



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



2024-2620  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 4206 Northridge Rd.,  
Alexandria, OH 43001 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** [REDACTED]  
**Date of Activity:** 08/30/2024  
**Activity Location:** Licking County Sheriff's Office – Business – 155 East Main Street,  
Newark, OH 43055  
**Author:** SA Craig Call

**Narrative:**

On August 30, 2024, the Licking County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) at 4206 Northridge Road, Alexandria, Ohio, involving officers with the LCSO, the Johnstown Police Department (JPD), and Doug Plott (Plott). Plott was ultimately shot by responding officers and succumbed to his injuries.

There were three initial responding officers. [REDACTED] and JPD [REDACTED] were identified as officers discharging their firearms during the incident with LCSO Deputy Nicholas Dewitt (Deputy Dewitt) being witness to the incident.

On September 9, 2024, [REDACTED] accompanied by Attorney Bob Sauter, met with BCI Special Agents Craig Call (SA Call) and Aja Chung (SA Chung) in order to provide BCI with a statement of her involvement in the above incident.

Prior to the interview beginning, SA Call provided [REDACTED] with BCI's Criminal Investigation Notification (CIN) form and asked her to review the form and ask any clarification questions she may have. [REDACTED] acknowledged she understood the purpose of the CIN and signed the CIN at approximately 1050 hours.

Prior to the date of the interview, [REDACTED] prepared a written witness statement detailing her involvement in the above incident. The written statement is approximately five (5) and one half (1/2) pages in length, which [REDACTED] signed and provided to SA Call for the case file. The first two pages of the statement contains employment background, training history, and other foundational information about [REDACTED] while the remaining information is related to the above incident. Quotes from the statement will used

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Approved By SA James A. Mulford on  
09/24/2024

during this report, however the statement in its entirety has been attached for further reference.

██████████ agreed to answer any follow up questions with Attorney Sauter present. The audio interview began at approximately 1101 hours.

In reference to the shooting and events immediately surrounding, ██████████ wrote the following:

*"██████████ and I entered the mudroom together. From inside the mudroom, ██████████ advised that he observed Mr. Plott actively starting a fire inside the residence.*

*██████████ stated that he was going to kick open the door into the living room / kitchen area of the home so we could make entry. At this point, I realized Deputy DeWitt was in the mudroom with us. ██████████ then kicked the door open. When the door swung open, I observed Mr. Plott standing near the doorway, holding two (2) large kitchen knives.*

*I gave loud repetitive verbal commands for Mr. Plott to drop the knives. He yelled something like, "kill me," before turning and running back into the residence. I held my fire, as did the other officers.*

*A moment later, I heard Ms. Bell scream from inside the residence. It was at this point that I realized Mr. Plott was with Ms. Bell. I immediately ran west into the residence after Mr. Plott.*

*I ran toward the sound of Mr. Plott and Ms. Bell yelling. I approached two (2) open doors and one (1) closed door. At this point, I did not know which room Mr. Plott and Ms. Bell were in.*

*Ms. Bell screamed again, and I determined that they were in the room with the closed door. I immediately kicked the door open.*

*When the door flew open, I observed Mr. Plott, holding Ms. Bell from behind. He had a knife in each hand. I yelled more than once for him to drop the knives. Mr. Plott did not comply. I then fired one (1) shot into Mr. Plott's head. Another officer, who I now know was ██████████ appeared beside me. I heard him fire a shot at Mr. Plott.*

*Mr. Plott fell to the floor, taking Ms. Bell with him as he fell. I believed that my shot had hit Mr. Plott.*

*I marked Dispatch while in the office / bedroom and advised that shots had been fired and that Mr. Plott was down. I approached, holstered my weapon and grabbed the knives out of Mr. Plott's hands.*

*I threw the knives on the floor away from Mr. Plott and began to help Ms. Bell up off the floor. Once I finally had her off the floor, I quickly escorted her out of the residence."*

In reference to firing her firearm during the incident, ██████████ wrote the following:

*"I used lethal force in this incident by discharging my firearm because I do not believe that there was any less lethal force that I could have used that would have been as effective in*

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*stopping the immediate and direct threat that Mr. Plott posed to Ms. Bell, myself and [REDACTED] by Mr. Plott holding Ms. Bell from behind with two (2) knives pointed at her.*

*My action in firing my firearm, as described above, was consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer."*

**Follow up/Clarification:**

[REDACTED] was working in her capacity as a [REDACTED] when she observed the call for service on the computer in her assigned cruiser. [REDACTED] explained she was not dispatched to the call, however after observing the nature of the call and her proximity she chose to respond and assist. [REDACTED] explained she is a [REDACTED] however she has assisted the uniformed patrol division previously and offered examples of doing so. [REDACTED] estimated her response time to the incident as approximately five (5) minutes.

