



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 Officer
Involves: Hunter R Johnson (W)
Date of Activity: 06/07/2024
Activity Location: Perrysburg Township Police Department – 26711 Lime City Road,
Perrysburg, OH 43551
Author: SA Tiffany Najmulski, #49

Narrative:

On June 7th, 2024, at approximately 11:47 a.m., Special Agents Tiffany Najmulski (Najmulski) and Chris Hamberg (Hamberg) went to the Perrysburg Township Police Department, located at 26711 Lime City Road, Perrysburg, Ohio, to meet with and interview Officer Hunter Johnson (Officer Johnson). The meeting was in regards to the incident that occurred with Beau Purtee (Purtee) on May 23, 2024. Also present for the interview was attorney for the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association (OPBA), Yvonne Trevino (Trevino). The following is a summary of the interview which was digitally recorded and attached to the report and the case file.

Officer Johnson was asked if he agreed to speak with agents; that he read and sign the Criminal Notification, which he did (attached). Officer Johnson said he has been a police officer for approximately 2 months with Perrysburg Township and this is his first law enforcement job. On the incident night, Officer Johnson advised he was working the night shift from 1800 hours to 0600 hours. Officer Johnson, who is still in training, rode with Officer Tyler Gearig (Officer Gearig) and his supervisor was Sgt. Ross Wheatley (Sgt. Wheatley) that shift. Officer Johnson said his call number was 136 and he was in unit 419.

Officer Johnson described he was wearing a uniform that was clearly marked with "police" on the front and back with a tactical belt containing his firearm (Glock 17), handcuffs, flashlight, taser, radio, and magazines. Officer Johnson said he was not wearing a body worn camera (BWC) because he had a domestic violence call that evening around 2200 hours and was uploading it at the station when he received another call at Kohl's department store.

Officer Johnson said while he was at Kohl's waiting for a keyholder, he was dispatched to a man with a weapon call. Officer Johnson and Officer Gearig got into the patrol car and headed that way with other units following. Officer Johnson said he went lights and sirens until he got to Tracy Road then he turned off his sirens because there was no traffic at the time. When

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Approved By SAS Scott A. Stranahan on
06/26/2024

Officer Johnson and Officer Gearig arrived at the trailer park, he turned off his overhead lights. Officer Johnson said he "blacked" out the vehicle, exited and went to trailer number 327 because officers were under the impression this was where the subject was. Officer Johnson said the trailer was dark and did not seem like anyone was home. Officer Johnson said he then heard what sounded like yelling in the distance "somewhere behind the officers".

Officer Johnson said he started jogging that way and was ahead of the other officers. He started heading towards the ditch (position 1 on the map) when he heard a couple gun shots go off so he took cover from a trailer (position 2) that was close to the ditch (see crime scene map which is attached). SA Najmulski asked Officer Johnson to mark the map with numbers of where he was staged during the incident. Officer Johnson said he heard approximately 5 shots fired from the subject and saw muzzle flashes.

Officer Gearig told Officer Johnson to go get his rifle and position himself behind the tree (position 3), which he did. Officer Johnson said the other 3 officers were positioned behind the trailer. Officer Johnson said he turned on the light to his duty rifle to attempt to see where the subject was, but it was still too dark. Officer Johnson then called out to the other officers what he was seeing because he had the better vantage point. Officer Johnson then used his sights on his rifle, saw a light and saw the subject peeking "around the corner". Officer Johnson said he was having trouble seeing the subject because he was still far away. Officer Johnson thought the subject must have seen the light coming from Officer Johnson' direction and started shooting at his light.

Officer Johnson said he was scared and tucked behind the tree and he could hear the gunshots hitting the tree. Officer Johnson said a couple seconds went by and it got quiet. Officer Johnson did not know that Sgt. Wheatley had fired his gun. He said there was so many gun shots going off he could not tell which was which but knows he was shot at first.

Dispatch radioed that someone was knocking on the trailer doors, and someone said the subject might be in the street. Then a person came out of their trailer and started yelling at the officers asking what they were doing, and the officers told him to get back inside.

