



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



2024-4066

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1004 Park Lane,  
Apartment A, Middletown, Ohio (Butler County) (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Scene Processing  
**Involves:** Christopher Gorak  
**Activity Date:** 12/24/2024  
**Activity Location:** 1004 Park Lane, Apartment A, Middletown, OH  
**Authoring Agent:** Crime Scene Technician Holly Ryczek

On Tuesday, December 24, 2024, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by the Middletown Police Department (MPD) to investigate an officer involved critical incident. Reportedly, MPD patrol officers responded to 1004 Park Lane due to a 911 call describing that two males were involved in a domestic disturbance. Officers supposedly heard a disturbance coming from Apartment A and proceeded to knock on the door announcing that they were police. BCI was told that after knocking and announcing multiple times, Christopher Gorak (Gorak) opened the door with a firearm pointed at officers. In response, one officer allegedly fired multiple shots, thus striking and killing Gorak, who was pronounced deceased at the scene. Crime Scene Technician (CST) Holly Ryczek responded to the scene to assist. CST Dylan Wical responded to the Middletown Police Department, located at the Middletown City Building (1 Donham Plaza, Middletown, Ohio, 45042), and documented the involved officer as Scene #2.

### Scene #1: 1004 Park Lane

CST Ryczek arrived at 1004 Park Lane, Apartment A, at approximately 2130 hours. Upon arrival, she was advised by Special Agent (SA) Steve Seitzman that the incident had occurred in the doorway/stairwell of Apartment A at the above address. He advised a search warrant was in the process of being signed for the apartment. The scene had been cordoned off by MPD with yellow crime scene tape, multiple law enforcement vehicles, and uniformed personnel. CST Ryczek utilized a BCI crime scene log to document access into the scene. Once the search warrant had been signed, the scene was documented through photography and a Leica BLK360 3D scanner was utilized to collect measurements of the area.

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*Image 1. Overall of Apartment A Exterior*

The incident had occurred inside building 1004 at the Olde Towne Apartments. After entering the shared apartment building entrance, there was a short flight of stairs that led to the second floor. At the top of the second floor, apartment A was located to the west which was connected to apartment B by a short hallway. The scene was observed to be in the doorway of Apartment A and the short second floor hallway. Apartment A consisted of two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen/dining area, and two bathrooms.

Prior to BCI's arrival, multiple cartridge cases and a firearm had been marked by MPD with evidence markers. CST Ryczek replaced the markers from MPD with her own evidence markers.

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*Image 2. Overall of Gorak*

Goark was observed to be lying face-up on the floor with his head facing northwest and feet facing southeast. The majority of his body was located in the living room of Apartment A, with the exception of his left foot which was sticking out into the second-floor hallway. His clothing appeared to be cut by medical personnel and was underneath him. He had suspected blood coming from his head, chest, and left leg. Butler County Coroner's Office (BCCO) Investigator Brian Bussell assisted with examining the decedent. He noted possible bullet wounds on Gorak's left leg, chest, and head. Investigator Bussell then cut the remaining clothing off Gorak and transferred him to a body bag with bag seal lock number 00007251. Gorak's remaining clothes were collected as item #7.

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Suspected blood spatter<sup>1</sup> was located on the inside of the doorframe and the wall to the north of the front door.

A total of four FC 9mm Luger cartridge cases were located in the short second floor hallway (items #1-#4).



*Image 3. Close-up of firearm, item #5*

A firearm was located in the living room underneath a green loveseat which was located near the front door of the apartment. The firearm was a black Ruger LC9s 9mm pistol (S/N: 453-81159). The firearm contained one FC 9mm Luger cartridge in the chamber and a seated magazine which contained six FC 9mm Luger cartridges. This firearm, magazine, and cartridges were collected as item #5.

<sup>1</sup> A bloodstain resulting from an airborne blood drop created when an external force is applied to liquid blood

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A smartphone with a beige case was located on top of a coffee table in the living room. This phone was collected as item #6.

A ballistic event (BE) was observed on the north wall of the living room to the west of the sliding glass balcony door. The BE was circular in shape and penetrated the wall with no exit due to the exterior wall being brick. This BE was labeled as BE 1.0 for documentation purposes.

After documenting the involved officer at the MPD (Scene #2), CST Dylan Wical transferred the officer's firearm (item #1) to CST Ryczek at approximately 2346 hours. See *Processing of Involved Officer* report by CST Wical for details.

Agents prepared separate inventories for the residence (Scene #1) and MPD (Scene #2) which were provided to SA Seitzman.

BCI personnel cleared from the shooting scene at approximately 0036 hours.

### Scene #3: Property from Autopsy

On December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, SA Seitzman transferred the evidence obtained from Gorak's autopsy at the Butler County Coroner's Office to CST Ryczek at approximately 0930 hours. CST Ryczek processed the items at BCI Headquarters at approximately 1030 hours. The items included:

- Three projectiles recovered from Gorak
- One body bag seal
- One left hand bag
- One right hand bag
- Nail clippings from left hand
- Nail clippings from right hand
- Pubic hair
- Oral swabs
- Right hand swabs
- Left hand swabs
- One bloodstain card

The three projectiles were packaged separately as items #1-#3. All other items from autopsy were packaged together as item #4.

While at BCI Headquarters, CST Ryczek processed the clothing items (item #7) that were located at Scene #1. These items included a black t-shirt and a black pair of "Mission Ridge" size L sweatpants, both covered in suspected blood. One suspected BE

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was located in the t-shirt, and two suspected BEs were located in the sweatpants. Among the clothing items, a projectile was recovered. This projectile was collected as item #7.1.

### **Disposition of Evidence**

On December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at approximately 0150 hours, CST Ryczek placed all of the items from Scenes #1-#2 in the temporary evidence locker at BCI headquarters in London, OH. On December 27<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 1030 hours, CST Ryczek retrieved these items and processed the items from Scene #3.

The following items were submitted to the BCI laboratory for comparison at approximately 1315 hours:

Scene #1 (Shooting scene): Items #1-#4 (cartridge cases), #5 (Gorak's firearm), and #7.1 (projectile)

Scene #2 (Processing of Involved Officer): Item #1 (Officer's firearm)

Scene #3 (Autopsy evidence): Items #1-#3 (projectiles)

All remaining items were placed into temporary evidence locker #2 to be submitted into the major crimes evidence vault at approximately 1325 hours.

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