



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



2024-2255

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 818 Cherryberry Drive.,
Columbus, OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Scene Processing
Involves: Columbus Police Department
Activity Date: 08/01/2024
Activity Location: 818 Cherryberry Drive, Columbus, OH
Authoring Agent: SA Aja Chung, #86

On August 1st, 2024, the Columbus Police Department (CPD) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) with an Officer Involved Critical Incident. It was reported CPD responded on a domestic dispute involving Benjamin Wheeler (Wheeler). A warrant check on Wheeler identified that he had a felony warrant for child support. Wheeler became irate and began throwing household items at the officers and barricaded himself inside the residence. CPD Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) responded to the barricaded situation. During the incident/entry, Wheeler used a knife and stabbed three SWAT officers. A CPD SWAT officer discharged his firearm, striking Wheeler. Wheeler then made his way to the basement where he succumbed to his injuries and was later pronounced deceased at the scene. BCI Special Agent (SA) Aja Chung, SA Sarah Taylor and Crime Scene Technician (CST) Dylan Wical were assigned to the assistance request. Agents from the BCI Special Investigations Unit (SIU) also responded.

SA Chung arrived to the scene on Cherryberry Drive at 0000 hours. She met with CPD Lieutenant Truax who provided further information regarding the involved and injured officers and was advised the search warrant was being drafted. With that information, SA Chung directed SA Taylor and CST Wical to respond to the CPD SWAT building at 2609 McKinnley Avenue to document the involved CPD officers. For ease of reference, the documentation of CPD officers was designated as 'scene 2'. Refer to SA Taylor's report for further information.

At approximately 0150 hours the search warrant was obtained and SA Chung began to document the scene through photography as it was upon arrival. On the front lawn of the residence were two (2) SWAT vehicles that were marked with a Columbus Police Department and SWAT emblems. Empty gas canisters and "knocker" cartridge cases were observed near the rear of each SWAT vehicle. The SWAT vehicle/ARV-1 that breached the front door was reportedly damaged when Wheeler threw a kitchen knife (item 5) at it causing the windshield to crack.

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.



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



2024-2255

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 818 Cherryberry Drive.,
Columbus, OH (L)



(Photograph taken from street in front of 818 Cherryberry Dr.)

It was reported to SA Chung that Wheeler threw numerous items at the SWAT vehicles. SA Chung observed and collected a kitchen knife (item 2), a frying pan (item 3) and a large candle in a jar (item 4) from the front lawn.

A tan glove, reported to belong to a SWAT officer was collected from the street as item 1.

Inside the SWAT vehicle/ARV-1 that breached the front door to the residence, SA Chung located a taser wire tangled around a gas canister gun. The wire was collected as item 6. Ballistic shields were stacked near the rear doors of the armored vehicle. The top shield had suspected bloodstains on them. Two swabs of suspected blood were collected as item 14. A tan boot with suspected blood on it was observed near the stack of ballistic shields. Two swabs of suspected blood were collected from that tan boot and labeled as item 12.

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.



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



2024-2255

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 818 Cherryberry Drive.,
Columbus, OH (L)

SA Chung then proceeded to process the residence. The single-story house consisted of a living room, kitchen, three (3) bedrooms, and a bathroom on the first floor. The basement served as a storage area and a bedroom. All the windows to the residence were broken. Inside the living room near the front door, a yellow taser gun with [REDACTED] written in black with deployed wires still attached was located amongst VHS tapes on the floor. The taser was rendered safe by removing the battery and the empty cartridge housing unit. The taser and its parts were packaged together as item 7. On the couch, SA Chung located and collected three items. Those items were a cell phone (item 8), a tablet with its cord (item 9) and four 9mm cartridge casings (item 11).



(Photograph of items 8 and 9 on the couch)

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.



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



2024-2255

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 818 Cherryberry Drive.,
Columbus, OH (L)



(Photograph of casings with yellow circle around them on the couch)

Another yellow taser with a sticker/label [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] written in black was located near the threshold to the kitchen. The taser (item 10) was rendered safe by removing the battery and the cartridge housing unit. In the hallway, a single-bolt action rifle with suspected blood on the trigger and trigger guard was located near the closet. The rifle was a Sears and Roebuck Company, model 42-103-2480, .22 caliber with no visible serial number and an empty chamber. The rifle was packaged as item 16. Another rifle was located on the stove. It was a Sears and Roebuck Company 20-gauge shotgun, with serial number A596654 and an empty chamber. It was collected as item 15.

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.



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



2024-2255

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 818 Cherryberry Drive.,
Columbus, OH (L)

With the assistance of Investigator Mostafa Elbana from the Franklin County Coroner's Office (FCCO), SA Chung documented the body of Wheeler. Wheeler was located in the basement near the bottom of the stairs. He was found on the floor with his torso bent over his knees and his feet near his buttocks. His head was on the floor in a blood pool (accumulation of liquid blood on a surface) and his hands were handcuffed behind his back. Wheeler was wearing jeans, underwear and a pair of boots. A tattoo with a cartoon character and 'Ben' above it was observed on his right shoulder. Wheeler's Ohio identification was located in his wallet in a back pocket. SA Chung observed three (3) suspected bullet wounds on his upper torso and one (1) wound on his back near his left shoulder blade. Prior to FCCO Investigator Elbana's arrival, SA Chung initially photographed a taser wire located on the stairs with a numbered placard (12) next to it. The probe to that taser wire was found connected to Wheeler's body and was not removed. Wheeler's body was placed in a body bag and transported to the Franklin County Coroner for an autopsy.

Suspected bloodstains were observed that extended from the threshold of the kitchen to the basement where Wheeler was found. Drip stains (falling drop of blood formed due to gravity) were observed on some VHS tapes near the kitchen floor. A drip trail (the movement of a source of drip stains between two points) extended from the kitchen into the basement. A projected bloodstain pattern (the ejection of a volume of blood under pressure) was observed on the back kitchen and basement doors.

No other items of evidentiary value were located and BCI personnel cleared the scene at approximately 0630 hours. An inventory was left at the residence. The scene was turned over to CPD as their SWAT vehicles had yet to be removed. SA Chung drove to BCI offices in London, Ohio where she secured the evidence items from scene 1 (items 1-16) and scene 2 (items 1-3) in the crime scene room temporary locker at 0715 hours.

On August 5, 2024, at 1455 hours, SA Chung removed the items from scene 1 (item 1-16) and scene 2 (items 1-3) and did the following with them:

- **BCI laboratory:**
 - Item 11 from scene 1
 - Item 3 from scene 2
- **Major Crimes temporary locker #1:**
 - Items 1-10, 12-16 from scene 1
 - Items 1-2 from scene 2

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.