



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



2024-3775  
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1055 East Avenue,  
Akron, Ohio 44307, Summit County

**Investigative Activity:** Interview of APD Officer Davon Fields  
**Involves:** Davon Fields (S)  
**Activity Date:** 12/20/2024  
**Activity Location:** Ohio Defense Firm, 121 S. Main Street, Akron, OH 44308  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Jonathan Lieber

**Narrative:**

On Friday, December 20, 2024, at 1350 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jon Lieber (Lieber) and SA Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) interviewed Akron Police Department (APD) Officer (Ofc.) Davon Fields (Fields), who was accompanied by his attorney, Noah Munyer, from the Fraternal Order of Police. Also present during the interview was Fraternal Order of Police Union President Brian Lucey and City of Akron Assistant Law Director Christopher Reece. The interview took place at Ohio Defense Firm, 121 S. Main Street, Akron, OH 44308. The interview was audio and video recorded.

Ofc. Fields read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

**Preliminary and Demographic Information:**

<b>Name:</b> Davon Fields	<b>Rank:</b> Officer (Ofc.)
<b>Badge Number:</b> 290/ ID# 1506	<b>Cruiser/Vehicle Number:</b> 20
<b>Radio Call Sign:</b> Car 20	<b>Immediate Supervisor:</b> Sgt. Joseph Wooden
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> 1	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> Present; Not Used
<b>Cruiser Description:</b> Ford Explorer, black	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating</b>

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in color, police markings on both sides, overhead light bar, front push bar	<b>Positions:</b> Fields was driver, Ofc. Steven Loar was passenger
<b>Assignment:</b> District 10	<b>Normal Shift:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>In-Car Camera:</b> Operational, But Not Used	<b>Spotlight:</b> Present; Not utilized
<b>Emergency Lights:</b> Present; Not Utilized	<b>Siren:</b> Present; Not Used
<b>Shift Day of Incident:</b> [REDACTED] hours	<b>Duty Status:</b> On-Duty
<b>Days Off:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:</b> None
<b>Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:</b> 8-10	<b>Consider Self Well Rested?:</b> Yes
<b>Total Length as Officer:</b> 5 years	<b>Length at Current Agency:</b> 5 years
<b>Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid):</b> None	<b>Corrective Lenses:</b> No Corrective Lenses
<b>Uniform Worn:</b> Dark navy-blue color uniform, police patches on both shoulders, exterior vest with police written across the front and back	<b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> Taser, BWC, baton, handcuffs, pistol, magazines
<b>Ballistic Vest:</b> External Armor	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Present & Used
<b>Other Recording Devices:</b> None	<b>Partner:</b> Ofc. Steven Loar
<b>Injuries:</b> None	<b>Equipment Damage:</b> None
<b>Training or Areas of Specialty:</b> Handgun and rifle training, Basic SWAT, drug interdiction	<b>OPOTC Certification:</b> City of Akron - June 2020
<b>Military Experience/Training:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Use-of-Force Training:</b> Annual training at APD, SWAT training
<b>Prior Shooting Incidents:</b> 2022 - Use of force was justified	<b>Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints:</b> None
<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident:</b> None	<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview:</b> None
<b>Alcohol in Past 24 Hours?</b> No	<b>Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident:</b> Several weeks

**Officer's Firearm(s):**

Weapon #1

<b>Make:</b> Aero Precision	<b>Model:</b> X-15
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<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> 5.56 mm	<b>Serial:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Type:</b> Rifle	<b>Method of Carry:</b> 2-point sling
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 30	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> 28+28=56 total
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> One extra magazine containing 28 cartridges	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> 28 cartridges in extra magazine
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> 20	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 8
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Personally Owned
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> Rifle qualification 05/28/2024, SWAT rifle qualification 09/17/2024	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> N/A

**Weapon #2**

<b>Make:</b> Glock	<b>Model:</b> 45
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> 9 mm	<b>Serial:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Type:</b> Semi-Auto Handgun	<b>Method of Carry:</b> Hip holster
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 19	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> 19+1=20, plus two additional magazines 19+19=38 (38+20=58 total)
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> Two extra magazines each containing 19 cartridges	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> 19 cartridges in each magazine
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> No	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> Did not fire during incident	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 0
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> Pistol qualification 08/28/2024, SWAT pistol qualification 09/17/2024	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> Hip holster

**Narrative:**

Fields stated that he is a field training officer (FTO) and that he and his officer in training, Steven Loar (Loar), had just finished handling a service call at the Springhill Apartments. The plan for the shift was for Loar to work on reports when they were not on a call. Fields stated that around 2300 hours, they parked in the church parking lot

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located to the southeast of the intersection of Vernon Odom Boulevard and East Avenue. Fields stated that they parked in that lot because it is in the central area of their assigned district. Fields stated that he instructs officers to leave their window cracked so that they can more easily hear what may be going on in the area. Fields provided examples of someone screaming for help, fighting, gunshots, or any other issue that may require police assistance.

