



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



2025-2909

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Stanhope-Kelloggsville
Rd. and Anderson Rd., Denmark Township, OH 44032,
Ashtabula County

Investigative Activity: Interview – Deputy Michael Chicarell
Involves: Deputy Michael Chicarell (W)
Activity Date: 09/22/2025
Activity Location: Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office – 25 West Jefferson
Street, Jefferson, OH 44047
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Monday, September 22, 2025, at 1019 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) and SA Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Deputy (Dep.) Michael Chicarell (Chicarell), who was accompanied by his attorneys, Dan Leffler and Amanda Hays, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the ACSO. The interview was audio and video recorded.

Dep. Chicarell was provided with, and signed, the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

Dep. Chicarell was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the September 8, 2025 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road and Anderson Road, Denmark Township, Ohio. Reportedly, Dep. Chicarell did not discharge a firearm during the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

Dep. Chicarell stated that his radio call sign on September 8, 2025, was 4-23. He has been employed by the ACSO for about 9 months. He has been a police officer for a total of one and a half years. During the incident, Dep. Chicarell wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore a concealed ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove ACSO unit #4-23, a Dodge Charger, marked with ACSO emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated that he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

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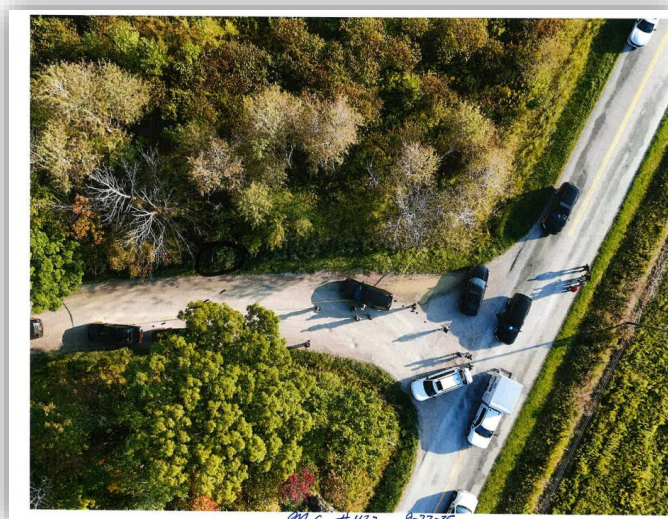
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Dep. Chicarell explained that he had attempted to stop a motorcycle in the area of State Road and State Route 64 near Ashtabula City. He described his observations of the motorcycle as follows:

So, initially we crossed paths. He was heading north, I was heading south. Um, he had a face covering like a bandana type of face cover and not like a helmet. And it kind of just raised the red flag, I suppose. And then I looked in my rear-view mirror and did not see a license plate. So, I was able to turn around and I caught back up to him, uh, right along the border of the Ashtabula Township in Ashtabula City. And I confirmed there was no visible registration on the back of the vehicle. So, he turned left onto a side road. It was either east 47th or East 48th, I don't remember the exact side road. And I turned my lights and hit the siren a couple times he started to slow and looked back, and then he, you know, took off (4:54).

Dep. Chicarell recalled that the pursuit lasted for roughly 20 minutes and covered somewhere between 15 and 20 miles. He described the overall speed of the pursuit as slow, and noted that the driver of the motorcycle, Jerry Pegram (Pegram), committed an assortment of traffic violations including running stop signs and driving in the opposing lane of travel. He also recalled Pegram throwing objects, which he described as baggies or pieces of paper, off the motorcycle.

Dep. Chicarell was provided with an overhead drone photo of the termination point of the pursuit along with a marker. He was asked to draw his approximate location at the end of the pursuit. The image to the right is based on Dep. Chicarell's recollection of the terminal point of the pursuit.



