



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



2024-1584

Officer Involved Critical Incident, 27695 Tracy Road, Walbridge,  
OH 43465, (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness

**Involves:** Arthur Purtee (O), Beau D Purtee (V), Daniel Sprague (W), Scott Mendoza (W), Chris Purtee (W), Lauren Purtee (O), Amanda Mendoza (W), Ace Stone (W)

**Date of Activity:** 05/24/2024

**Activity Location:** Purtee, Arthur – Home – 27695 Tracy Road Lot 293, Walbridge, OH 43465

**Author:** SA Tiffany Najmulski, #49

**Narrative:**

On May 24, 2024, Special Agents (SA) Tiffany Najmulski (Najmulski) and (SA) Chris Hamberg (Hamberg) went to Friendly Park Village at 27695 Tracy Road Lot 293, Walbridge, Ohio, to speak with a group of individuals who had been with the decedent, Beau Purtee (Beau) before the incident occurred. The following is a summary of the interviews which was digitally recorded and is attached to this report and the case file. The recording is one continuous audio stream.

Agents first spoke to Chris Purtee (Chris) whose brother, Arthur Purtee (Arthur), passed away earlier that week from ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis disease). The funeral for Arthur was on May 23, 2024. Chris said his cousin, Beau, was at the funeral and had "quite a few alcoholic drinks". Chris last saw Beau talking to Scott Mendoza (Scott) and then Beau pulled out of the parking lot about 9:00 pm. Chris said he was not sure where Beau went from there.

Chris said after the funeral he received a phone call from Scott who was friends with Arthur and had come to Ohio from Texas to attend the funeral. Scott was given permission by the family to stay at Arthur's trailer while he was in town. Chris and Scott spoke on the phone about planning to meet up the next day and the conversation was "cordial". A couple minutes later, Scott called back and said Beau was inside the residence and waving a gun around. Scott went on to say that Scott's wife and a friend got out of the house.

Chris told Scott he was on his way to Arthur's trailer and arrived approximately 15 minutes later. Chris said he tried calling his uncle, Alex Purtee (Alex), earlier to try to get Beau's father, Aron Purtee's (Aron), phone number but he did not receive an answer. Chris said he wanted to

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see if Aron would come to the location or if Aron could tell Chris how to help the situation.

Chris said he met Scott at the door, and they left in Chris's vehicle to meet up with Scott's wife and friend at Wendy's on Buck Road. Chris told agents Beau was not at the residence when he arrived. Chris said they stayed at Wendy's until a police officer came and took their information. Chris said from there, everyone went back to his house and hung out for the next 3 hours.

SA Najmulski asked Chris what he was told had transpired before he got there. Chris said when he was on his way to the trailer, Scott told him there had been a "few shots, shot off". When Chris picked Scott up and they attempted to leave the park to meet up with Scott's wife, a guy flagged them down and told them not to go that way because police were shooting. Chris said he turned around and went a different way to Wendy's. SA Najmulski asked Chris if he saw Beau with a gun at the funeral home and Chris said he did not see one. SA Najmulski asked Chris if Beau was making any comments that alarmed anyone. Chris answered, no. SA Najmulski asked Chris if he knew if Beau had any type of mental illness or a history of any similar episodes. Chris said after speaking to other family members, including Beau's mother, he learned Beau had been arrested once and given a warning another time for being drunk and shooting off his gun.

Second, agents spoke to Lauren Purtee (Lauren) who is the wife of Chris. Lauren said she had no information to provide as she was not present when the incident occurred with Beau and was only there now to support everyone.

Third, agents spoke to Scott Mendoza who advised he was friends with Arthur for over 35 years and flew in from Texas to go to the funeral and grieve with Arthur's family. Scott was noticeably upset and trying to keep his composure while speaking with agents. Scott said he was the first person at the funeral home and the last one to leave. Scott told agents the funeral was over at 8:00 pm but he and Scott's wife, Amanda Mendoza (Amanda), and another childhood friend, Ace, "lingered" until about 8:45 pm. Scott noticed Beau was also there in the parking lot.

