



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



2025-3318
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 681 4th St. SW, Warren,
 OH 44483, Trumbull County (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview of Involved Officer – [REDACTED]
Involves: [REDACTED]
Activity Date: 10/20/2025
Activity Location: Warren City Police Department – 141 South Street
 Southeast, Warren, OH 44483
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Monday, October 20, 2025, at approximately 1120 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Ryan Emahiser (SA Emahiser) and SA Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) interviewed Warren Police Department (WPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, Dan Leffler, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the Warren Police Department. The interview was audio and video recorded.

SA Lamping read [REDACTED] the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form. Officer Poledica stated that he understood the form and then signed it.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: Officer (Ofc.)
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Sergeant Nites
Radio Channel Utilized: Warren PD	Mobile Data Terminal: Present; Not Used
Cruiser Description: Marked Ford Explorer	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: [REDACTED] (Driver)
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Operational & Utilized	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
 Investigative Report



2025-3318
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 681 4th St. SW, Warren,
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Emergency Lights: Present & Utilized	Siren: Present; Not Used
Shift Day of Incident: ██████████	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: ██████████	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Unknown	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: ██████████	Length at Current Agency: ██████████
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Standard uniform; blue short sleeve shirt, outer carrier, blue pants, boots	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Firearm, two spare magazines, handcuffs, taser, baton, and radio
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: ██████████	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT school, entry school, narcotics, basic undercover, field training officer, marine patrol.	OPOTC Certification: Certified
Military Experience/Training: None	Use-of-Force Training: Annual CPT
Prior Shooting Incidents: ██████████	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? Unknown	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: Unknown

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 Investigative Report



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 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 681 4th St. SW, Warren,
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Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Sig Sauer	Model: P320
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Holstered
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 18
Extra Magazines: Two	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 17
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Unknown	Number of Rounds Fired: Unknown
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Unknown	Type of Holster, if any: Unknown

Narrative:

SA Emahiser asked [REDACTED] to explain his involvement in the October 12, 2025, OICI beginning from his time in roll call.

[REDACTED] explained that he arrived approximately 25 minutes early for his shift on the day in question, as he always does. He used the extra time to examine his patrol vehicle and prepare for the shift. When he was in rollcall, he was alerted by Sergeant Thaddeus Stephenson (Sergeant Stephenson) that the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) and Champion Police Department (CPD) were involved in a pursuit that started in Bristol. The pursuit was reported to be on a route that would take it into the city of Warren, and the driver was said to be in possession of two pistols. [REDACTED] recalled that the pistols were referred to specifically as pistols and not handguns. [REDACTED] stated that the entire shift got ready and went to their vehicles. He stated that there was no further information provided by the dispatch center.

[REDACTED] recalled hearing what he described as screaming on the radio. He thought that it was from a member of the WPD but could not be certain as he was not able to make out what the transmission was. [REDACTED] was aware that the pursuit was on the Southwest side of the city, so he went to the area of Highland Avenue in an attempt to assist. While on Highland Avenue he observed another WPD cruiser turn onto a side street, but due to the low light conditions he was not able to

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



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OH 44483, Trumbull County (L)

determine what street the officer turned down. [REDACTED] decided to turn down another street that did not already have an officer on it.

When [REDACTED] turned from Highland Avenue and onto Fourth Street, he stated that he was searching the area until further directives were put out on the radio. He observed an individual running towards him from a few hundred meters away [REDACTED] [REDACTED] initially thought that the individual was Officer Justin Fenstermaker as he typically wears a green tactical uniform since he is a canine handler [REDACTED] stated the following about the individual on Fourth Street:

Um, so the subject running at me, I realized it was not Fenstermaker. So we have a problem, uh, subject I believe it was partially in the roadway or grassy area. I can't remember. But when he started running eastbound, the only thing I was able to do, try to cut him off with my cruiser. And I believe at some point I might have bumped him with uh, front push bar, uh, just to stop him so I could create some distance and take cover. (12:24)

[REDACTED] continued to recall his vehicle becoming stuck, and that his location was contradictory to all of his police training:

Well, not sure if there was a ditch I was in, but it was definitely something uh, at that point it was too late. Uh, everything that I've trained for [REDACTED] years not to do, excuse my language, I'll speak freely. It was a holy shit, a shit sandwich. Um, at that point the subject displayed a firearm or a handgun. Don't ask me the color, don't ask me the brand, I don't know, came up to my window. Excuse me, this part is something I didn't want to talk about. In training, not being in the position. Um, came up to my window, pointed a weapon, uh, to the left side of my head. Um, my training throughout the whole career in special SWAT schools and any other situations was distance cover, return, fire. (12:54)

