



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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

**Investigative Activity:** Honorable Gary Tyack, Franklin County Prosecutor

**Involves:** Poole, James Special Agent Ohio BCI

**Activity Date:** 07/08/2024

**Involves:** WPD [REDACTED] WPD [REDACTED]  
Santiago Alfaramunoz and William Villatoro

**BCI Case Number:** BCI Case #2024-1219 BCI LAB # 24-13607

**Investigative Request**

On Friday, April 19, 2024, Whitehall Police Department (WPD) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting incident. The incident was reported to be between Santiago Elias Alfaramunoz (Alfaramunoz) and WPD officers that occurred in a parking lot near 4632 East Main Street, Whitehall (Roses Discount Store Parking lot/McDonalds Parking lot). Alfaramunoz was transported to Mount Caramel East Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The driver of the vehicle was later identified as William Villatoro (Villatoro). WPD will be handling all investigative activities and charges regarding Villatoro.

*Preface:*

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the April 19, 2024, officer-involved shooting in Franklin County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

*This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of*

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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

*officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.*

### Investigative Team

Lead BCI Special Agent:

- SA James Poole

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA Kyle Douglass
- SA Chad Holcomb
- SA Matthew Collins

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents:

- SA Aja Chung
- CS Technician Amy Gill

BCI Investigative Supervisor:

- Special Agent Supervisor James Mulford

### Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview(s) of WPD [REDACTED] and WPD [REDACTED] officers who discharged their weapons
- Recorded interviews of WPD Officer Bruce Stephen and Deputy Chief Chad Wilder, officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview(s) of the involved subject, William Villatoro, directly involved in the incident
- Interviews of Travon Black, Giovanni Escobar, civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interviews of family members or associates of the decedent
- Obtained and reviewed postmortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports

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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen)
- Review of all available dash cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans / model of incident area
- Processing of involved vehicle(s) for potential evidence
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) communications relative to the incident
- Review of the department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
  1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
  2. Firearm operability testing
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Obtained subpoenas for medical records
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through subpoena
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered

### **Incident Summary/Overview**

On Friday, April 19, 2024 at approximately 0330 hours, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by Chief Mike Crispin of the Whitehall Police

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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

Department (WPD) to conduct an independent investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 4632 East Main Street, Whitehall, Ohio. BCI Special Agent Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) responded to assist, arriving at approximately 0400 hours. Also responding from the BCI Special Investigations Unit were Special Agents Matt Collins, Kyle Douglass and Acting Special Agent Supervisor Jim Mulford. Additionally, the BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to process the scene by documenting and collecting pertinent evidence.

The shooting incident involved a subject, Santiago Alfaramunoz, William Villatoro, and members of the Whitehall Police Department. The incident resulted in the death of Alfaramunoz.

On scene, WPD Deputy Chief Chad Wilder briefed agents. Dep. Chief Wilder stated that officers were advised that shot spotter received an alert of gunfire around 4632 East Main Street. Upon officers' arrival, they located a vehicle containing William Villatoro (driver) and Santiago Alfaramunoz (passenger) parked near the McDonalds parking lot.

██████████ and ██████████ approached the vehicle and identified that both the driver and passenger only spoke Spanish. Officers tried to communicate in Spanish and asked if there were any guns or drugs in the vehicle. Villatoro responded with, "No." During the encounter, ██████████ identified a firearm on top of a bag on the floor of the back seat, near the center console by looking through the rear driver side window.

██████████ removed the driver, Villatoro, from the vehicle, placing him in handcuffs without incident. ██████████ gave several commands in Spanish to put his hands up to Alfaramunoz, in which he did not comply. While ██████████ attempted to remove Alfaramunoz from the vehicle, Alfaramunoz reached for the backseat inside the vehicle towards where ██████████ identified the gun. ██████████ discharged his firearm towards Alfaramunoz followed by ██████████

Both officers retreated backwards towards cover, where they waited for back up to arrive and called for a medic. When a few more officers arrived, they approached the vehicle and found Alfaramunoz with a gunshot wound to the head. Alfaramunoz was transported to the hospital by medics where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

### Subsequent Investigation

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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

