



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



2025-2909

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Stanhope-Kelloggsville Rd. and Anderson Rd., Denmark Township, OH 44032, Ashtabula County

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview – Lieutenant Matthew Johns
Involves: Lt. Matthew Johns (W)
Activity Date: 09/08/2025
Activity Location: Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road and Anderson Road, Denmark Township, OH 44032
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Monday, September 8, 2025, at 1806 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) and SA Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Lieutenant (Lt.) Matthew Johns (Lt. Johns). The interview took place at the intersections of Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road and Anderson Road. The interview was audio-recorded.

Lt. Johns was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the September 8, 2025, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road and Anderson Road, Denmark Township, Ohio. Reportedly, Lt. Johns did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Lt. Johns stated that his radio call sign on September 8, 2025, was 4-8. He has been employed by the ACSO for about 19 years and has been a police officer for a total of 19 years. During the incident, Lt. Johns wore his plain clothes uniform consisting of a black polo shirt and khaki pants. He also wore an external ballistic vest with overt markings indicating his status as a member of the ACSO. He drove an unmarked Ford Explorer equipped with emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident.

The interview was conducted in SA Lamping's vehicle at the incident scene. It began at 1806 hours. The initial portion of the interview covered the information on the witness officer interview guide which is already summarized above.

Lt. Johns stated that he was not initially dispatched to the incident but overheard on pursuit on the radio/Mobile Data Terminal (MDT). While en route to assist in the

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pursuit, Lt. Johns was made aware that the operator of the pursued motorcycle, later identified as Jerry C. Pegram (Pegram), was throwing items from the motorcycle. Lt. Johns recalled joining the pursuit around Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road and Bulah Road. Lt. Johns noted that Pegram had driven off Bulah Road, around the police vehicles, and then through a ditch and back onto Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road.

The pursuit travelled South from Bulah Road and Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road. Lt. Johns recalled the following incident at the intersection of Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road and Anderson Road, "I observed the driver of the motorcycle put it into the ditch and he, the driver, ran into the woods." (3:20)

While Pegram ran into the woods, Lt. Johns recalled that he exited his vehicle, went to the rear passenger door, and began to put on his external ballistic carrier. Lt. Johns could not observe the other officers from his location but recalled hearing gunshots. He estimated that there were ten to fifteen gunshots and described them as very rapid.

When asked if he had any concerns about his safety during the incident, Lt. Johns explained that he acquired his ballistic carrier because he was concerned that Pegram may have a firearm.

After hearing the gunshots, Lt. Johns made his way into the woods. Once there he stated that he and the other deputies on scene attempted to render aide to Pegram.

The interview concluded at approximately 1813 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was stored on Axon Justice as part of Reference Item D – Witness Officer Interviews. Please review the recording in its entirety for further details.

References:

Reference Item D – Witness Officer Interviews: Subfolder – Lt. Matthew Johns Interview – Stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

None

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