is when Det. Lee heard the gunshots being fired. Det Lee stated he heard approximately 10 gunshots fired. When Det Lee re-entered the basement, he began to assist with administering emergency aid. During the short time Det Lee was inside the basement, he stated he was not able to see where Benard Russell was located prior to the shooting.

*(For further details, please refer to the audio interview of Garfield Heights Police Detective Mark Lee, along with the interview report (Matrix Investigative Report – IRW-16) originally authored by SA Goudy.)*

#### Dispatch-Related Information

##### 911 Calls

12:22:48 - Male caller later identified as Benard Russell (Russell) called asking for the number to the suicide hotline.

**DISPATCH:** "911, what's your emergency?" **RUSSELL:** "What's the number to the suicide hotline?" **DISPATCH:** *I don't..... have a particular number for that. Are you in Garfield, I can send an officer over."*





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At that point, Russell hung up.

(Call lasted for 29 seconds)

GHPD dispatch made three attempts to call Russell back. Russell did not answer the phone. Each time the call ended with Russell's voicemail greeting, "Okay, this is new, new and improved, so at the beep, you know what to do."

Radio Traffic Recordings

12:27:13 – **Dispatch:** "Unit [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Unit [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] "Go ahead"  
**Dispatch:** "If you could check the welfare of a male, 6235 Hathaway is what the cell phone is tracking too, 6235 Hathaway, he called 911 asking for the suicide hotline, then hung up when he was questioned further. No answer on numerous callbacks."

12:27:47 – **Unit [REDACTED]:** "(Unintelligible)" [REDACTED]: "(Unintelligible)" **Unit 02:** "zero-two radio"  
**Dispatch:** "Go ahead" **Unit 02:** This unit provided un-related information pertaining to a traffic stop.

12:32:20 – [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] radio, I'm in the area."

12:32:54 – [REDACTED]: "Radio is there history?"

12:33:06 – **Dispatch:** "There is history, but nothing. Just couple noise complaints called in by there, animal complaints called in by there."

12:33:21 – **Dispatch:** "Back in 09, there was a call that stated there were a lot of weapons inside the home in clear view. Uncertain if that party still lives there."

12:33:51 – **Unknown Unit:** "(Unintelligible), 80 Right between here and fruitside, right in the middle."

12:34:17 – **Unit [REDACTED]** "Blue house passed the trees."

12:39:32 – [REDACTED] "We need units we need units right now, get over here right now"  
**Unit [REDACTED]** "Lt Berdysz, we need you here please." [REDACTED] "have a male in the basement with a gun to his head. You could get through the, through the a, three side lower door." **14:** "Fourteen's enroute." **Unknown Unit:** "Radio you copy me." **Dispatch:** "I copy, other units copy? 6235 Hathaway." **30:** "Copies, thirty's enroute." [REDACTED]: "Male in the basement, sitting on the couch, he's got a gun to his head."

12:40:33 – **Unknown Unit:** "We have shield, anybody got a shield."

12:40:50 – **Unknown Unit:** "Okay, Ill grab a shield." **Unknown Unit:** "Get a squad rolling down here." **Dispatch:** "I copy, we'll have them staged." **Unknown Unit:** "[REDACTED]"



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█ does █ have a shield in it." █: "It is probably locked. █ is talking to him right now. He's telling us to go away."

12:41:22 – **Unknown Unit:** "Okay, responding units, lets shut down Hathaway where we need it at Turney and then uh at the West side."

12:41:41 – **Unit 3:** "Three's out."

12:41:47 – **Unknown Unit:** "and a less-lethal....and a shield." **Unit 37:** "37 has Turney shut down at that point."

12:42:13 – **Unknown Unit:** "alright, who has less-lethal, (UNINTELLIGIBLE)." **Unknown Unit:** "I'll check."

12:43:03 – **Unknown Unit:** "alright, anybody with a less lethal, check your cars."

12:43:17 – **Unknown Unit:** "(UNINTELLIGIBLE) 18 out."

12:43:28 – **Unknown Unit:** "Radio give me those numbers one more time." Dispatch: "6-2-3-5, 62 35."

12:43:47 – **Dispatch:** "Right at the intersection of (UNINTELLIGIBLE) and Hathaway right across from there by the woods."