SA Call asked [REDACTED] to explain her knowledge of [REDACTED] response due to it being outside his jurisdiction. [REDACTED] said she was under the impression [REDACTED] was responding to the scene under an approved mutual request from the shift sergeant, due to Deputy DeWitt being the only LCSO officer in close proximity at the time of the dispatch.

SA Call asked [REDACTED] to explain their initial efforts to contact Diane Bell (Bell) and assess the residence. [REDACTED] was under the impression that Bell had informed dispatch she was currently in a room with a window mounted air conditioning unit which was preventing her from escaping. [REDACTED] explained this caused a lot of confusion due to there being multiple air conditioning units mounted in rooms around the house. [REDACTED] explained she primarily stayed on the east side of the house during this time and could not hear anything coming from inside. At this time, [REDACTED] believed she observed Plott look out one of the windows at her and [REDACTED]

SA Call asked [REDACTED] to explain why the decision was made to ultimately make entry into the residence. [REDACTED] explained they believed Bell to be inside the residence based off of information continuing to be provided to dispatch. Further, [REDACTED] said Deputy DeWitt announced he could hear the fire alarms inside the house going off and could smell smoke. [REDACTED] said they initially decided to enter the mud room, a covered area immediately outside the interior of the house, upon which [REDACTED] announced he could see the male actively starting a fire inside. [REDACTED] indicated they proceeded to make entry based off of the above mentioned information combined with the information from the original dispatch.

SA Call asked [REDACTED] what observations she made once [REDACTED] breached the door. [REDACTED] answered the question, however the answer essentially mirrored the description on page four (4) of her written statement.

SA Call asked [REDACTED] to revisit the shooting and events immediately surrounding. [REDACTED] indicated Plott, still armed with the knife, essentially had Bell as a hostage and believed Plott was in the process of attacking Bell with the knife. [REDACTED] did

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not recall specifically using her sights, but remembered thinking to herself the shot needed to be well placed based on Plott's positioning relative to Bell. ██████████ explained she believed her round struck Plott in the head based off of visual observations. ██████████ heard a second shot fired and observed it impact Plott's head as well. ██████████ believed it was Deputy DeWitt who fired at the time based off of previous positioning entering the house, however she now knows it was ██████████ who fired. ██████████ confirmed she believed a knife is a weapon capable of inflicting serious physical harm or death. ██████████ confirmed she was in a position where she had to shoot Plott to prevent serious physical harm or death being inflicted upon Bell.

SA Call asked ██████████ if at any time during her contact with Plott did he appear to be surrendering himself or complying with her or other officers' commands. ██████████ shook her head and answered no.

██████████ explained she has viewed body worn camera footage of the incident and now knows three total shots were fired, where she originally believed two were fired. ██████████ confirmed she only fired one shot. ██████████ stated she still does not recall hearing two additional shots fired and only became aware of the fact from viewing the footage. ██████████ indicated the number of shots fired to be the only material change from her recollection of the events after watching the footage.

██████████ confirmed she was not coerced into providing SA Call with a statement about the above incident. ██████████ confirmed she was not coerced into obstructing BCI's investigation of the incident. ██████████ confirmed all information she provided to SA Call was true and accurate to the best of her recollection.

██████████ did not have any additional information to add.

The interview concluded at approximately 1130 hours.