Fields stated that while parked in the church parking lot, they heard a gunshot. Fields believed that the shot occurred within 100 feet behind them. Approximately two seconds later they heard another gunshot. Fields and Loar then retrieved their patrol rifles. As they were exiting the vehicle, Fields radioed to dispatch that they were signal 5 and that they heard shots fired in the area near Vernon Odom and East Avenue. Fields stated that a signal 5 is emergency radio traffic. Fields and Loar then proceeded on foot toward the Miller-South school.

As Fields and Loar are walking toward the school, they observed a subject walking westbound from the area where Fields believed that shots had been fired. Fields stated that at this time it was approximately 20-25 seconds after hearing the gunshots. Fields stated that the subject was 60-70 feet away from them. Fields stated that the subject did not yet see the officers. Fields radioed dispatch that they were out with a code 9 (suspicious person).

Fields stated that at this time there were several things that he was processing. Fields stated that people in the city typically fire guns on holidays such as July 4<sup>th</sup>, Juneteenth, and New Year's. When they do fire shots it is on the night before the holiday just before and after midnight. Fields stated that no one fires shots on Thanksgiving, especially around this time (2300 hours). Fields stated that people also fire shots at bars and large gatherings.

Fields stated that as they were approaching the northwest corner of the school, Fields looked to his left, toward the area where the shots came from, but due to the darkness he could not see anything. Fields stated that knowing that it was not normal for shots to be fired at this time, he thought someone may have been shot and possibly dying in the parking lot area where he believed the gunshots were fired. Fields stated that he could not go and check that area because he had now observed the suspect of a possible murder or felonious assault walking away.

Fields stated that he did not know how far away backup officers were, because when signal 5 traffic is called, the responding officers stay off the radio in case the officer that called out the signal 5 needed the airway. Fields stated that he began jogging

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toward the subject because, based on his prior training and experience, if he yelled out commands from a further distance, the subject would turn and run away. Fields stated that the problem with the subject running away is that the Sherbondy Hill and Lane Field neighborhoods are very populated. Fields stated that he has worked in the area for the last 4 years and, prior to that, he had lived in the area. Fields stated that there is always someone riding a bike, walking, or driving. Fields stated that directly to the south of where the subject was walking there are a lot of houses and people are often out on their porches. Fields also said that directly across the street to the west there is a large apartment complex and condos. Located to the southwest are the Springhill apartments. Fields stated that they had just come from a call at the Springhill apartments, and he knew they were highly populated.

Fields stated that if he had yelled at the subject when he first saw him and the subject ran, the subject would run into a highly populated area. Fields stated that, believing that the subject may have just shot and killed someone, he started to jog toward the subject so that when he did yell commands, if the subject ran, he would be able to catch the subject before he got to anyone else.

Fields stated that when he got to within 30-40 feet of the subject, he had his rifle in a low-ready position and used his rifle-mounted flashlight to illuminate the subject's legs. Fields stated that this position allows him to be able to see a subject and what they are doing with their hands. It also allows the subject to see Fields and his police markings. Fields yelled for the subject to put his hands up. Fields stated that he knew the subject heard the commands because the subject turned and looked at him. Fields stated that after the subject looked at him, the subject turned toward the south and ran.

Fields gave chase. After a few seconds, Fields heard the acceleration of a car's engine and a few seconds after that, he saw red and blue colored lights going past him. As the police cruiser drove past the subject, it looked like the cruiser was going to cut in front of the subject. As this was happening, the subject observed the cruiser. The subject reached toward the front of his waistband with a "high 90-degree elbow bend" [23:35]. Fields stated that this is indicative of a person that carries a gun in the appendix position. Fields stated that the majority of people in the city that carry illegal firearms carry them in the front waistband position or in a front hoodie or jacket pocket. Fields indicated that kicking the elbow out high allows the person to quickly access the firearm. Fields said that if the subject was going to give up, he would have put his hands in the air. However, after seeing the cruiser about to cut him off, he reached for his waistband.

