



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



2024-3294  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – Portage Bike Trail near North  
Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness  
**Involves:** Carl Smith (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 10/22/2024  
**Activity Location:** Ravenna Police Department – Business – 220 South Parkway Street,  
Ravenna, OH 44266  
**Author:** SA William Conn, #51

On October 22, 2024, Special Agent (S/A) William Conn along with other members of BCI responded to 930 North Freedom Street Ravenna Ohio, in regard to an Officer Involved Critical Incident. Upon arrival, S/A Conn was assigned by S/A Goudy to conduct witness interviews.

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 chronological order 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.

**Narrative:**

Witness:

Carl Smith M/W

D.O.B. August 24, 1968

Resident of transient camp (northeast of incident scene).

Phone [REDACTED]

Mr. Smith (Smith) stated both individuals, the stabbing victim (Larry Burghy) and the deceased subject (Matthew Fries) were on and off residents of the transient camp which is located in the woods just northeast of the Portage Hike and Bike Trail, which is also just northeast of the incident scene. Smith stated at approximately 10:00 am, Mr. Fries entered the camp and walked past him mumbling. Smith mentioned that Mr. Fries was schizophrenic. Smith then stated he heard Mr. Burghy yelling “what did I do?” and “stop” in a trailing off fashion, as if he

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was going away from camp. Smith then stated that Mr. Fries walked back past him again saying "I stabbed Jr. ( Mr. Burghy), I should have killed him." Smith said a few minutes later he heard inarticulate yelling along with five–seven gunshots. Smith stated he didn't see Mr. Fries attack Mr. Burghy or anything else. He only heard yelling and the shots.

(See attached audio statement for exact details regarding the interview).

Summary of interview concluded.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: Smith Interview

**References:**

None