Sgt. Wheatley then decided to get in his patrol car and use the light to try to see what was going on. Officer Johnson said he tried to peek out and saw a light in the ditch but it was not moving anymore. Officer Johnson said they decided at that point to move forward.

Officer Johnson said he did not fire his weapon because he was not 100% sure what the flashlight was. It was not until Officer Johnson approached the subject that he saw a flashlight on the subject's gun.

SA Najmulski asked Officer Johnson why he came into the trailer park blacked out? Officer Johnson said they did not know what was going on but knew it was a man with a weapon and did not know his intentions. The dispatcher had told the officers she thought she heard a gunshot but was not sure. Officer Johnson said it was chaotic. Originally officers thought the subject was supposed to be at one of the trailers but then heard screaming and did not know where the subject was. Officer Johnson said it sounded like someone was in pain. Officer Johnson said he got to position 1 (on the map) and did not see anything but gunshots and

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muzzle flashes.

SA Najmulski asked if there was any indication there was anyone else with the subject or just the subject? Officer Johnson replied, "Just him". Officer Johnson said his duty flashlight is bright but he was never able to see what the subject looked like. SA Hamberg asked how far he thought the subject was and Officer Johnson said approximately 30–40 yards.

When Officer Johnson added that when he was going to get his AR he heard an additional 2 gun shots go off. Officer Johnson said cars were driving by on Tracy Road and he did not know if the subject was shooting at the cars going by or the officers. Officer Johnson said verbal commands were not given as to not give up their position.

SA Hamberg asked if Officer Johnson had ever dealt with the subject before and Officer Johnson said he had never met him.

Officer Johnson said when they approached the subject, they found his body lying in the ditch with his gun still in his hand with the flashlight still illuminated. Sgt. Wheatley took the gun out of the subject's hand and was looking for a pulse and found none. Sgt. Wheatley told officers he saw a gunshot wound to the head. Medics arrived and declared the subject deceased.

Officer Johnson had nothing else to add and the interview concluded. The originals of the map and Criminal Notification form, which was signed by the officer is placed in the physical case file.

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: Sgt. Wheatley criminal notification and map

Attachment # 02: Officer Johnson criminal notification and map

Attachment # 03: Officer Braeua criminal notification form and map

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Criminal Investigation Notification

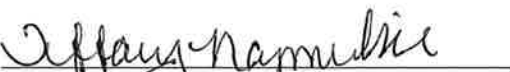
1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct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