12:44:07 – █ "Get Lt. Vargo down here in the basement. He's not a, he's not responding to anything."

12:44:21 – **Unknown Unit:** "Enroute."

12:44:58 – **Unit 47:** "47 radio, advise the squad they could stage by parking lot here behind marks, over here by Turney." **Unknown Unit:** "One of you guys get your car way down here by a Fruitside."

12:45:15 – **Unknown Unit:** "Did we ever locate less-lethal, I can grab something before I leave station." **Unknown Unit:** "Please do so, (UNINTELLIGIBLE). █ we're gonna be coming in."

12:45:35 – █: "Make entry, just watch yourself. He's in the a, we have cover, he's in two rooms over." **Unknown Unit:** "18 you want to pull your car down here. **Unit 18:** "Yea, I'm comin." █: "Lower door. It's a sub level door, on the three side, come in that way."

12:46:11 – **Unknown Unit:** "Guys up front, we're gonna be a bringing a female up, can somebody give me a car."

12:47:00 – **Unknown Unit:** "Detective Cornell"



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12:49:07 - ██████ *"Shots fired! Shots Fired!"*

12:49:28 - ██████ *"We need EMS right now."* **Unknown Unit:** *"We need a squad."*  
**Dispatch:** *"They're responding."* **Unknown Unit:** *"We need a squad inside."* **Unknown Unit:** *"Coming in."* **Unknown Unit:** *"slow it down."*

12:50:43 - **Unknown Unit:** *"The squads coming up."*

*(For further details, please refer to the matrix report titled "Dispatch Information Review" - Investigative Report IRW-23 originally authored by SA Goudy.)*

**Video Recordings**

██████ ██████ Body Camera

At the 05:09 mark, ██████ ██████ is seen walking into the basement where she encounters Russell in another room sitting in a chair at the far end of the room.





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At the 07:39 mark, While [REDACTED] [REDACTED] pleaded with Russell to put the gun down, Russell is heard saying, "We all die, we all die." Russell said this while still holding the handgun to the right side of his head.





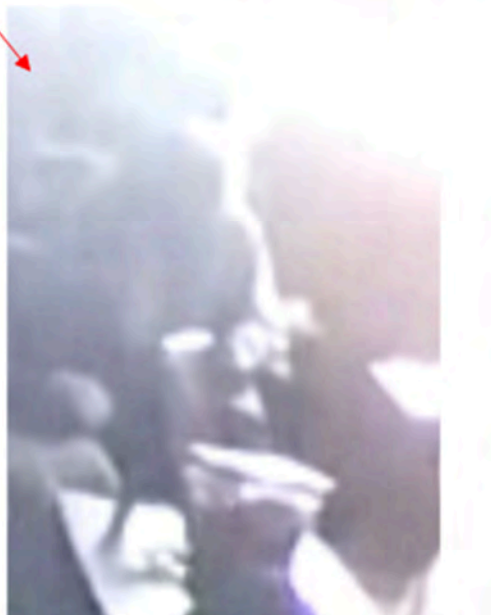
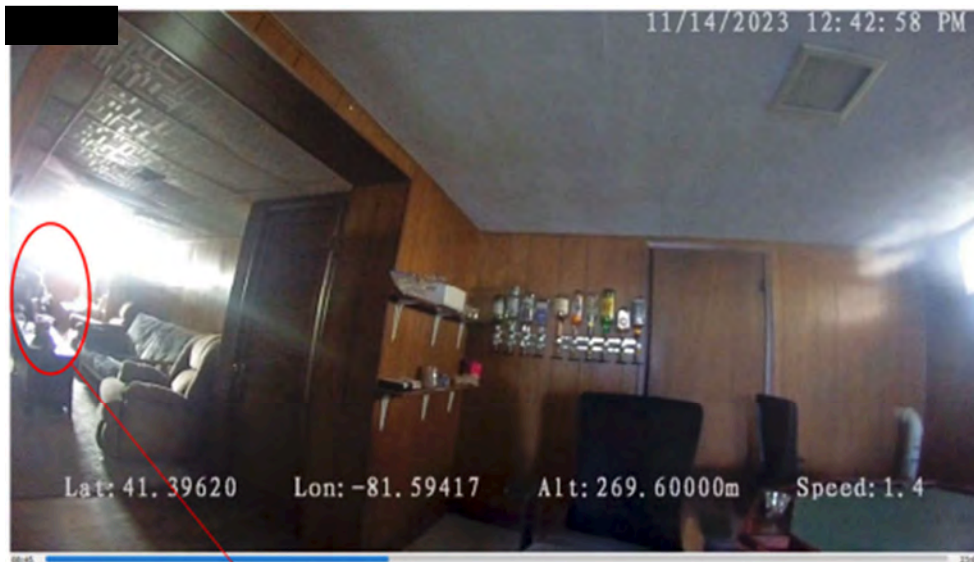