*The following details were obtained throughout the course of the investigation by compiling information gained from interviews, review of recordings from Body Worn Cameras or Cruiser Video Systems, collection & examination of evidence, and research of open-source data or law enforcement restricted information systems. The following only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail is not presented in this Subsequent Investigative summary. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which the information is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation.*

**Arrest report** [REDACTED]

After speaking with the officers involved, [REDACTED] stated he didn't realize until after the shooting that he had a prior encounter with Alfaramunoz on March 12, 2024 regarding an arrest out of a traffic stop. Alfaramunoz was charged with possession of cocaine. [REDACTED] remembered that they needed a translator to speak with Alfaramunoz during the interview but during the initial encounter Alfaramunoz responded to all commands given during the traffic stop.

**Arrest Report** [REDACTED]

WPD investigated the possession of firearm in the motor vehicle and charged Villatoro on April 19, 2024 with possession/concealing of a firearm.

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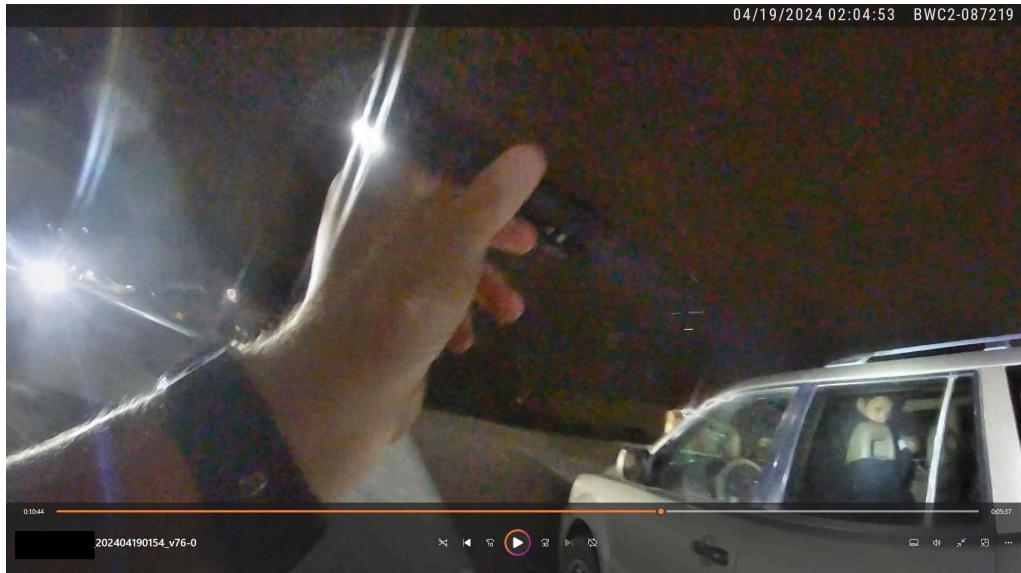
**Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Investigative Report**



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

**Body Warn Camera review**



- Upon first approach Villatoro is seen looking in the back seat over his right shoulder



- While placing Villatoro in handcuffs, Alfaramunoz can be seen reaching for something over his left shoulder in the back seat.

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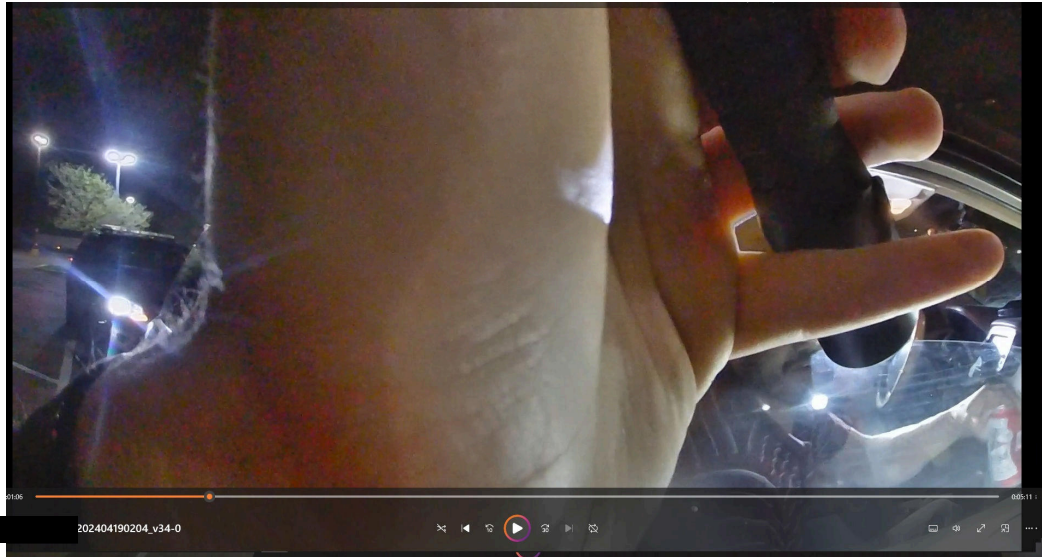


**Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Investigative Report**



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall



- Alfaramunoz can be seen handing a can of suspected alcohol to [REDACTED]



- Alfaramunoz can be seen reaching over his left shoulder for something in the back seat.

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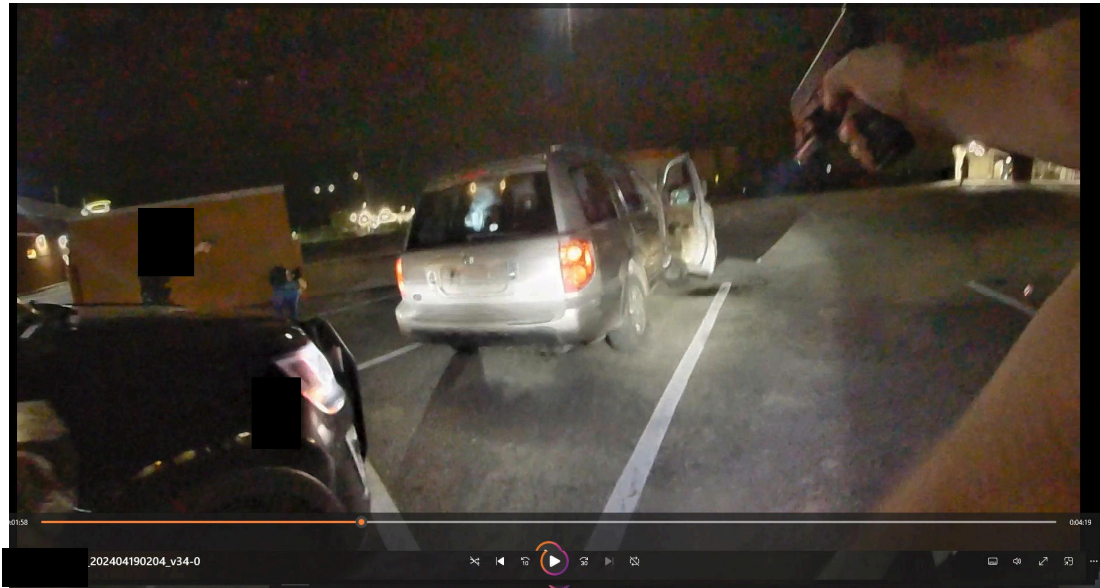


**Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Investigative Report**



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall



During the BWC review it was found that Alfaramunoz and Villatoro were speaking Spanish to each other in front of the officers during the encounter. SA Poole sent a clip of that encounter to Sergeant Guillermo Zarate (Sgt.. Zarate) of the Capital University Police for translation. *Please review the full BWC report for more details.*

Sgt. Zarate translated the communication which identified Alfaramunoz stating, "I put it in the back behind." And "run away."

Villatoro stated: "He saw the tool." (Tool= Also used as slang for a gun)

Sgt. Zarate stated he could clearly hear and understand the officer's commands in Spanish throughout the encounter.

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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

**Cruiser Camera Review**



- Upon first approach Villatoro is seen looking in the back seat over his right shoulder



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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

- Alfaramunoz can be seen reaching over his left shoulder for something in the back seat.