**References:**

No references.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment # 01: ██████████ CIN
- Attachment # 02: ██████████ Signed Statement
- Attachment # 03: LCSO ██████████ Interview





# Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation



## 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).

[Redacted Signature] \_\_\_\_\_

9/9/24 10:50  
Date / Time

[Redacted Signature] \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interviewee

SA T. Craig Call  
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA T. Call  
BCI Agent (Signature)



Statement of [REDACTED] Licking County Sheriff's Office,  
Regarding Incident on August 30, 2024

**I. Background.**

I began my full-time employment with the Licking County Sheriff's Office ("Licking County SO"), as a [REDACTED]. I do not have any prior law enforcement experience. I completed my Basic Police Officer Training at Central Ohio Technical College-Newark, graduating in [REDACTED].

I was home schooled in High School and graduated in 2015. I also attended God's Bible School and College in Cincinnati, Ohio for one (1) year, but did not receive a degree. I have no prior military service.

My current supervisor is Lt. Mike Crider. My regularly assigned work hours are from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] My regularly assigned workdays are [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

My current assignment is as a [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I do not wear prescription glasses, contacts or any hearing aids. I am under no physical disability. I take no prescription medications. I was not under the influence of alcohol or any drug, prescription or otherwise, on the date of the incident.

As a law enforcement officer, I have never received any discipline relative to use of force. I have never been the subject of any Internal Affairs investigation relative to use of force. In my law enforcement career, I have never before used lethal force.

I am familiar with the Licking County SO's Use of Force Policy, as we are trained on it yearly.



I carry a Glock 19 handgun as my primary duty weapon which was issued to me by the Licking County SO. I last qualified for this weapon on July 23, 2024. I carry three (3) magazines, one (1) of which is in the firearm, with fifteen (15) rounds of ammunition in each magazine. I also keep one (1) round of ammunition in the chamber of the firearm. I do not carry a backup weapon.

On my duty belt, I carry (clockwise) the following: flashlight, firearm, handcuffs, radio, magazines and taser.

On Wednesday and Thursday, August 28 and 29, respectively, I worked my regular shift from [REDACTED] I worked no special duty or overtime on those days. Prior to the incident on August 30, I worked routine SRO duties.

I was well-rested prior to the incident as I had slept approximately seven (7) hours Thursday night through Friday morning.

On the date of the incident, I was dressed in my prescribed regular Licking County SO uniform.

I was wearing a body camera in accordance with the Licking County SO policy. My body camera, both audio and video, was working during the incident. I carried no personal recording device.

My cruiser, [REDACTED] did have in-dash video and it was recording at the time of the incident. My call number is [REDACTED]

## **II. Incident Narrative.**

On Friday, August 30, 2024, while working as the [REDACTED] located at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I observed on the Computer Aided Dispatch (“CAD”) notes that deputies were dispatched to an active physical domestic located at 4206 Northridge Road, Saint Albans Township. Per the notes from Dispatch, the caller, later identified as Diane Bell, was barricaded in her bedroom because her adult brother, later identified as Douglas Plott, was threatening to stab her with a large knife. Ms. Bell reported that Mr. Plott was armed with a knife and a handgun.

As I was leaving the parking lot, I heard Sergeant Snodgrass mark on the radio and request 99, i.e., emergency radio traffic, for Deputy DeWitt who had apparently just arrived on scene.

I marked myself as en route to the residence and during that time, I observed on the CAD notes that Johnstown Police Department [REDACTED] was also en route to the call. [REDACTED] arrived on scene prior to my arrival.

When I arrived, I met Deputy DeWitt and [REDACTED] in the driveway of the residence. I drew my handgun while approaching the residence with the officers.

Dispatch was still on the phone with the person who I believed was Ms. Bell. She reported that she could hear the smoke detector going off. At some point, Ms. Bell advised Dispatch that she opened the door and saw Mr. Plott with a knife and handgun. Dispatch advised her to shut the door and lock it.

I attempted to locate the room that Ms. Bell was locked in. Ms. Bell reported to Dispatch that she could not open the window because there was an AC unit in the window.

I was located on the east side of the residence, where I observed at least two (2) AC units in windows on the east side of the building. Deputy DeWitt reported that he could also hear the smoke detector alarms going off.

At this point, I was closely watching the windows on the east side of the residence. I observed Mr. Plott inside the residence through the window. Mr. Plott moved the curtain of one (1) of the west facing windows and looked outside. I told [REDACTED] who was also on the east side of the home, that I briefly observed Mr. Plott inside the residence.

