



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



2023-3023

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

Investigative Activity: Dispatch Review Report

Activity Date: 12/26/2023

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Joseph Goudy #83

**Narrative:**

On Thursday, December 14, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joseph Goudy (SA Goudy) received requested records and recordings from Garfield Heights Police Department (GHPD) Sergeant (Sgt) Todd Cramer (Cramer). SA Goudy had previously requested all dispatch records, audio recordings (radio, 911, and phone), mobile data terminal (MDT) communications, and any other dispatch/communications-related information as it relates to this incident.

**November 14, 2023**

**(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."*

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)**

**(C1)**

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."*



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(C2)

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.*

(C4)

12:32:20 – [REDACTED]: *“[REDACTED] radio, I’m in the area.”*

(C5)

12:32:54 – [REDACTED]: *“Radio is there history?”*

(C6)

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

(C7)

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.”*

(C8)

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

(C9)

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

(C10)

12:39:32 – [REDACTED]: *“We need units we need units right now, get over here right now” Unit 32: “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.”*

(C11)

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



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(C12)

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] does [REDACTED] have a shield in it.” [REDACTED]: “It is probably locked. [REDACTED] is talking to him right now. He’s telling us to go away.”

(C13)

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.”

(C14)

12:41:41 – **Unit 3:** “Three’s out.”

(C15)

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

(C16)

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

(C17)

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

(C18)

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

(C19)

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

(C20)

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

(C21)

12:44:07 – [REDACTED]: “Get Lt. Vargo down here in the basement. He’s not a, he’s not responding to anything.”



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(C22)

12:44:21 – **Unknown Unit:** “Enroute.”

(C23)

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.”

(C24)

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). [REDACTED] we’re gonna be coming in.”

(C25)

12:45:35 – [REDACTED]: “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.” [REDACTED]: “Lower door. It’s a sub level door, on the three side, come in that way.”

(C26)

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

(C27)

12:47:00 – **Unknown Unit:** “Detective Cornell”

(C28)

12:49:07 – [REDACTED] “Shots fired! Shots Fired!”

(C29)

12:49:28 – [REDACTED]: “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.”

(C30)

12:50:43 – **Unknown Unit:** “The squads coming up.”



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**(C31)**

12:51:01 - **Unknown Unit:** "(UNINTELLIGIBLE)."

**(C32)**

12:51:56 – **Unknown Unit:** "*Detective bureau did you copy.*" **Dispatch:** "*I contacted them, they're enroute.*"

**(C33)**

12:52:16 – **Unknown Unit:** "(UNINTELLIGIBLE), *go ahead and send out a page for all available officers to come in.*" **Dispatch:** "*I copy.*"

**(C34)**

12:53:25 – **Unknown Unit:** "*Squads gonna be leaving now. Make sure we have an exit for the squad to get out of here, units that are blocking off the road.*"

**(C35)**

12:53:38 – **Unknown Unit:** "*Radio, give Marymount a heads-up too if you haven't.*"  
**Unknown Unit:** "*Be at Metro radio, Metro.*"

The reader of this Investigative Report is encouraged to review all radio traffic in its entirety to obtain a clear idea of how the event occurred.

The radio traffic was placed on a USB thumb drive; the USB thumb drive was placed into the item section of the physical case file, labeled as Matrix reference Item C.

Please refer to the attachments for further details