- [REDACTED] can be seen discharging his weapon



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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

- [REDACTED] can be seen discharging his weapon

**Post-Mortem Examination / Autopsy Report**

The autopsy report for the decedent (Santiago Elias Alfaramunoz) was obtained from the Franklin County Coroner's Office. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Physical Evidence and Laboratory Reports**

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene, vehicles, and autopsies (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

Item 6: Glock Model 19Gen5 [REDACTED] was operable and was source identified to one (1) 9mm cartridges in Item 4. This item was used by Whitehall [REDACTED]

Item 7: Glock Model 19Gen5 [REDACTED] was operable and source identified to four (4) 9mm cartridges in Items 1,2,3,5. This item was used by Whitehall [REDACTED]

Item 9: Taurus Model G3 (ACC691483) was operable. This item was found behind the center console on the floor of the vehicle loaded with 14 rounds in the magazine.

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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

### Investigative Interviews

The following information comprises extremely abbreviated versions of the statements made by the witness and/or participants of this incident deemed by the author to be of most relevance to the overall understanding of the incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview, including those not synopsisized below.

#### ***WPD Officer Bruce Stephen Interview***

When Ofc. Stephen got to the scene; he saw [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) using a wall as cover. Deputy Chief Chad Wilder (DC Wilder) and [REDACTED] were behind a cruiser. DC Wilder got a ballistic shield from his vehicle and Ofc. Stephen retrieved his long gun. At the time, he was only aware that [REDACTED] discharged his firearm. Officers approached the subject's vehicle from the rear passenger side of the vehicle. He saw a male, later identified as Santiago Alfaromunoz (Alfaromunoz), sitting in the front passenger seat unresponsive. A medical bag was retrieved and Ofc. Stephens began to render aid to Alfaromunoz. Ofc. Stephen observed a gunshot wound to Alfaromunoz's head. Ofc. Stephen attempted to protect Alfaromunoz's airway and breathing. There was no profuse or active bleeding anywhere else that he observed.

#### ***Deputy Chief Chad Wilder Interview***

DC Wilder stated that he was at the intersection of Hamilton & Main Street and preparing to go home for the evening. While he was sitting there, he heard [REDACTED] [REDACTED] state he heard gunshots. DC Wilder responded to the location where the gunshots were heard.

As DC Wilder was heading towards the direction of the gunshots, dispatch aired that ShotSpotter tracked the location to the area of Roses Department Store. As DC Wilder entered the shopping center he stated there wasn't much going on. He saw a semi-truck and two vehicles parked side-by-side which would contain the subjects that officers interacted with. One vehicle was dark and the other one was a lighter color vehicle which had its flashers on.

DC Wilder continued westbound and northbound through the parking lot. DC Wilder saw two WPD cruisers pull into the parking lot and state they were going to talk to the vehicle with its flashers on. The darker vehicle then proceeded to leave the area.

DC Wilder then heard [REDACTED] say on the radio that they had two people in the vehicle and there was a '33' [firearm] in the vehicle. DC Wilder then began to head

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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

back to the officers and the subject's vehicle. DC Wilder was approximately a few hundred yards away from the scene but couldn't see them. As he was driving towards the scene, rounding the corner where he could see the scene, he saw [REDACTED] on the passenger side of the subject's vehicle.

DC Wilder continued to drive towards the scene and heard approximately 4-8 gunshots. He did not see anyone shooting. He then aired "shots fired, 10-3" [officer in trouble] and kept driving towards the scene. As he was approaching the scene, he saw [REDACTED] in a "shooting position" with his arms locked out and back-peddling rapidly.

DC Wilder then parked his car and observed a person in the passenger seat and heard [REDACTED] shouting multiple commands. The male in the passenger seat was not moving. DC Wilder asked for medics to respond and asked [REDACTED] if the male was struck; [REDACTED] responded that he wasn't sure.

All officers then backed away from the vehicle and took cover behind a WPD vehicle. DC Wilder then got a ballistic shield from the trunk of his vehicle. A team consisting of [REDACTED] Ofc. Grace, Ofc. Stephens, and DC Wilder then approached the vehicle on the passenger side. They determined that there wasn't an immediate threat, medical attention was then provided to the male, later identified as Santiago Alfaromunoz (Alfaromunoz).