Scott told Ace that it was tough to be by himself and Ace said he would go to Arthur's trailer as well. Beau was invited to go as well because he was Arthur's "little cousin". Scott said he did not know Beau's state of mind and only saw Beau as family. Scott said he told Beau that Arthur used to talk about Beau and Scott wanted to get to know him.

Scott and his friend, Daniel Sprague (Sprague), took a wrong turn on the way to the trailer and decided to go to the store and get cigarettes and something to drink. When they finally arrived, Scott said Beau was taking shots of alcohol. Scott mentioned to agents he saw marijuana in Arthur's trailer. Arthur self-medicated with it to help ease the pain from his disease and it upset him that Arthur had to take it for relief.

Scott said he had been up for almost 24 hours due to traveling and grieving and was so exhausted that initially he was not really paying attention to Beau. Scott went on to say Beau kept talking and "wouldn't shut up" and Beau was "constantly going, going, going". Scott said he went out to smoke cigarettes and while he was outside, apparently Beau was in the trailer showing his gun. At this time, while speaking with agents, Scott was attempting to contain

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his composure so Scott's wife, Amanda, stepped forward to speak.

Amanda said at the funeral she noticed Beau had liquor every single time she saw him. She said Beau was pulling little bottles out of his pocket offering drinks to people and making comments that he was the guy that had the drinks, and he was an alcoholic. Amanda said Beau was acting strange and was seen placing the little alcohol bottles in the planters outside the funeral home, but they thought Beau was just grieving. Amanda said the plan was that they would go back to Arthur's and do what they thought Arthur would want them to do and listen to music and play video games. Amanda added that she and Scott do not drink alcohol. They arrived at the trailer about 9:30 pm and Amanda said the incident with Beau transpired within 20 minutes. Amanda said it seemed Beau was a little tipsy but not stumbling but then it appeared the alcohol hit Beau so quickly he started talking gibberish and not making sense.

Scott spoke up and said he was 99% sure Beau put a bullet inside Arthur's casket. Amanda interjected and said someone had told them Beau put a bullet in Arthur's casket. Scott said when they were in the trailer, Beau looked at them and said, "Who is the bad guy here?" and Scott told Beau that no one was the bad guy and that it takes too much effort to be the bad guy. Scott said Beau then said he guessed he was the bad guy.

Amanda, Beau and Daniel were all inside the residence and Scott and Ace were outside. Amanda said she had no idea Beau had a gun until he pulled it out from a holster located in the front of his pants. Amanda said to her the gun looked bigger than a 9 mm and that it had features added to it. Amanda went on to say that Beau was waving the gun around a few times while in the trailer and then he put it back. Amanda added that at one point Beau had taken the clip out of the gun and she thought it looked fully loaded but she could not tell if he had a round in the chamber. At one time Beau had pointed it at Daniel. Daniel slowly got up from where he was sitting, and Amanda tried to change the subject.

Amanda said Beau began telling a story about himself and a cousin and how he held a girl on the ground after she was pushed down and that she was going to 'suck his turtle". After telling Amanda and Daniel the story, Beau backed away then ran and fell into the dining room table. Daniel was trying to get himself and Amanda out the trailer and was talking about music and wanting to go outside as to distract Beau and Beau slowly followed them outside. Amanda said she and Daniel were trying to tell Scott and Ace what happened, but they were throwing discs (like frisbees) around. Meanwhile Beau was trying to unlock Daniel's truck thinking it was his vehicle. Amanda described Beau as being "a little combative but not too bad". At that point Daniel was telling Beau it was his car and not Beau's.