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At the 0845 mark, as [REDACTED] continued to try and get Russell to put the gun down, Russell said, "we all die" multiple times. Russell appeared to be leaning.







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At the 11:55 mark, as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] tried to get Russell to lower the gun, Russell said, "we all die" continuously, followed by, "it's time to die." [REDACTED] [REDACTED] told Russell, "It's not time for you to die Benard."



At the 14:47 mark, after several attempts at negotiating with Russell by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Russell lowered his gun towards [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which resulted in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] firing her duty weapon at Russell.





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At the 14:50 mark, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] fired her duty weapon in the direction of where Russell was located.



At the 15:03 mark, Russell was struck and was heard yelling in pain. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] yelled for Russell to drop the gun.





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At the 15:19 mark, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] along with the other responding officers moved forward to provide emergency aid to Russell. The handgun was still seen in Russell's right hand.



(The handgun still in Russell's right hand)





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██████████ ██████████'s Body Camera

At the 05:43 mark, ██████████ ██████████ and ██████████ ██████████ entered the basement. ██████████ ██████████ was heard yelling for Russell.





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At the 14:32 mark, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was still negotiating with Russell. From [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s point of view, Russell was seen with a handgun held to the right side of his head.



(Russel sitting with gun to his head)





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At the 15:26 mark, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] fired his duty weapon towards Russell. The smoke from the muzzle flash is visible.



At the 15:26 mark, a second shot was fired by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which was confirmed by the smoke from the muzzle flash of his duty weapon.





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At the 15:26 mark, a third shot was fired by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which was confirmed by the muzzle flash of his duty weapon.



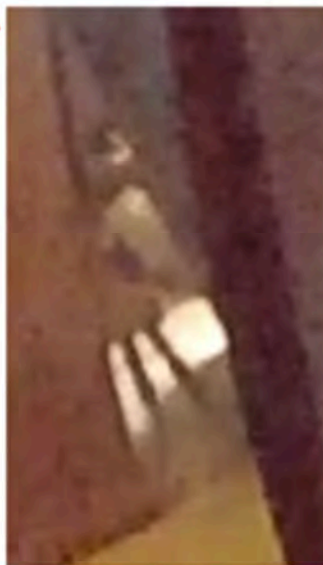


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At the 15:30 mark, ██████████ ██████ yelled over the radio, "shots fired, shots fired." ██████████ ██████ yelled for Russell to drop the gun. Russell was heard moaning in pain on the floor.



(Russell lying on the floor)





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At the 15:42 mark, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] yelled, "Drop the gun Benard, drop it!" Immediately after yelling for Russell to drop the gun, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] fired a fourth round at Russell.



(Russell lying on the floor)



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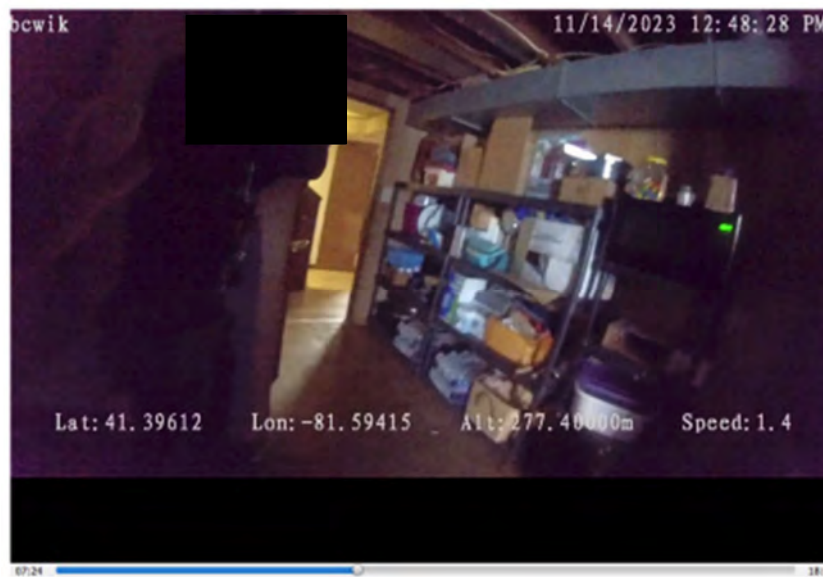
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At the 16:46 mark, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] along with the other responding officers moved forward to provide emergency medical aid to Russell.



Officer Bryan Cwiklinski

At the 07:24 mark, Officer Cwiklinski approached [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. During this time, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was heard negotiating with Russell.





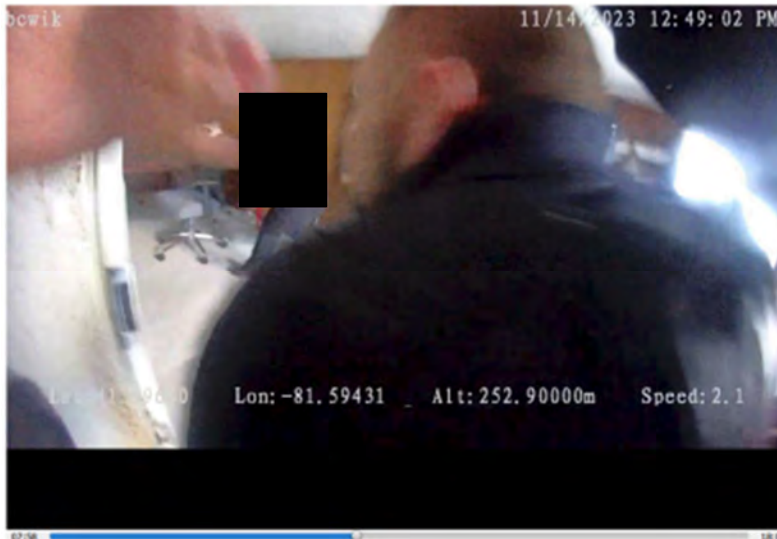


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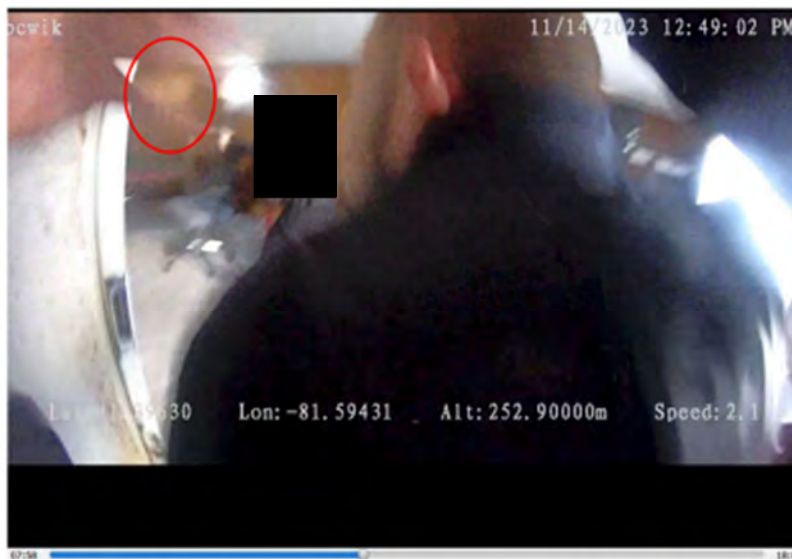


Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 6235 Hathaway Rd., Garfield Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio 44125

At the 07:58 mark, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was engaging Russell with her duty weapon as Lt Berdysz and Officer Cwiklinski appeared to fall back.