DC Wilder stated that Alfaromunoz was still breathing at this time. A medical bag was then obtained and Ofc. Stephens, who has advanced medical training, performed medical aid to Alfaromunoz. Alfaromunoz was removed from the vehicle by the medics who arrived "fairly quickly". After the male was removed from the vehicle, DC Wilder then set up a crime scene perimeter and called for additional resources.

**WPD [REDACTED] Interview**

[REDACTED] stated, "Immediately before this incident, I went to assist [REDACTED] at a traffic stop on Hamilton Road. During the stop, we heard gunshots that sounded like they were in close proximity. Radio aired that ShotSpotter had indicated two (2) gunshots in the area of Roses Discount Store which was less than a half a mile from our location.

*I got into my cruiser and drove north on Hamilton Road and turned right (east) onto E. Main Street. I turned left (north) just east of the McDonald's and drove north down the east side of the McDonald's. There was a silver SUV with its hazard lights blinking in the parking lot. It was parked northwest of the McDonald's, with the front of the SUV facing west. I pulled behind the SUV and put my cruiser into park. It was dark outside*

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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

*but there was some light from the parking lot lights, as well as the lights around the McDonalds. As I was exiting my cruiser, I noticed that the interior dome light was illuminated and I saw movement in the front seat of the SUV.*

*I approached the driver's side of the SUV. I had my flashlight in my left hand and used it to illuminate the interior of the car as I approached. There was a lot of stuff in the backseat of the car, including clothes, bags and a 12-pack of beer. The driver was a Hispanic male and he was turned around (to his left), lifted up out of the driver's seat and looking at me over the back of the seat. Once I reached the vehicle, he sat down and used his hands to pull down the driver's side window. He pulled the window about halfway down and I asked if he spoke English and he replied no. [REDACTED] arrived and approached the passenger. He asked if there were any pistols in the car and the passenger responded no. I used my flashlight to take another look through window and into the backseat of the car and I saw the grip of handgun against the back of the center console. I think the barrel of the handgun was concealed by a bag or something but I was certain there was a gun. I told [REDACTED] that there was a "33" which is our 10-code for a gun.*

*I opened the driver's door and told the driver to get out of the vehicle. The driver exited the vehicle and I told him to turn around. As I was securing him in handcuffs, I asked him "pistola?" He replied no. I heard [REDACTED] repeatedly saying "manos arriba!" I saw the suspect moving in the passenger's seat but since I was securing the driver, I could not see exactly what the passenger was doing. I heard [REDACTED] repeat "manos arriba" faster just as I finished handcuffing the driver. Not even half a second later, he said it again with a worried inflection in his voice. Suddenly, I heard a gunshot and I did not see [REDACTED] by the passenger door where he had just been standing.*

*I quickly drew my weapon and I fired my weapon through the back passenger side window at the suspect. I then heard [REDACTED] yelling at the suspect to put his hands up. I grabbed the driver, who was kneeling down, and pulled him behind a brick wall (that I believe encloses the McDonald's dumpsters) that was just south of my cruiser. I took a position on the northeast corner of the brick wall and kept my gun pointed at the SUV. Deputy Chief Wilder pulled up with several other officers. He gave instructions to the other officers to secure a shield. I put the driver into the back of a cruiser.*

*Deputy Chief Wilder and Officers Grace and Stephen advanced towards the suspect's vehicle. I was behind them. Once they got to the vehicle and could see the suspect, Deputy Chief Wilder requested a medical bag. Other officers secured the scene and rendered aid until medics arrived."*

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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

**WPD [REDACTED] Interview**

[REDACTED] stated, "Once I got near the location, I recognized what I believed to be Deputy Chief Wilder's (#74) unmarked police car (Jeep Patriot or Compass) in the parking lot of Rose's to the south of its entrance. I radioed to ask if it was him. He affirmed it was and that there was a car pointed in my direction (south) with its lights on. I made a U-turn on E Main (west) then entered the Long John Silver's parking lot (north) and drove through the parking lot to where the vehicle was parked.