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Seeing the subject reaching for his front waistband, the cruiser's position, and believing that the subject would do anything to get away from what he had just done (shooting and possible murder), Fields believed that the subject was going to shoot the officers in the cruiser. Fields stated that since the officers were in a vehicle they would not have seen what was going on because of paying attention to the road. Fields said "So I stopped, fired several rounds and uh, I stopped firing once (the) suspect fell forward and onto his right arm" [24:53]. Fields also stated "So like I said, as he was reaching down, uh to the front of his waistband I seen um what appeared to be either a maga, magazine to a handgun or the magwell to a handgun in the bottom of his hand" [25:47].

Additional officers arrived on scene. Multiple commands were given for the subject to move his hands out to his side and away from the firearm. Fields stated that based on his training and experience, even after a person is shot, they can bait officers in and once the officers close the distance, the subject can start shooting at or fighting with officers. Fields stated that the subject did not comply with commands. At the same time, they were trying to get officers to respond with a ballistic shield. While they waited for a ballistic shield to arrive, the officers pulled back to a nearby cruiser so that they could have cover. Once ballistic shields were on scene, the officers made an arrest team and approached the subject. The subject was secured, and officers began to provide medical aid. Fields was then removed from the immediate area.

Fields stated that once additional officers arrived on scene, he tried to inform officers of a possible shooting victim in the lower parking lot area where he believed the subject had fired his gun. Fields stated that he is not sure if officers immediately went to check that area or if it was after the subject was secured.

SA Lieber asked Fields why he and Loar chose to utilize their rifles. Fields stated that when hearing gunshots, he cannot tell what type of weapon was/is being fired. Fields stated that it was possible that they were going to end up in a gunfight with the suspect. Fields stated that a rifle is superior to a pistol because it is more accurate at greater distances, and it is easier to control. Fields also stated that there have been multiple shots-fired calls and murders in the area. In addition, several months ago there was a shootout in the area of the Springhill apartments where multiple people had firearms, including rifles.

Fields stated that it was possible that the suspect had a rifle and that there could have been more than one armed suspect. Fields stated that you always want to have greater numbers or greater fire superiority.

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Fields stated that if someone is wearing baggy pants, and they are falling down, a person will reach to the side or back of their waist to pull up their pants. When reaching in that manner, the person's elbow will point backward. Fields said that grabbing pants to pull them up is not the same as drawing a firearm.

Fields stated that the subject was wearing a long-sleeve jacket or coat and pants. Fields could not recall the color of the clothing. Fields also stated that when he saw the subject he believed he was a black male in his mid to late 20's.

SA Lieber asked when Fields' body-worn camera (BWC) was activated. Fields stated that he activated his BWC by double tapping the activation button. Fields activated the camera when he saw the subject walking away from the area where he believed that the gunshots were fired. Fields stated that APD has a system where when the overhead emergency lights on a cruiser are activated for 8 seconds, any dash or body-cameras within a certain area will automatically activate. Fields stated that when the activation is automatic, the video will show a 30-second lookback but without sound. Fields stated that he believed that his BWC activated as the result of a nearby cruiser (Cruiser driving on East Avenue driven by Ofc. Dylan Ostrander with partner Ofc. Michael Shaffer). Fields stated that if his BWC had been successfully activated by him, the 30-second lookback would have included audio.

Fields was then given the opportunity to view his BWC recording. After viewing his BWC video, a new audio and video recording of the interview was started. Fields then stated that upon viewing his BWC, he realized that when the subject was walking westbound, the subject was a little further south in the grass than Fields initially remembered. Fields also stated that he believed that he fired 3 to 5 rounds, but after viewing the video he realized that he fired 8. Fields stated that officers do not train to fire a specific number of rounds, but instead they fire to stop the threat.

The interview concluded at approximately 1447 hours.

The interview was audio and video recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form was also attached to this report. The audio/video recording was added to Evidence.com as Reference Item F. Please see the attachments for further details.

## **References:**

Ref Item F - Audio/video interview recordings of Akron PD Officers Davon Fields, Steven Loar II, Michael Shaffer

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**Attachments:**

1. 2024-12-20 Ofc. Davon Fields interview
2. 2024-12-20 Ofc. Davon Fields interview 2
3. 2024-12-20 Criminal Invest. Notification - Fields

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**Criminal Investigation Notification**

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

Davon Fields  
Printed Name of Interviewee

12/20/24 1350  
Date / Time

Davon Fields  
Signature of Interviewee

Jon Lieber  
BCI Agent (Printed)

SPA [Signature] #50  
BCI Agent (Signature)