[REDACTED] explained that though he was in what he described as a tactically disadvantageous position, he could not exit his vehicle or get it to reverse out of its location. He explained his next actions as follows:

But I tried to get away. Car wasn't moving. So do you want to draw your weapon right away? And a subject or suspect entered the self-preservation. So I did what I was trained. Uh, I believe it was my left hand I put up and was kind of trying to figure out how I'm gonna draw.

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

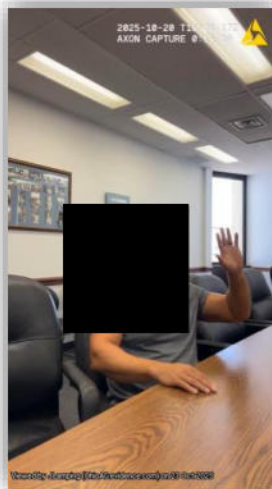


2025-3318

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 681 4th St. SW, Warren,
OH 44483, Trumbull County (L)

Um, for some reason the suspect, and I'm gonna refer to him as a suspect 'cause I forgot his name and I don't know his name. I had my hand like this. He started attempting to smash my window. (13:52)

The image below was taken while [REDACTED] was explaining what he was doing with his hands when he was confronted with the firearm possessed by the subject:



[REDACTED] recalled what he was thinking when he had the firearm pointed at his head:

If I told you I wasn't scared and I didn't believe that my life is over, I'd be talking a lot of crap and lying to you. Uh, my daughter went through my head. My, my other daughter, my wife. To me, I was done. That was it. You know, you spent [REDACTED] years not to be in this. And I'm sorry, I'm, I'm getting pissed. Um, because this is the first time I actually talked about this situation. Didn't even tell my wife a hundred percent. Um, that gun to my head was, I don't wanna cuss but it was fucked up. (14:24)

[REDACTED] then asked permission to use a blue training firearm that was brought to the interview to demonstrate what the subject did. He explained that after he had bumped the subject with his patrol vehicle's push bar the subject made his way to his window and presented a firearm, depicted by [REDACTED] below:

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

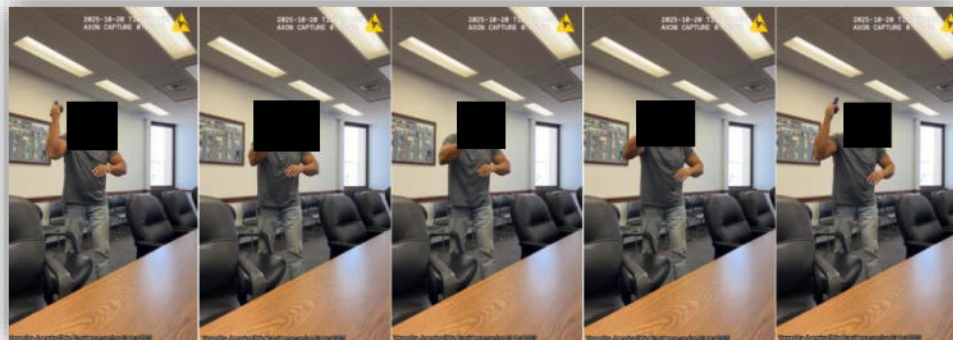


2025-3318

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 681 4th St. SW, Warren,
OH 44483, Trumbull County (L)



██████████ stated that when he put his left hand up, the subject started to strike his driver's side window with the firearm. He was not sure how the subject was holding the gun, but he was sure he was using it as a striking implement. The following still images were taken as ██████████ was demonstrating the actions of the subject from his perspective:



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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2025-3318
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 681 4th St. SW, Warren,
OH 44483, Trumbull County (L)

██████████ went on to explain that he attempted to get away from the subject again, but couldn't:

Um, at that point, which I tried to get away, create distance that didn't work. Whether it was a ditch, whether I wasn't in gear, reverse, I don't know. He disappeared to my left. At which point was I exited, uh, the vehicle, I believe I already had my weapon drawn and uh, I had to eliminate the threat. Uh, if you asked me how many times I fired, I don't know. Um, and also the messed up part was once I opened the door there was firefight. (15:46)

