



Prosecutor April R. Grabman

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March 21, 2025

RE: John Perry Incident from May 31, 2024 to June 1, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

The Ashtabula County Prosecutor's Office has finished reviewing the matter involving the shooting death of John Perry.

On May 31, 2024, at 7:08 P.M. the Ashtabula County 911 Dispatch Center received a call from Mr. Perry's neighbor. The neighbor reported to dispatch that Mr. Perry was pointing a firearm at his wife and children while outside of their residence. The neighbors took shelter inside their home, and Mr. Perry went into his residence.

At 7:18 P.M. a second phone call was received from the same neighbor indicating that Mr. Perry had once again come outside, pointed a firearm at the family, and then Mr. Perry returned to his residence.

The Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office responded to the scene, as well as family members of Mr. Perry. It was reported by family members on scene that Mr. Perry suffered from some mental health issues.

A family member of Mr. Perry approached the residence to talk with him in an attempt to de-escalate the situation; however, Mr. Perry continued to pose a threat. Mr. Perry stepped back outside and pointed his shotgun in the direction of his family member and responding deputies. The deputies escorted the family member to safety and Mr. Perry went back inside his residence. At this time the Lake County Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT Team was requested to respond to the scene.

The SWAT Team arrived, and from the exterior of the residence they observed Mr. Perry making several furtive movements throughout the residence. Numerous attempts were made to communicate with Mr. Perry over a loud speaker; however, he played loud music and refused to come outside.

Two armored vehicles were on scene, and law enforcement used one armored vehicle to deploy drones into the residence in order to ascertain what Mr. Perry was doing inside the residence.

The drone footage confirmed that Mr. Perry was pacing back and forth inside the home with the shotgun still in hand. Mr. Perry then fired the shotgun at one of the armored vehicles that was occupied by a law enforcement officer.

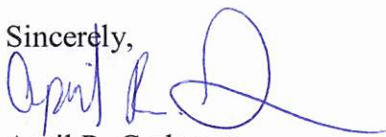
A phone was tossed inside in an attempt to once again try to communicate with Mr. Perry; however, he threw the phone back outside. Mr. Perry, from a covered position inside his home, fired a second shot in the direction of the armored vehicle. The armored vehicle was surrounded by law enforcement officers, and a law enforcement officer still remained inside the vehicle.

Officers then attempted to deploy OC gas inside, which was unsuccessful due to an equipment malfunction. An officer moved from one armored vehicle to another to retrieve functioning equipment. During the transition, Mr. Perry was observed in the window with the shotgun aimed and ready to fire at the officer in motion. Officers then used deadly force in order to neutralize the active threat, which ultimately resulted in Mr. Perry's death. When officers entered the home, the shotgun was found in close proximity to Mr. Perry's body.

Law enforcement officials were on scene from 7:38 P.M. on May 31st until 3:16 A.M on June 1st (six and one-half hours) attempting to de-escalate the situation and safely remove Mr. Perry from his residence. Ashtabula County Sheriff, William R. Niemi, contacted the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). BCI responded to the scene, and a thorough and independent investigation was completed. Once BCI completed its investigation, BCI forwarded everything to the Ashtabula County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Upon receiving the file, an independent review was completed. It is the opinion of the Ashtabula County Prosecutor's Office that it is not necessary to present this case to the Grand Jury for potential charges. From the evidence presented, it is clear that law enforcement officers were legally justified in the use of deadly force that led to Mr. Perry's death on June 1, 2024.

Sincerely,



April R. Grabman,
Ashtabula County Prosecutor

Cc: Ashtabula County Sheriff, William R. Niemi
Geauga County Prosecutor, James R. Flaiz
Geauga County Sheriff, Scott A. Hildenbrand
Lake County Prosecutor, Charles E. Coulson
Lake County Sheriff, Frank Leonbruno
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation