



**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:

Interview - [REDACTED]

Involves:

[REDACTED]

Activity Date:

09/22/2025

Activity Location:

Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office - 25 West Jefferson
Street, Jefferson, OH 44047

Authoring Agent:

SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Monday, September 22, 2025, at 1155 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) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorneys, Dan Leffler and Amanda Hays, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA), as well as two union stewards, Detective Ryan Reece and Detective Jonelle Gerke. The interview took place at the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office. The interview was audio and video recorded.

[REDACTED] was provided with, 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. Any times referenced in this report refer to the elapsed time of the Axon video recording of the interview, and not the time of day.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt. Sterrick
Radio Channel Utilized: ACSO Patrol	Mobile Data Terminal: Present; Not Used
Cruiser Description: Marked Dodge	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating

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Charger	Positions: [REDACTED]
Assignment: Patrol	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized
Shift Day of Incident [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Approximately 7 hours	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: Approximately [REDACTED] years	Length at Current Agency: Approximately [REDACTED] years
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): Near-sighted	Corrective Lenses: Prescribed; Unsure if Used
Uniform Worn: Sheriff's Office Uniform	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Magazine holder, firearm, taser, flashlight, radio, tourniquet
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: None	OPOTC Certification: Certified
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: None
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? Unknown	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: Unknown

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Glock	Model: 45
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: Unknown
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Holster
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 17 + 1
Extra Magazines: 2	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 34
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Unknown	Number of Rounds Fired: Unknown
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: August	Type of Holster, if any: Level 3 retention holster

Narrative:

When asked about the incident, [REDACTED] recalled hearing radio traffic from Dep. Michael Chircarell (Dep. Chicarell) that involved his attempt to stop a motorcycle, possibly in the city of Ashtabula. He noted that during the subsequent pursuit, an officer transmitted over the air that the driver of the motorcycle, Jerry Pegram (Pegram), had thrown packages from the motorcycle. [REDACTED] stated that he arrived at the end point of the pursuit close behind the officers at the front of the pursuit.

[REDACTED] was provided with an overhead drone photograph of the terminal point of the pursuit along with a marker. He was asked to describe his route of travel with the marker, and he created the below approximate diagram of his movements:

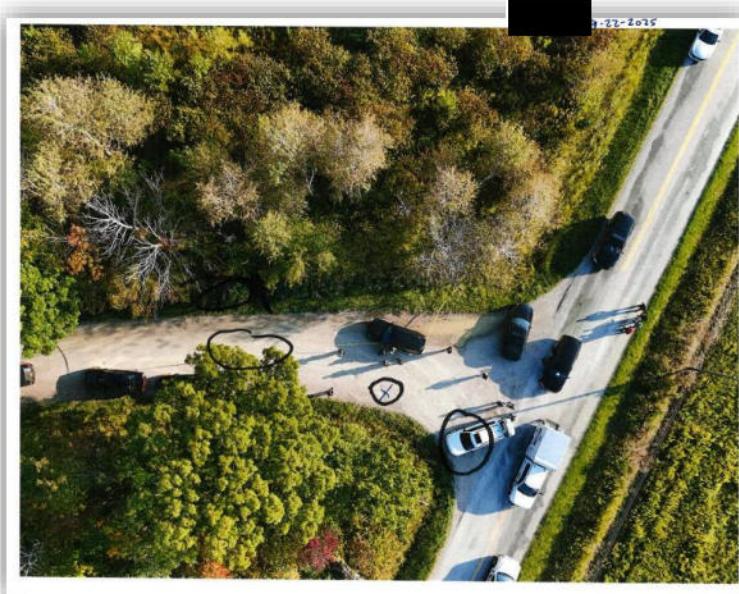


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While completing the diagram, [REDACTED] explained to investigators that he arrived on the corner of Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road and Anderson Road to hear the loud revving of a motorcycle. He noted that though he could hear the engine, it did not sound like it was getting farther away from him, leading him to believe that the motorcycle was either crashed or stuck. He also said that when he eventually came upon the motorcycle, he could see the rear wheel spinning.

[REDACTED] remembered a deputy, possibly [REDACTED] exiting his patrol vehicle and running into the woods shortly after his arrival at the intersection. When he followed the other deputy into the woods, [REDACTED] observed [REDACTED] attempting to apprehend Pegram, and he also said that he heard the deployment of a taser. He also recalled the following:

So, all I remember was somebody yelling "gun, gun, gun." And somebody had, uh, somebody yelled "gun, gun," I believe it was [REDACTED]. And at this point everything like, came almost like a dead stop. And what I remember was, I don't know if this holster was under Jerry's shirt or if it was just the way his shirt was, but from what I think he pulled his shirt up and then I just slow motion watch him.... (22:16).

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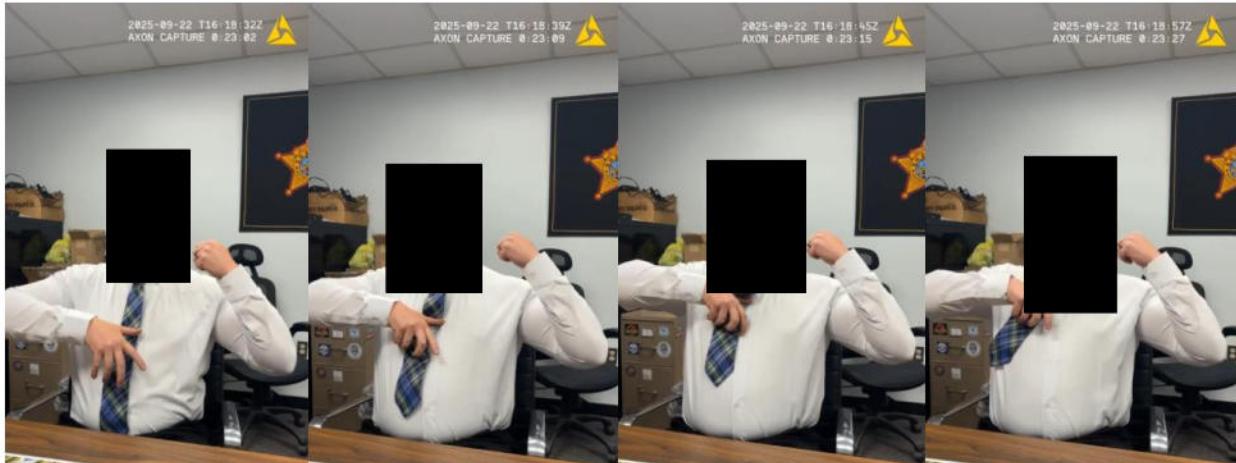
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During his statement [REDACTED] was attempting to describe Pegram's actions. He stated that it would be easier for him to demonstrate the act rather than describe it. The below still images represent an approximation of Pegram's actions as perceived by [REDACTED]



While [REDACTED] was demonstrating Pegram's action he continued with his statement:

So, I remember like rolling on his back and just like slow motion and he takes his hand and I see the butt of the gun and I watch him grab it and it's like, he's like kind of rocking back and forth and he is like aiming up this holster and I start watching the gun draw and I watch his finger get like over the trigger guard and, and he was given a lot of commands to don't do it, don't do it. From what I remember, I don't remember if I said anything or not. But all I remember was just watching this gun slowly start to come out and then that's where I believed that something that he was going to try to hurt or kill one of us with that firearm (22:54).

[REDACTED] could not recall being able to make out any specifics about the firearm while Pegram was manipulating it. When SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if he was able to confirm that Pegram had a firearm at some point during the incident he stated the following, "I knew, I knew he had a firearm at the time. So, I just wasn't able to tell what kind of firearm it was" (24:19).

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SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] how he felt when Pegram began to raise his shirt and started reaching, and [REDACTED] stated, "Uh, like I was about to be shot in the face" (24:42).

[REDACTED] was asked if the muzzle of Pegram's firearm ever crossed over him or another deputy. He stated that he was not sure if it was pointed at himself, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or the area between where the two were standing.

[REDACTED] was asked why he fired his weapon, and he provided the following statement:

So, it's, it has to go with everything that he [Pegram] did. And I felt, I felt like there was an imminent threat and that if I did not fire my weapon, that somebody on our side was going to get hurt or killed (21:56).

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] how many rounds he fired during the incident. [REDACTED] could not recall the number of rounds fired, but he did recall that he was shooting in a downward direction towards Pegram while aiming at his center mass. [REDACTED] also made the following statement in regard to the timing of the shots being fired:

And this is where I get lost because I remember hearing, I remember hearing a single shot and I didn't know if it was one of us or him. And I thought it was him. I thought he got a round off. I don't know. I don't ever confirm whether or not that he did. Um, and then that's when I fired my weapon (31:13).

After the shooting occurred, [REDACTED] recalled there being a brief pause, and that someone said that they cleared the weapon. He said that he was attempting to process what happened, and that [REDACTED] began to render first aid to Pegram. While [REDACTED] was rendering aid, [REDACTED] removed Pegram's face mask.

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] to describe Pegram's actions during the confrontation and he said the following:

Um, but based on his actions, like it's, it was either, it felt as if it was like almost all or nothing for him. It was either he was gonna kill one of us and get away or he was not going back to prison. And that's kind of how I felt throughout this interaction because there were several, uh, clearly marked units behind him during this pursuit. We were all in

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uniforms that any reasonable person would believe that we are police officers or some law enforcement officers. Uh, and that, uh, his actions ultimately created a major threat to all of us, um, by pointing a gun at us. And, and either he did pull that trigger or he was trying to (32:53).

SA Lamping asked [REDACTED] if he felt that Pegram's actions were more in line with someone trying to escape or someone attempting to harm officers and he stated the following:

It's very hard to say because at the point I, I firmly believe that his intentions were to hurt somebody this day. And it was gonna be one of us. He, I, I don't think he wanted to go back to prison. I, I firmly believe that if he was able to hurt one of us, he was going to. Um, and that's why he had a gun with him (33:59).

[REDACTED] provided the investigators with consent to review any reports he may be required to write about the incident as well as any body worn camera footage that captured conversations with his supervisors.

The interview concluded at approximately 1228 hours.

The interview was audio and video recorded. The recordings were uploaded to Axon Justice and stored as part of Reference Item C - Involved Officer Interviews. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form and the diagram created by [REDACTED] were attached to this report where they can be reviewed in their entirety.

References:

Reference Item C - Involved Officer Interviews: Subfolder - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Interview; stored on Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. Criminal Investigation Notification - [REDACTED]
2. Diagram - [REDACTED]

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Criminal Investigation Notification

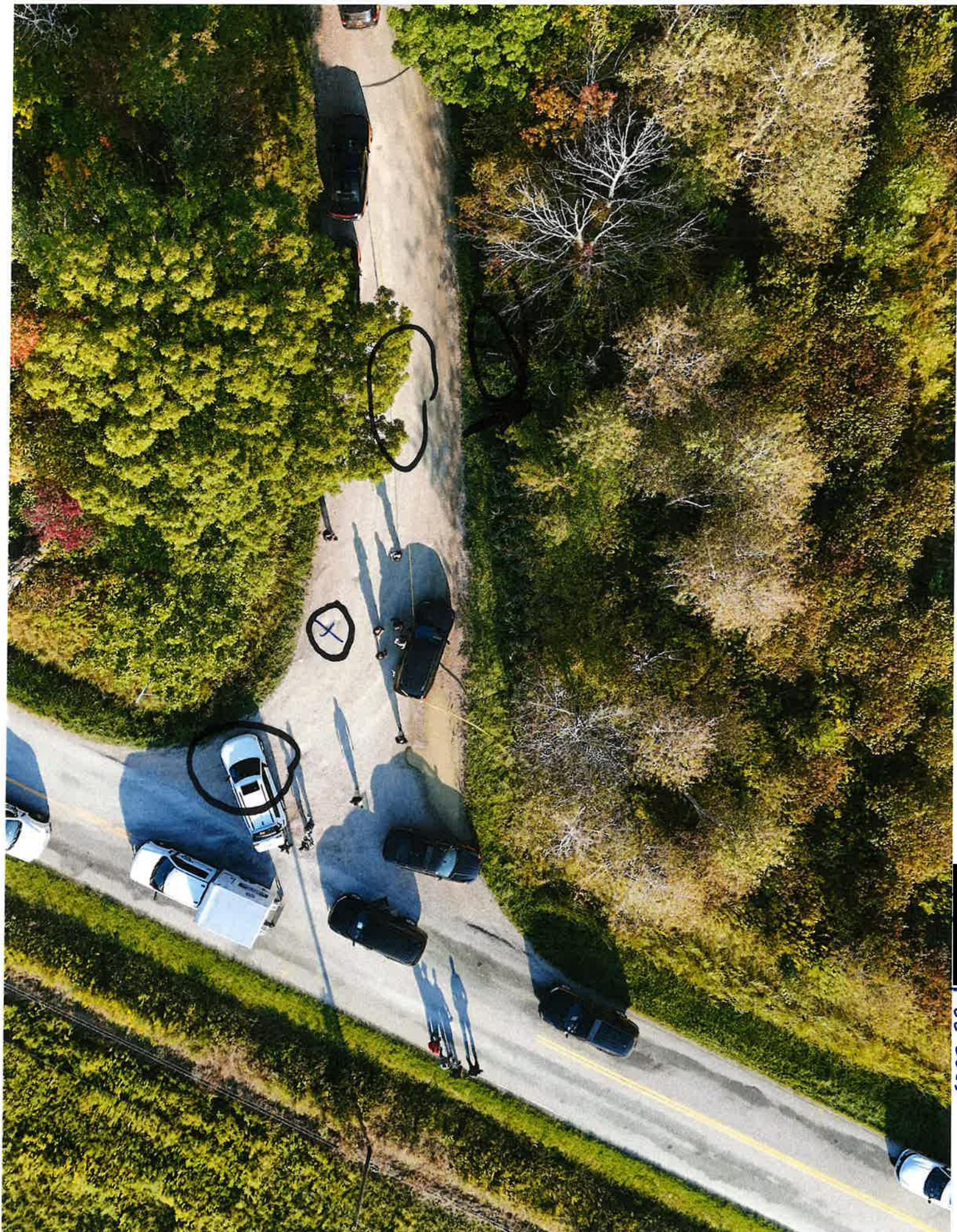
1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct 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).

Pr
Sig

9-22-2025 @ 1156
Date / Time

JOE WAMPAGE #184
BCI Agent (Printed)

JOE WAMPAGE #184
BCI Agent (Signature)



1
-22-2025