At the 07:58 mark, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] fired her duty weapon which was confirmed by the muzzle flash.



(Muzzle flash from [REDACTED]'s duty weapon)



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At the 07:59 mark, another muzzle flash was observed from [REDACTED]'s duty weapon while she fired at Russell.



(Muzzle flash from [REDACTED]'s duty weapon)

At the 07:59 mark, another muzzle flash was observed from [REDACTED]'s duty weapon while she fired at Russell.



(Muzzle flash from [REDACTED]'s duty weapon)

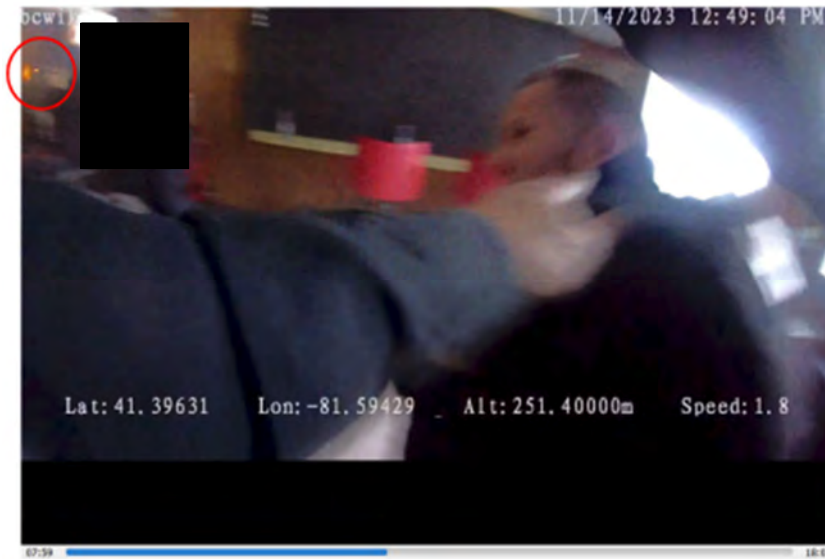


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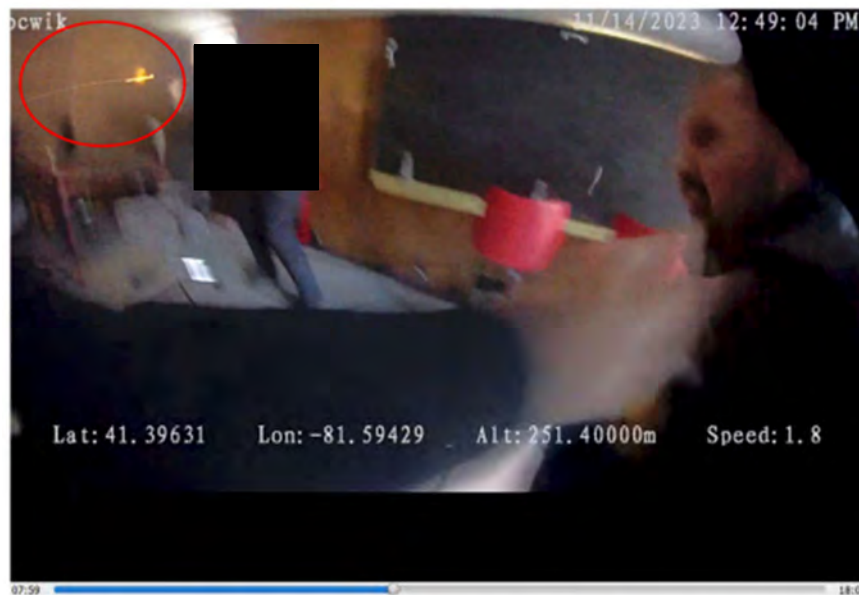


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At the 07:59 mark, another muzzle flash was observed from [REDACTED]'s duty weapon while she fired at Russell.



At the 07:59 mark, another muzzle flash was observed from [REDACTED]'s duty weapon while she fired at Russell.