██████████ stated that he did not see any officers because once he opened his driver's door he was solely focused on the subject. He recalled what he was thinking as he exited his vehicle:

So when I exited the car I thought, holy shit, I'm getting shot at 50 times, I'm not getting hit. This is big guy above. Um, and I couldn't tell you was he shooting first? Were the officers shooting? This is after the fact of man where all these round come from. (16:42)

SA Emahiser asked ██████████ if he had his firearm in his hand when he exited his patrol vehicle, and if he knew where the shots were coming from. ██████████ stated that he believed he did have his firearm in his hand, but he was not sure where the shots came from. He explained further as follows:

In my mind it was him and I. And mind you, with no radio traffic, I believe it was just me. And that's what I told you when I heard all those gunshots. And I don't know how many, but it was quite a few. Uh, was I scared? Like hell I was scared 30 seconds prior. Um, didn't see any officers to my right. I heard multiple shots and and obviously instant reaction of survival is to distance, cover, return fire, try to eliminate a threat until it's safe. (17:25)

██████████ went on to discuss his thoughts on the incident:

... learning later on where I was and who was to my right, it's a miracle that I'm here. But can I say shit sandwich? I said shit sandwich. Um, is it hard to deal with? Yeah, I'm a human being, no cop wants to do this shit. Am I shook up now? A hundred percent because of course discharging firearm at a human being, nobody wants to fucking do

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2025-3318
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 681 4th St. SW, Warren,
OH 44483, Trumbull County (L)

that. But having the gun in your head, that's gonna fuck me up for a long time. So that's the truth. (18:15)

SA Emahiser asked [REDACTED] if he felt that there was any other option than the use of deadly force at the time of the incident. [REDACTED] stated:

It was one option, give up and die. I refuse. There was no other option. There was nothing. And I thought about it. Uh, all of us cops, we have that alpha male, we can do this and that and uh, you know, quarterbacking a couple days later. No, every scenario I ran was, the outcome was the same. There was no option, no ideas, no negotiating, nothing. And I'm speaking because throughout the trainings I was put in, they teach you to get out of this shit sandwich, get out of the X. Well, no it was impossible and it sucks. (19:14)

SA Emahiser asked [REDACTED] if he recalled hearing any radio traffic about the individual having a firearm. He stated:

...a hundred percent certain there was no radio traffic from anybody Warren city or dispatcher alerting us that subject is running towards me with the gun. That's a certainty. (20:26)

SA Emahiser asked [REDACTED] if he remembered the subject making any statement during the incident. He said:

I would be guessing I uh, the best way to answer it, unless you were involved in shooting at multiple shootings, your body does things. Um, I hate using the term tunnel vision. I hate it, but it's exactly what it is. You are surrounded with what is a threat. Nothing else matters. (20:50)

[REDACTED] continued on to explain his thoughts on the incident as well as how the incident was contradictory to any training that he has had:

It's, I wish there was a, well if you did this and that because it would be easier, I'd rather blame myself than somebody else because I can face myself say, hey dumbass, you screwed up 'cause you didn't do what you were trained to do. That wasn't the case. Hell, I wasn't trained to... you're on the X and you can't get out. That was one scenario that we never had training on because it's pretty much telling you, hey, if you get to this point, chances are you're not gonna make it. So that's what, that was my belief. I, I wasn't coming home. (21:32)

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report**



2025-3318
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 681 4th St. SW, Warren,
OH 44483, Trumbull County (L)

The interview concluded at approximately 1142 hours.

The interview was audio and video recorded. The recordings were stored on Axon Justice as part of reference item F - Officer Interviews where they can be reviewed in their entirety. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form was attached to this report.

References:

Reference Item F - Officer Interviews: Subfolder - [REDACTED] stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. Criminal Investigation Notification - [REDACTED]

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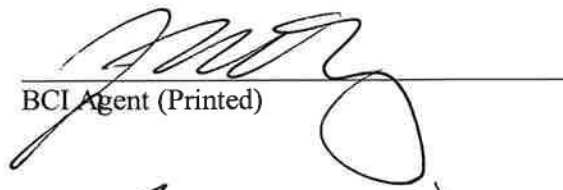
Criminal Investigation Notification

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).




12 22 25 at 11:52
Date / Time

Signature of Interviewee



BCI Agent (Printed)



BCI Agent (Signature)