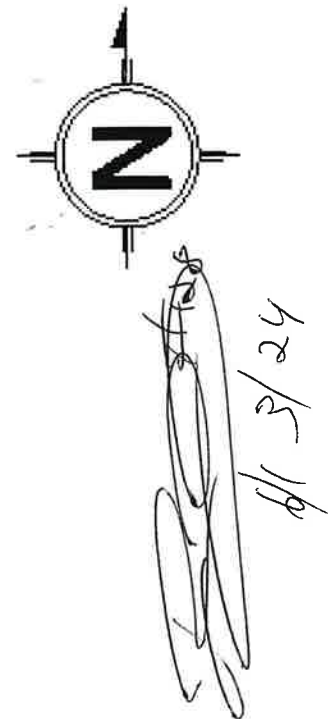
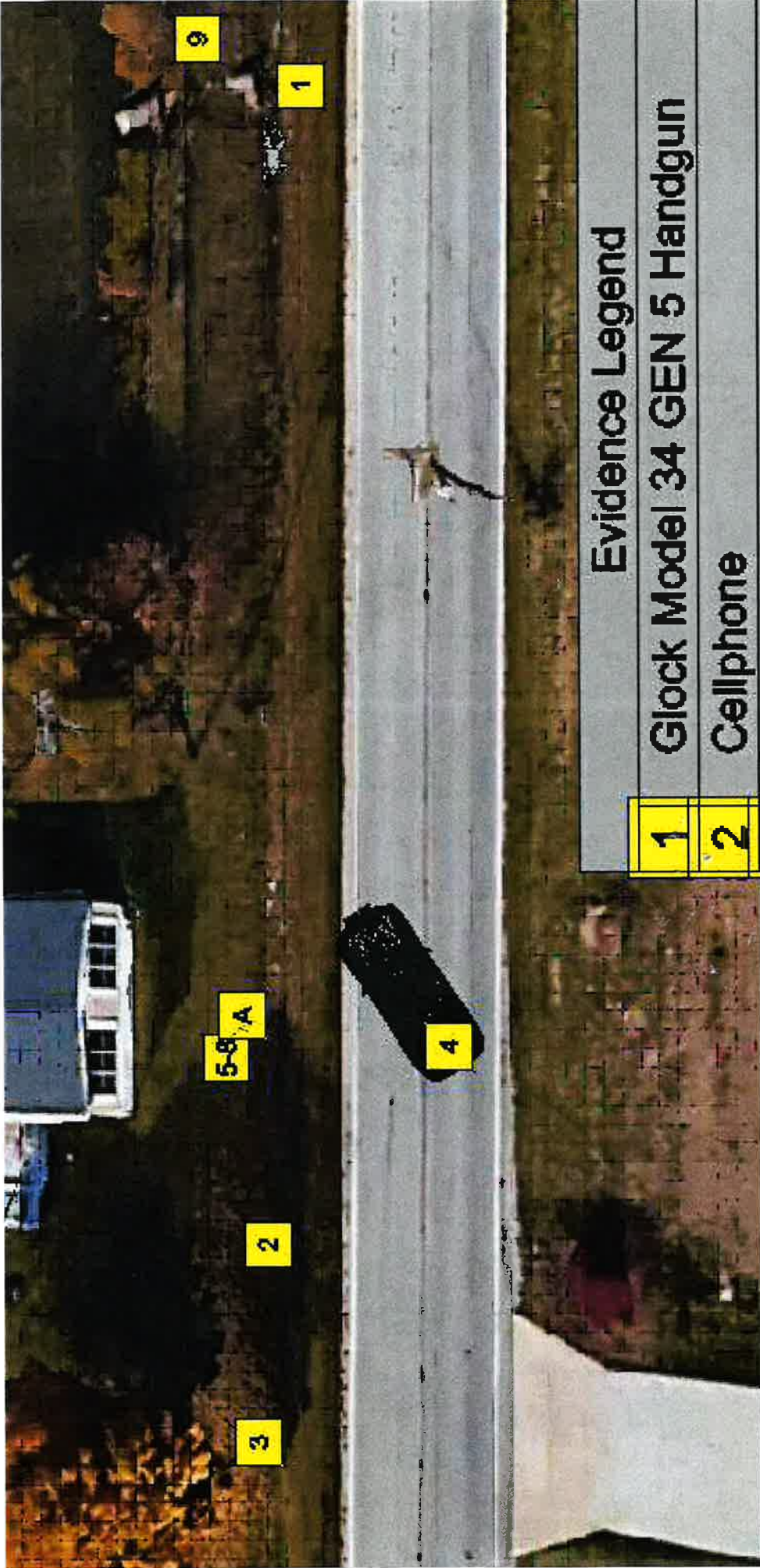
Ross Wheatley
Printed Name of Interviewee

6/13/24 11:44
Date / Time


Signature of Interviewee

Tiffany Najmowski
BCI Agent (Printed)


BCI Agent (Signature)



Evidence Legend	
1	Glock Model 34 GEN 5 Handgun
2	Cellphone
3	Flashlight
4	AR Rifle 556
5-8	Fired Cartridge Casing (556 Hornady)
9	Fired Cartridge Casing (SIG 9mm Lug)
A	Fired Cartridge Casing (556 Hornady)