(Muzzle flash from [REDACTED]'s duty weapon)

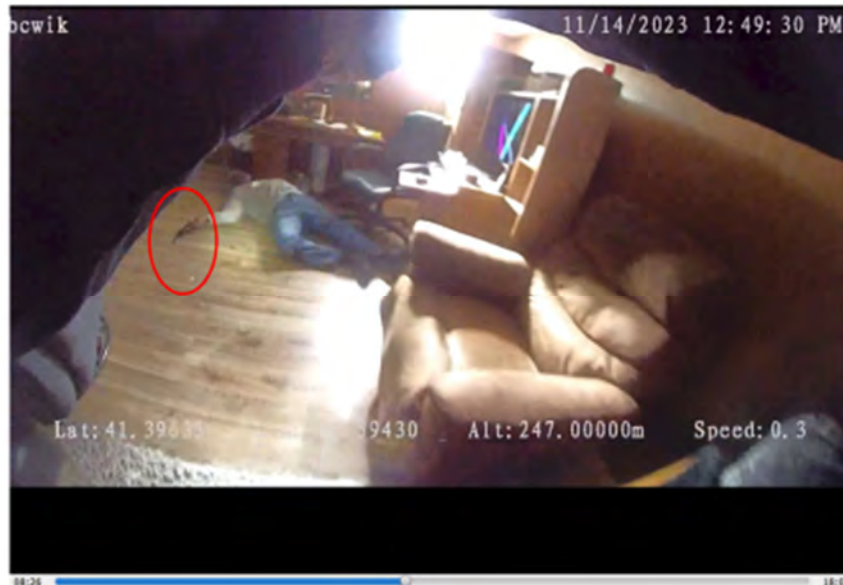


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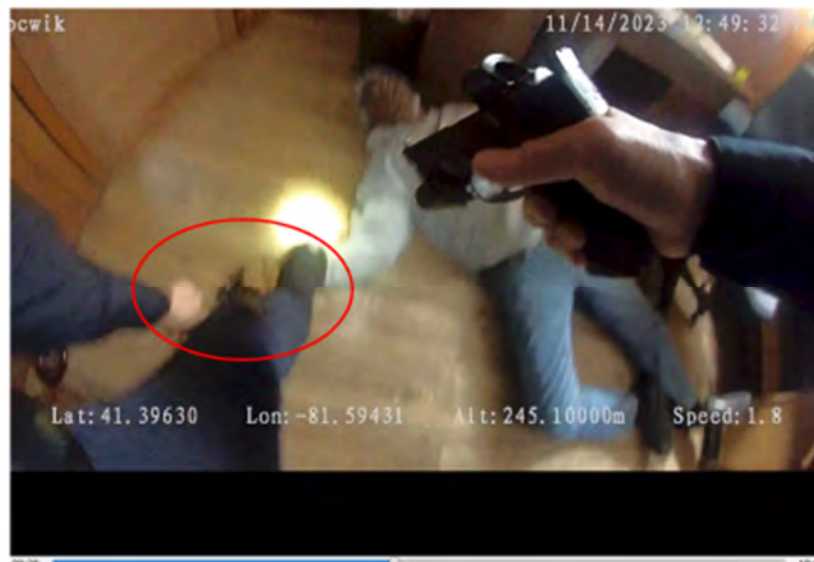


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At the 08:26 mark, ██████'s ██████ Cwiklinski and Lt Berdyz moved forward to where Russell was lying on the floor. Russell still had the handgun in his right hand as officers approached.



At the 08:28 mark, Officer Cwiklinski was observed stepping on the right wrist of Russell as he reached down to remove the handgun from Russell's right hand.







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At the 08:50 mark, Officer Cwiklinski was attempting to unload the revolver originally possessed by Russell. This snippet depicts an overall view of the revolver previously removed from Russell's right hand.



Lieutenant Berdysz

At the 08:42 mark, [REDACTED] was observed firing her duty weapon at Russell. The muzzle flash indicated a round being fired.







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At the 08:43 mark, another round was observed being fired from [REDACTED]'s duty weapon which was confirmed by the muzzle flash.



At the 08:43 mark, another round was observed being fired from [REDACTED]'s duty weapon which was confirmed by the muzzle flash.



