



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



2024-3294

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage Hike and Bike Trail near North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

Investigative Activity: Review of Witness Statements
Involves: Jack Chandler (W) and Gerald LaMarca (W)
Activity Date: 11/27/2024
Activity Location: BCI - Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Allison Fletcher

Narrative:

On Monday, October 28, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) received two witness statements from Ravenna Police Department (RPD) Captain Jason Smallfield (Smallfield). The witness statements were completed on October 22, 2024, by two civilian witnesses to the officer involved shooting that occurred on the same date.

The two files provided by RPD Captain Smallfield are listed below:

- *Jack Chandler witness statement*
- *Gerald's witness statement*

SA Fletcher reviewed each document and learned the following:

Jack Chandler witness statement

The document was three pages in length and handwritten. The author of the document was Jack Chandler (Chandler). Chandler was also interviewed by BCI agents. No new information was learned from the written statement. For additional information on Chandler's recollection of events refer to the Investigative Report titled *2024-10-24 Witness Interview - Jack Chandler*.

Gerald's witness statement

The document was one page in length and handwritten. The author of the document was Gerald LaMarca (LaMarca). LaMarca stated he was riding his bicycle on the hike and bike trail and observed the stabbing victim (Larry Burghy). He did not stop to assist the victim and continued riding his bike. Gerald did not witness the officer involved shooting incident.

The written statements have been attached to this report for additional review.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



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Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage Hike and Bike
Trail near North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

References:

None

Attachments:

1. Jack Chandler witness statement
2. Gerald's witness statement

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RAVENNA POLICE
DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

CFS# 10/22/24

I, Jack Chandler make this voluntary statement to the Ravenna Police Department
(print your name, first middle, last)
at Ravenna Bike + Hike trail on 1 / 1

Riding my bike east on the trail. Two ladies said someone was yelling for help. I rode down to him and found he was stabbed in arm + hip. I called ~~911~~ 911. The wound man walking toward Freedom St. Officers arrived and came to victom. A man came down the trail yelling and carrying an axe. He kept coming toward the officers yelling and refusing to put down the axe. The man came to a close proximity of the officers and at that time the officers fired these weapons. There were 4 officers with guns out facing away from me. I heard multiple gun shots and the man fell.

Q: Did you hear officers say anything to the male subject?

A: The officers repeatedly told the man to get down on the ground and he wouldn't. He just kept coming at them with the axe and yelling and swearing at them.

SIGNATURE: Jack A. Chandler, Jr. ADDRESS: 450 Wacwick St. Akron Ohio

DOB: 3-18-67

PHONE: [REDACTED]

Officer Signature: [Signature] Badge #: 117

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RAVENNA POLICE
DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

CFS# [REDACTED]

I, Jack Charles make this voluntary statement to the Ravenna Police Department
(print your name, first middle, last)
at Ravenna Pike & H.K. Trail on 10 22 24

Q: Explain to me about the 2 subjects involved in this incident

A: The man that was stabbed, was calling for help and walking toward Freedom St. This man had no visible weapon and did not appear to be a threat, only need medical assist. Victim finally layed down and I flagged down 1st officers on scene and we went back to victim. More officers arrived and came to victim.

B: At that time a man came up on the trail coming towards us from Rt. 14 bridge. Officers went towards him, he was approx 100 yds away this man was carrying an axe, yelling and swearing at officers. This man continued towards them not following commands to get down on the ground and did not appear to plan on doing so. He came very close to the officers, that is when the officers fired on the man with the axe. I got some of it on video which I provided to the officers

SIGNATURE: Jack A Charles II ADDRESS: 450 Warwick St Akron Oh

DOB: 3-18-67

PHONE: [REDACTED]

Officer Signature: Ar. Stille Badge #: 417

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RAVENNA POLICE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

CFS# [REDACTED]

Jack Chandler

(print your name, first middle, last)

make this voluntary statement to the Ravenna Police Department

at Ravenna on Bike & Hike on 10 22 21

Q: WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE MALE SUBJECT WAS SHOT? WHAT DID YOU DO?

A: I was standing by the man that was stabbed when paramedics came to help him. At that time an officer asked for the photos. I went to let the paramedics know and helped them with the cot, to go to the man that had been shot. The man that was shot was lying on the ground. I saw the axe and a hook bladed knife with blood on it lying on the trail as I was walking away from the scene.

Lucas JC

SIGNATURE:

Jack Chandler

ADDRESS:

480 Waverly St Akron Ohio

DOB:

3-18-67

PHONE:

[REDACTED]

Officer Signature:

PC STALL

Badge #:

417

PAGE

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OF

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RAVENNA POLICE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

CFS# [REDACTED]

I, GERARD LAMARCA make this voluntary statement to the Ravenna Police Department (print your name, first middle, last) at RAVENNA on 10/22/2024

WHILE TRAVELING ON MY BICYCLE - BIKE TRAIL - NEAR RT 14 BRIDGE - WEST BOUND AT RIGHT AROUND 1/2 A.M., I SAW PEOPLE ON THE PATH. THERE WAS A WHITE MALE, LOOKED OLDER, WITH HIS ARM WRAPPED AND SOME BLOOD. ANOTHER WHITE MALE WAS ON HIS PHONE AND APPEARED TO BE ASSISTING. I DID NOT STOP AS I THOUGHT I WOULD BE OF NO HELP. A LITTLE DOWN THE TRAIL FARTHER I SAW 2 LADIES WALKING. THEY ASKED ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON AND I TOLD THEM I DIDNT STOP, SO DIANT KNOW, I CONTINUED ON MY BIKE RIDE.

SIGNATURE: [Signature] ADDRESS: 3605 S.R, B2 MARTIN OH 44125 DOB: 10/18/1957 OFFICER SIGNATURE: [Signature] Badge #: 432 PHONE: [REDACTED] PAGE 1 OF 1 220 Park Way Ravenna, OH 44266 Tel (330)296-6486 Fax (330)296-4561