[REDACTED] and I were standing near the back door which led into a mudroom. [REDACTED] attempted to pry the storm door open so we could enter the mudroom and get a better

view inside the residence. While [REDACTED] was trying to pry the door open, I pulled the handle of the storm door and it opened.

[REDACTED] and I entered the mudroom together. From inside the mudroom, [REDACTED] advised that he observed Mr. Plott actively starting a fire inside the residence.

[REDACTED] stated that he was going to kick open the door into the living room / kitchen area of the home so we could make entry. At this point, I realized Deputy DeWitt was in the mudroom with us. [REDACTED] then kicked the door open. When the door swung open, I observed Mr. Plott standing near the doorway, holding two (2) large kitchen knives.

I gave loud repetitive verbal commands for Mr. Plott to drop the knives. He yelled something like, "kill me," before turning and running back into the residence. I held my fire, as did the other officers.

A moment later, I heard Ms. Bell scream from inside the residence. It was at this point that I realized Mr. Plott was with Ms. Bell. I immediately ran west into the residence after Mr. Plott.

I ran toward the sound of Mr. Plott and Ms. Bell yelling. I approached two (2) open doors and one (1) closed door. At this point, I did not know which room Mr. Plott and Ms. Bell were in.

Ms. Bell screamed again, and I determined that they were in the room with the closed door. I immediately kicked the door open.

When the door flew open, I observed Mr. Plott, holding Ms. Bell from behind. He had a knife in each hand. I yelled more than once for him to drop the knives. Mr. Plott did not comply. I then fired one (1) shot into Mr. Plott's head. Another officer, who I now know was [REDACTED] appeared beside me. I heard him fire a shot at Mr. Plott.

Mr. Plott fell to the floor, taking Ms. Bell with him as he fell. I believed that my shot had hit Mr. Plott.

I marked Dispatch while in the office / bedroom and advised that shots had been fired and that Mr. Plott was down. I approached, holstered my weapon and grabbed the knives out of Mr. Plott's hands.

I threw the knives on the floor away from Mr. Plott and began to help Ms. Bell up off the floor. Once I finally had her off the floor, I quickly escorted her out of the residence.

It was as I was leaving the residence that I observed a fire had started in the living room / kitchen area. I marked Dispatch and advised of the active fire. I also advised that I would be walking Ms. Bell to the end of the driveway to meet the squad that I had requested.

I remained with Ms. Bell until the squad arrived. I asked Ms. Bell to stop and check herself for any injury. She had blood on her right arm, the right side of her shirt and the right side of her face. Ms. Bell stopped and checked herself briefly and stated that she did not believe she was harmed. She later discovered a laceration on her thumb. I remained with Ms. Bell in the squad until medics were able to attend to her.

I was then escorted back to the Licking County SO with Deputy DeWitt and [REDACTED] by Deputy Ryan Donahue. BCI confiscated my duty weapon at the Licking County SO.

The weather on the date of the incident was warm and sunny and there was no significant change in the weather during the time of the incident. At the time of the incident, there was daylight outside. However, on the inside of the residence, it was dark in the mudroom and kitchen / living room area. There was light in the room where the incident occurred coming from an overhead light and at least one (1) window.

The backdrop when I fired my weapon was the wall of the office / bedroom that Mr. Plott and Ms. Bell were in.

I had no prior contact with Mr. Plott before the incident.

I used lethal force in this incident by discharging my firearm because I do not believe that there was any less lethal force that I could have used that would have been as effective in stopping the immediate and direct threat that Mr. Plott posed to Ms. Bell, myself and [REDACTED] by Mr. Plott holding Ms. Bell from behind with two (2) knives pointed at her.

My action in firing my firearm, as described above, was consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer.

My statement is made from the best of my recollection as to the incident on August 30, 2024. After preparing the statement, I viewed the body camera footage and other video on September 3, 2024. My viewing of the videos has not materially changed my recollection of the events as expressed in my statement, except I now realize that three (3) total shots were fired, not two (2).

I wish to cooperate with this investigation and am prepared to answer any questions which you might have.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]

9/9/24

Date