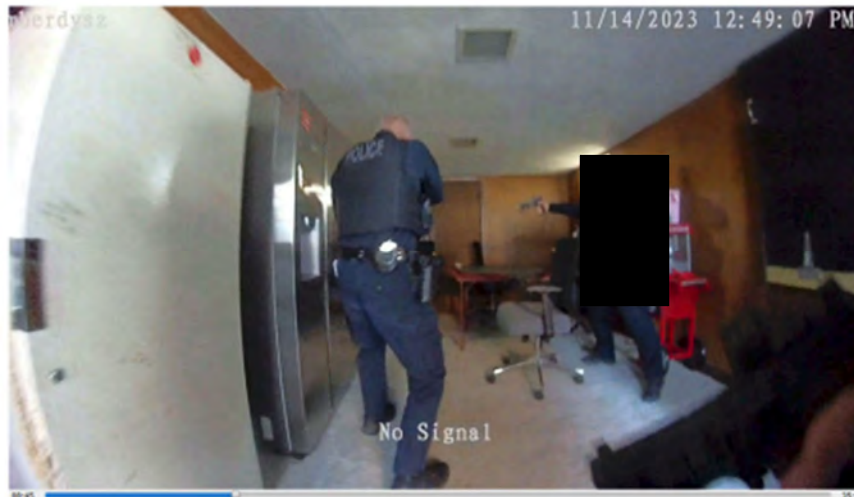


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At the 08:45 mark, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stopped firing her duty weapon. Officer Cwiklinski was observed moving up while Russell was heard in the background moaning in pain. Officers yelled for Russell to drop the gun.



At the 08:45 mark, Officers were still yelling for Russell to drop the gun. At this point, one final gunshot was heard, which, according to interviews, was fired by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] due to Russell not dropping the handgun.





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At the 09:12 mark, when officers moved in on Russell to provide emergency aid, Officer Cwiklinski was observed stepping on Russell's right wrist and reaching for the handgun from Russell's right hand to secure it.



*(For further information, please refer to the body camera review report titled, "2023-12-19 Body Camera Review – Investigative Report IRW-21")*

### **Conclusion**

On Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 1225 hours, the Garfield Heights Police Dispatch Center received a call from Benard Russell (Russell) asking for the number to the suicide hotline. Shortly thereafter, Russell hung up the phone. Garfield Heights Police (GHPD) officers were dispatched immediately to his residence, located at 6235 Hathaway Road. When officers arrived on scene at 1232 hours, they met with Russell's wife, Wilma Jean Russell (Wilma), at the front door. After Wilma let GHPD officers into the residence, she stated that she and Russell have been having marital issues along with a disagreement over the disbursement of an inheritance Wilma received from her late grandmother's estate over the past week. Wilma stated Russell was in the basement. When officers attempted to go into the basement, the basement door was locked. Wilma then gave the officers a key to access the basement from a rear exterior door.

When officers entered the rear exterior door to the basement, they encountered Russell sitting in a chair holding a handgun to his head. During this time, officers attempted to

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negotiate with Russell to put the gun down and to comply with their orders. Russell refused to comply and insisted that officers leave him alone. As officers continued to negotiate, Russell began to lower his gun down from his head and pointed it in the officer's direction. It was at this point when officers fired their duty weapons, striking Russell. After the gunshots were fired, officers moved up to secure Russell and began to render emergency medical aid to him. Russell was eventually transported to Marymount Hospital where he eventually succumbed to his injuries.

During the investigation, it was discovered that Wilma and Russell had a conversation earlier in the day about their marital issues which included Russell's past infidelity and divorce. Wilma stated that conversation "shook him." Wilma also mentioned there was a note that was passed between Russell and her discussing what to do with money she (Wilma) received from her late grandmother's estate. Russell wanted to keep all the money for themselves while Wilma wanted to divide it up amongst her siblings and the church that helped her grandmother. When officers arrived at the residence, Wilma was heard mentioning on body camera video that they discussed divorce.

During the negotiations, Russell was heard on body camera video repeatedly making comments such as, "We all die" and "It's time to die." At one point just prior to the officers discharging their firearms, Russell was also heard saying, "then pull up a chair and enjoy the show" as he continued to hold the handgun to his head.

### **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 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 Joseph Goudy. SA Goudy can be reached via email at [joseph.goudy@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:joseph.goudy@OhioAGO.gov) or by telephone, at (234) 400-3396.