At some point Beau got distracted and Daniel got into his vehicle and asked Amanda if she wanted to go, and she said yes. Amanda and Daniel went to Wendy's and was on the phone with Scott. Scott spoke up to agents and said that, simultaneously, this is when he started noticing things and went inside and called Chris. Scott said at this particular time he did not know Beau had a gun. Scott said he told Chris that his cousin, Beau, is "off his rocker" and drunk. Scott was trying to find out a little bit about Beau, whether or not Beau was a troublemaker. Scott said the whole plan was to have Beau stay the night and sleep it off.

Scott came back outside and saw Daniel's car was gone and found Beau and Ace on the side of the residence where Beau's vehicle was parked. Beau told Ace to back up and go inside and

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told agents his thoughts were to calm the situation down.

At this time, Ace told agents Beau offered him alcohol and he did drink 3–4 shots with Beau at the funeral home after the funeral was over, around 8 pm. Ace said he could smell alcohol on Beau, but Beau was not belligerent. He was coherent and talking normal. Beau went to one of the planters where he had placed alcohol and the two drank it. Then Beau retrieved alcohol out of the trunk of his vehicle for he and Ace to consume. Ace saw in Beau's trunk that one "bag" was full of empty alcohol bottles, but Beau had other cases he opened which contained alcohol, such as Crown Royal Apple and Fireball and Jack Daniels. The bottles were little like what is sold at gas stations. Ace said since Beau was family to Arthur, they did not think anything of Beau coming to Arthurs with them.

After they got to the trailer, Ace and Scott went outside to have a cigarette and look at the discs. Ace saw Daniel and Amanda exit the trailer and get into Daniel's car. Ace approached the car and Daniel told him Beau was flashing a gun around and Daniel was trying to get Amanda out of there. Ace said he told Daniel to just go and get himself out of the situation and he and Scott would handle things from there.

Ace said after Daniel and Amanda left, Scott was on the phone with Chris and Ace approached Beau. Ace asked Beau if he had a weapon on him would he put it in the trunk and give Ace the keys so they could call it a night. Ace said he and Beau walked to Beau's car and it appeared Beau was cooperating. Ace told Beau that it was simple and for Beau to put the gun in the trunk and then give him the keys. Beau became upset and told Ace he was being an "asshole" and being mean to him. Ace told Beau he was trying to be his friend and now was not the time for Ace to be Beau's enemy. As Beau and Ace were talking, Scott then approached and tried to mediate the situation and told Ace to go into the trailer.

Scott then told agents Ace walked into the trailer and Scott asked Beau, "What's the deal?". Scott said Beau answered he did not know. Scott said he told Beau, that "today was crazy" and they had all been through a lot. To show Beau he was not being aggressive Scott pulled out his cigarette and a lighter. Scott said Beau took 2 steps back and Scott said he felt in danger by Beau's action. Scott said he went into the house where he felt safe and locked Beau out. Scott called Chris back and told him there was a gun involved. Chris told Scott he was on his way and was approximately 10 minutes away. Scott told agents he was worried about Beau because he was family with Arthur, and he did not want Beau to get hurt.

Ace saw Beau walk across the street and leave the area. Scott came back outside where he heard "2 pops". Amanda said she was on the phone with Scott, and she heard the shots. She said they know the difference between gun fire and fireworks. Scott said it sounded like the shots were coming from across the street and bouncing between the buildings. Scott said he felt like they were being shot at. Scott said it then sounded like there was a few more shots, possibly 5 or more. Scott thought the shots were getting closer and he and Ace went back inside.

Scott called Chris back and told him "they're shooting". Chris said he was pulling in. Scott and Ace jumped in the car with Chris and met up with Amanda and Daniel. Scott said he called 911 on Chris' phone when Chris arrived and after they heard the shots being fired. Scott said it was less than 10 minutes from the time he heard the shots fired and got into Chris's truck.

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SA Najmulski asked Scott if Beau threatened any of them and Scott said no.

No one else had any further information and the interviews concluded.

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 audio recording. 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 or responses. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the audio recording.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: Interview with Scott Mendoza and friends

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