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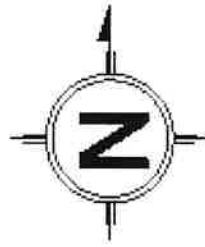
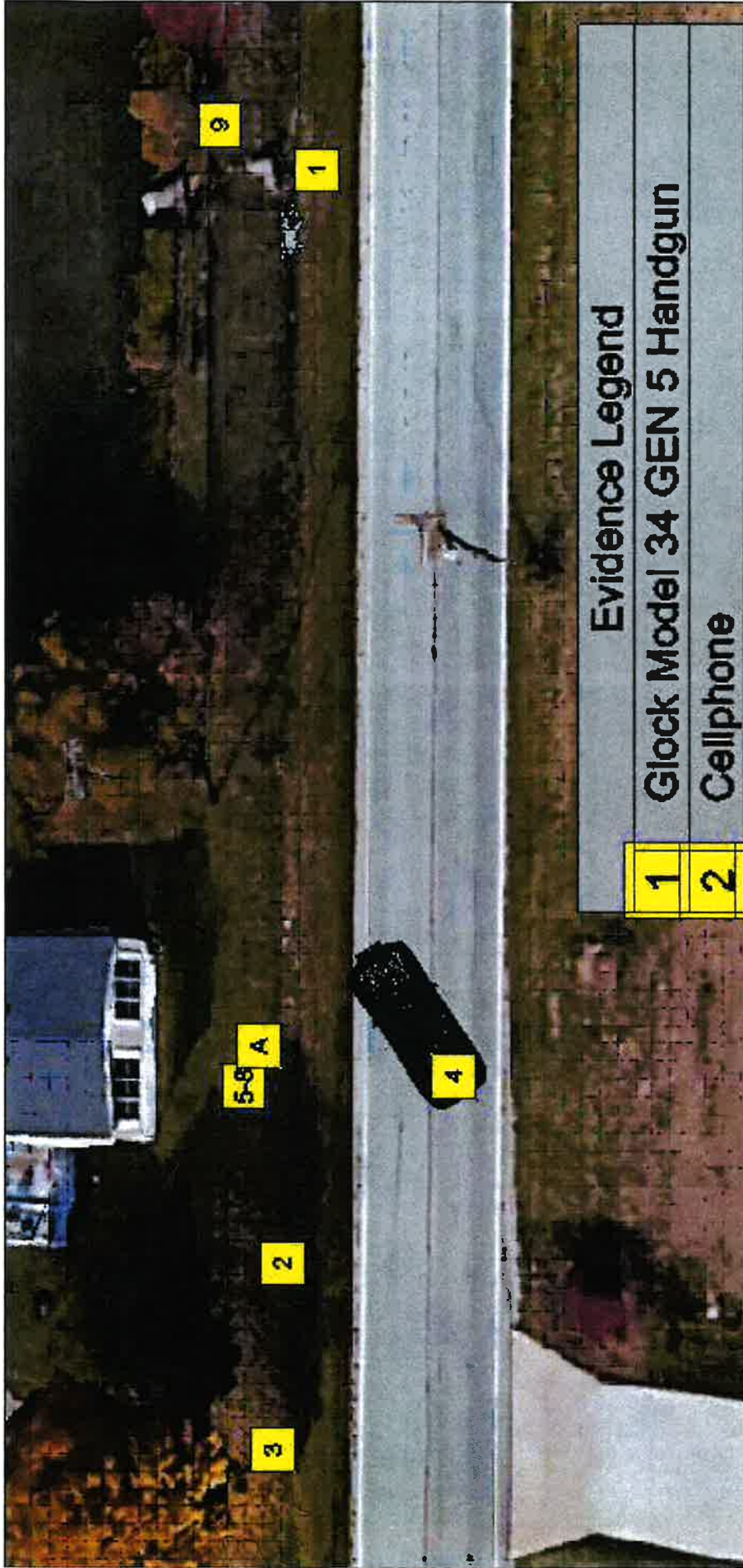
Hunter Johnson
Printed Name of Interviewee

6/7/24 1147
Date / Time

Hunter Johnson
Signature of Interviewee

Tiffany Najmowski
BCI Agent (Printed)

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BCI Agent (Signature)