I parked my cruiser facing the vehicle, which was pointed southwest, on the front driver's side. My cruiser was facing northeast. [REDACTED]'s cruiser was directly behind the vehicle pointed at its rear with its lights on towards the south. When I got out of my cruiser, [REDACTED] had already approached the driver's side door of a light-colored SUV. There were two occupants inside the vehicle, so I moved towards the passenger side with my flashlight on. As I approached the vehicle, I turned on my body worn camera. The occupants were both Hispanic males in their mid-30s. The passenger was wearing a ball cap and a casual shirt. He was eating chicken nuggets and drinking a Budweiser. The window was approximately a third of the way down. The passenger looked familiar, but I could not place him. This was just after 2:00am.

I gestured at the passenger to hand me the beer and in Spanish said "aqui." I speak very little Spanish, but I know basic commands like here ("aqui"), hands ("manos"), hands up ("manos arriba"), drugs ("drogas"), guns ("pistola") that are useful in my police work. The passenger handed me the beer. I dumped it out, crushed the can, and placed it back in the car. I asked the occupants if they had guns or drugs (in Spanish) and they said no. I looked in the back of the car and near the feet of the passenger for shell casings in case they were responsible for the earlier gun fire. [REDACTED] then indicated that there was a "33" in the car, our 10 code for gun. I asked [REDACTED] "where?" and he pointed his light through the window towards the back of the center console. I could not see the weapon from where I was.

[REDACTED] then began to try and get the driver out of the vehicle. I aired that there was a "33" in the car and told the passenger to put his hands up in Spanish ("manos arriba"). At this point we had probable cause to search the vehicle due to the open container and the failure to report the gun when directly asked. My plan was to remove the occupants from the vehicle so that it could eventually be searched.

The driver and passenger were speaking to one another in Spanish while they were being ordered from the vehicle. I could not understand what they were saying. The driver then began to comply with [REDACTED]'s orders and got out of the vehicle. I ordered the passenger to put his hands up in Spanish several times. The passenger

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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

*responded "huh?" and "what?" to my repeated commands. When he continued to not comply, I pulled my gun out at low ready and backed away slightly from the vehicle so he could see the gun. I told him to "put his fucking hands up" in English. He continued to not comply and faced his body towards the driver's side. The driver had been secured by [REDACTED] at this time and had been taken towards the rear driver's side of the vehicle.*

*I opened the passenger car door with my left hand. The suspect then turned his body with his right arm crossing the front of his body towards the back of the center console of the vehicle where [REDACTED] had previously indicated that there was a firearm. I backed away to the north, raising my weapon. I kept ordering the suspect to "manos arriba." Then, the suspect suddenly spun back in my direction with his right elbow slightly bent in a manner I would consider consistent with bringing around a weapon to a target. He continued to turn toward me with his right arm/elbow up. I believed at the time that he was bringing a gun around to shoot at me, though I do not remember seeing a weapon. I fired once while continuing to back away and yelling at him to stop. I remember hearing a scream, which I thought at the time was the suspect. The suspect tensed up and fell back into the car's seat. I did not fire any further as it appeared the suspect had been hit. During this same period of time, I saw/heard [REDACTED] who was to my left to the left/rear of the vehicle, shoot twice towards the vehicle. I aired that shots were fired. I kept my gun at the ready and continued to order the suspect to put his hands up.*

*I could hear sirens. Officer Bruce Stephens and Officer Spencer Grace eventually responded. Deputy Chief Wilder told us to wait for a shield prior to approaching the vehicle. Once we were able to approach with the shield, we ascertained that the suspect was no longer a threat."*

### **Summary**

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed (or attempted), and all known pertinent records and evidence have been obtained and reviewed. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. BCI's investigation into this Officer-Involved Critical Incident is concluded unless such new information/witnesses is/are identified through grand jury or other means.

Agents remain available for consultation and/or to perform any additional investigation, analysis, processing and/or other assistance/involvement you might deem to be necessary.

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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,  
Whitehall

### Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent James Poole. SA Poole can be reached via email at [james.poole@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:james.poole@OhioAGO.gov) or by telephone, at 614-370-4820

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