

Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Investigative Report

2023-0052

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1785 Rt. 28, Lot 419, Goshen Township, OH 45122 (L)



Investigative Activity: Processing of Trailer Activity Date: January 6, 2023

Activity Location: 1785 State Route 28 #419, Goshen, Ohio 45122

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Kevin Wagner #80

On January 6th, 2023, Special Agents (SA) Kevin Wagner and Chad Holcomb with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) were requested to assist the Goshen Township Police Department (GTPD) with an investigation regarding a male dying while the GTPD attempted to take him into custody. The GTPD said they responded to a trailer where they attempted to take a male, identified as Thomas Dewald (Dewald), into custody for active warrants. During the incident, Dewald backed himself into his bedroom. GTPD officers and detectives made their way into the room where Dewald confronted them while holding knives. The GTPD attempted to utilize a taser on Dewald, but it was ineffective. It was said that Dewald then caused self-inflicted wounds to his neck before collapsing. The GTPD provided life saving efforts to Dewald, who later died at the hospital.

SA Wagner arrived on scene of 1785 State Route 28 #419 at 1500 hours. The address was roped off by yellow crime scene tape. The home was a one-story trailer with a small driveway containing a Chevrolet Silverado with Ohio plate JMU8811. The GTPD obtained a search warrant for the premises. SA Wagner documented the scene as it was upon arrival.



Image 1 – Trailer #419 at 1785 State Route 28, Ohio 43122

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A taser probe and wiring (item 1) was located just on the inside of the front door, on the floor. To the left of the front door was a common living area and kitchen. Further past the kitchen was the master bedroom, where the incident had taken place. There was also a master bathroom on the far side of the bedroom. There were various medical supplies around the room and on the bed. Suspected bloodstains were at the foot of the bed and far side of the bed, opposite the entrance to the bedroom. A taser cartridge (item 2) was located on the bed, near the medical supplies. Two knives with suspected blood on them were located next to each other a dresser near the entrance to the room. One of the knives was a fixed blade kitchen knife (item 3), while the other was a retractable box cutter (item 4).

A FARO 3D scanner was utilized to collect measurements and data of the master bedroom.

There were no other items of evidence located in the trailer.

SA Wagner was given several additional items of evidence by Detective Maynard with GTPD. Among the items given were a white Samsung cell phone (item 5) identified as Dewald's, a Taser X26 with serial number (item 6), and Dewald's personal clothing from the hospital (item 7). SA Wagner released items 1 through 7 to SA Holcomb who took them back to BCI and submitted them into temporary evidence.

On January 17th, 2023, at 1100 hours, SA Wagner retrieved the items from BCl's temporary evidence lockers and submitted them evidence lockers to be put in the major crimes vault at 1148 hours.

No items were submitted to the lab.