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Handwritten signature

2024-1584

Location
Roadway - 27695 Tracy Rd, Walbridge, OH

Perrysburg Township Police Department
Date Drawn
05/31/2024

Drawn By
Emily Miller
Section / Unit
BCI-Crime Scene - North
Not to Scale



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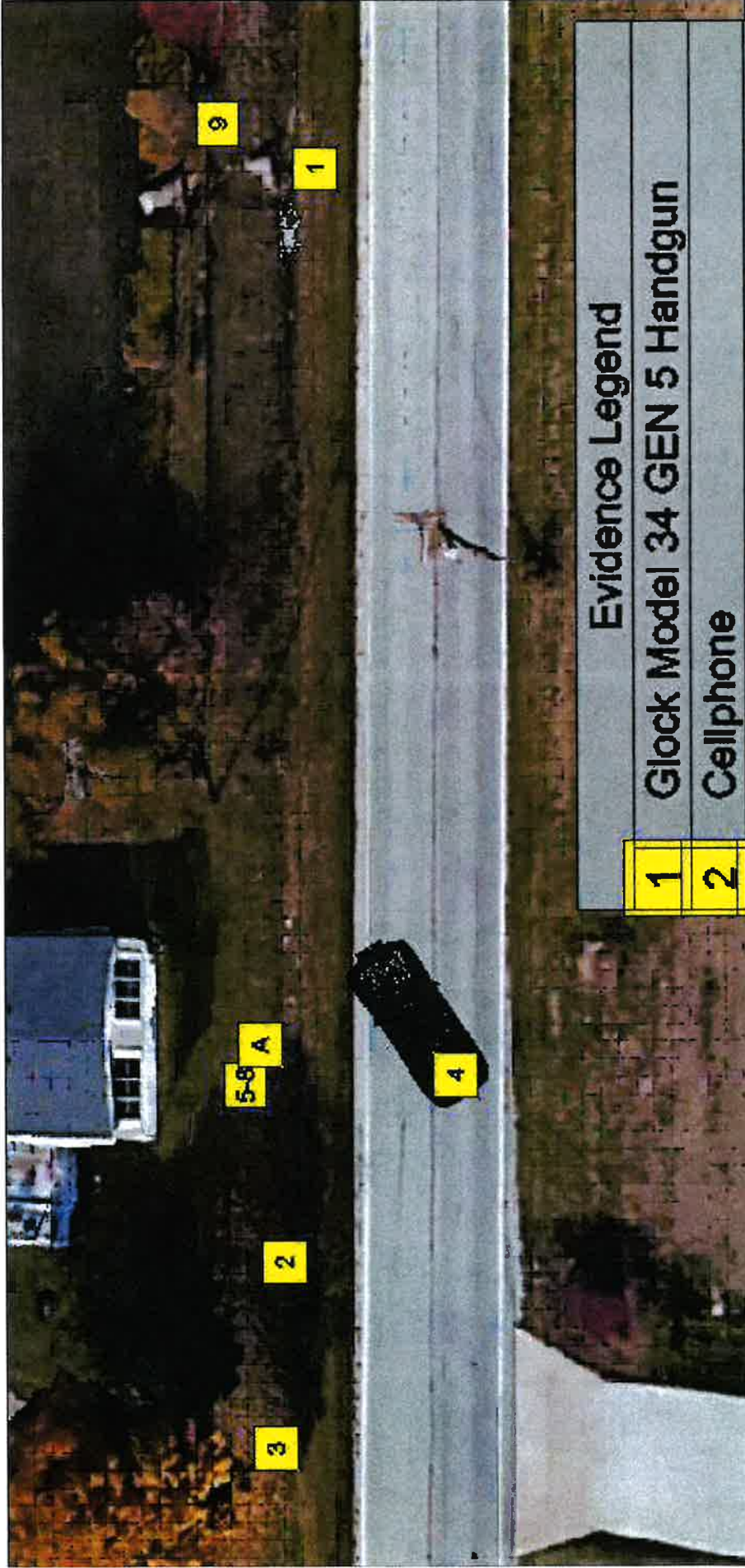
James D. Brazier #
Printed Name of Interviewee

6/7/24 1117
Date / Time

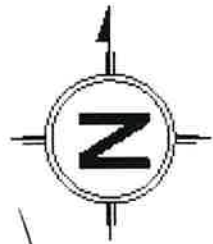
James D. Brazier #
Signature of Interviewee

Tiffany Najmulski
BCI Agent (Printed)

Tiffany Najmulski 6/7/24
BCI Agent (Signature)



James P. Buzyn #
 6/7/24
 1139 HRS



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