



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



2024-3294

Investigation - Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage
Bike Trail Near North Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio:

Investigative Activity: SIU Initial Response
Involves: Ravenna Police Department (O)
Activity Date: 10/22/2024
Activity Location: Portage Hike and Bike Trail near North Freedom Street -
Ravenna, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher #187

Narrative:

On October 22, 2024, at approximately 1148 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) was notified by TWS Matthew Armstrong (Armstrong) of an officer-involved shooting located on the Hike and Bike path near North Freedom Street in Ravenna, Ohio, Portage County. The shooting occurred on the towpath and involved two Ravenna police officers and an involved subject who died as a result of his injuries. Prior to the shooting incident, the involved subject stabbed another male multiple times. The stabbing victim was transported to University Hospitals (UH) Portage Medical Center. Additional agents from BCI who responded included SA Jesse Bynum (Bynum), Joseph Goudy (Goudy), Cory Momchilov (Momchilov), Nicholas Valente (Valente), and Bill Conn (Conn).

The BCI Crime Scene Unit (CSU) was requested to respond and process the scene. SA Dan Boerner (Boerner) responded to the scene and SA Lurna McClintock (McClintock) responded to UH Portage Medical Center.

SA Goudy, SA Momchilov, and SA Conn initially responded to the scene and met with Captain Jake Smallfield (Smallfield) of the Ravenna Police Department (RPD). Captain Smallfield provided preliminary information about the incident. The involved subject was identified as Matthew Fries (Fries). Fries was believed to be homeless and living in a tent in the woods adjacent to the hike and bike trail. Agents located an additional crime scene where the stabbing took place. It was located in a tent in the woods adjacent to the hike and bike trail. Blood was visible on the inside of a tent. A search warrant was obtained by SA Valente.

SA Fletcher and SA Bynum responded to UH Portage Medical Center to meet with the involved officers and the stabbing victim. It was learned that two RPD officers were involved in the incident and there were also two RPD witness officers who were also at the hospital. None of the officers sustained any injuries from the incident. Agents met

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with the involved officers [REDACTED] SA McClintock photographed the officers in the uniform they were wearing during the incident and the firearms they discharged during the incident. The firearms were collected by SA McClintock. The witness officers were identified as Joshua Twigg and Matthew Meyers. They declined to provide a statement at that time. The stabbing victim was identified as Larry Burghy (Burghy). Burghy was interviewed by agents and the interview was audio recorded. He also signed a consent form for agents to obtain a buccal swab of his DNA. A DNA sample was collected. For details regarding the response to the hospital and the items of evidence collected, refer to the investigative reports titled *2024-10-22: Initial Crime Scene Processing* and *2024-10-22: Response to Hospital* and *2024-12-02: Witness Interview Larry Burghy*.

SA Fletcher and SA Bynum then responded to the crime scenes located at the hike and bike trail near North Freedom Street. SA Boerner was processing both scenes. For additional details regarding crime scene processing, refer to the investigative report titled *2024-10-22: Initial Crime Scene Processing*.

While the scene was being processed SA Momchilov and SA Conn conducted multiple witness interviews. For additional information regarding the witness interviews, refer to the investigative reports titled *204-10-24: Witness Interview - Jack Chandler*, *2024-10-24: Witness Interview - Justin Harper* and, *2024-10-24: Witness Interview - Carl Smith*.

At approximately 1718 hours, all BCI SIU personnel cleared the scene. The items of evidence collected from the scenes and the hospital were transferred to SA Valente on scene. SA Valente then transported all items of evidence to the BCI - Richfield office where he secured them into temporary evidence. For additional details, see investigative report titled, *2024-10-22: Evidence Transported to BCI*.

References:

None

Attachments:

None

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