Deputy Chicarell described the

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final moments of the pursuit as follows:

So, when the pursuit was around the corner, when the motorcycle turned here, it appeared that he was starting to lose some of the control of it. I remember seeing Sergeant Sterrick's unit try to block it in. Um, I was over here and turned this way behind [REDACTED] car. I believe I was parked behind him. Uh, so once the vehicle or the motorcycle had crashed here, I noticed it was on its side. I parked my vehicle, got out, and then I ran towards the wood line where I saw the motorcycle. Um, the tire was spinning that sticks out in my mind. The tire was spinning like outta control as if it was still in drive. I remember seeing that initially ran up on it and I was like, whoa, you know, go around that. Uh, and then I ran into the woods where I could hear others (6:58).

Once Dep. Chicarell entered the wood line he recalled hearing rustling noises and [REDACTED]. He described hearing a commotion and making his way towards the noises. Once close to the other officers on scene, Dep. Chicarell described the scene as follows:

So, when I saw the deployment and the [REDACTED] on the bag, I saw, I remember a state trooper, 'cause you can't miss the hat at like, directly like this way from me where I was. And there were several deputies. And as I entered the woods, I initially had my firearm drawn. It was at like a position ready. Um, but when I saw all the deputies up there and the [REDACTED], I reholstered because there was nothing for me to have it out for. And I pulled my taser. Um, at that point I heard what I believed to be a taser pop, and I heard taser. Uh, so as I ran up, I, I could still see the, you know, the subject moving and wiggling around. Um, but my vantage point was behind everybody. Um, I, I did have a moment where I could peek in and see him, the suspect, but there was, for me to get involved, there was almost no way. I was not able to really get into help at that point (11:31).

Dep. Chicarell was asked if he recalled hearing gunshots, and he stated that he did. He described the gunshots as rapid, but he could not tell who was firing the rounds. SA Lamping asked Dep. Chicarell to describe Pegram's actions, and he stated:

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I remember when, uh, [REDACTED] who was up here, from my perspective, um, I remember him saying, yelling out gun. Uh, and when he yelled out gun, I then heard [REDACTED] say, 'don't do it, man. Don't do it. Don't do it, man.' I remember hearing that. Um, I remember seeing the suspect moving. It looked like he was on his back moving. And I saw what looked like a long object and I can't tell if it was under his shirt, under jacket. I just remember seeing something hard and long. And then when I heard him call out gun and don't do it, man, I backed up a little bit and that's when all the, I don't know if I backed up after the gunshots or if I backed up before, but I remember just backing up when I heard all the rapid gunshots going off (12:36).

When Dep. Chicarell was asked why he hadn't fired his weapon he explained that he had not been able to see a firearm from his location, and that he was behind several officers which prevented him from having a shot. He went on to explain that he was nervous for the safety of officers on scene based on Pegram's conduct. He said that Pegram had failed to comply with officers, a [REDACTED] had been deployed, and that Pegram's manipulation of the long and hard object made him feel that Pegram had either a gun or knife that he intended to hurt the officers with.

Dep. Chicarell reported that the officers on scene rendered aid to Pegram, and that he summoned additional medical assistance from EMS over the radio. Dep. Chicarell specifically recalled obtaining a medical kit from his cruiser that had an assortment of medical supplies in it, and that he along with [REDACTED] attempted to provide first aid to Pegram.

Dep. Chicarell provided the investigators with consent to review his body worn camera footage that captured conversations with his supervisors.

The interview concluded at approximately 1038 hours.

The interview was audio and video recorded. The recordings were uploaded to Axon Justice where they are stored as part of Reference Item D - Witness Officer Interviews. Any times referenced in this report refer to the elapsed time of the Axon Video recording, and not the time of day. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form along with the diagram completed by Dep. Chicarell are attached to this report where they can be reviewed in their entirety.

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References:

Reference Item D - Witness Officer Interviews: Subfolder - Deputy Michael
Chicarell Interview; stored on Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. Criminal Investigation Notification - Chicarell
2. Diagram - Chicarell

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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).

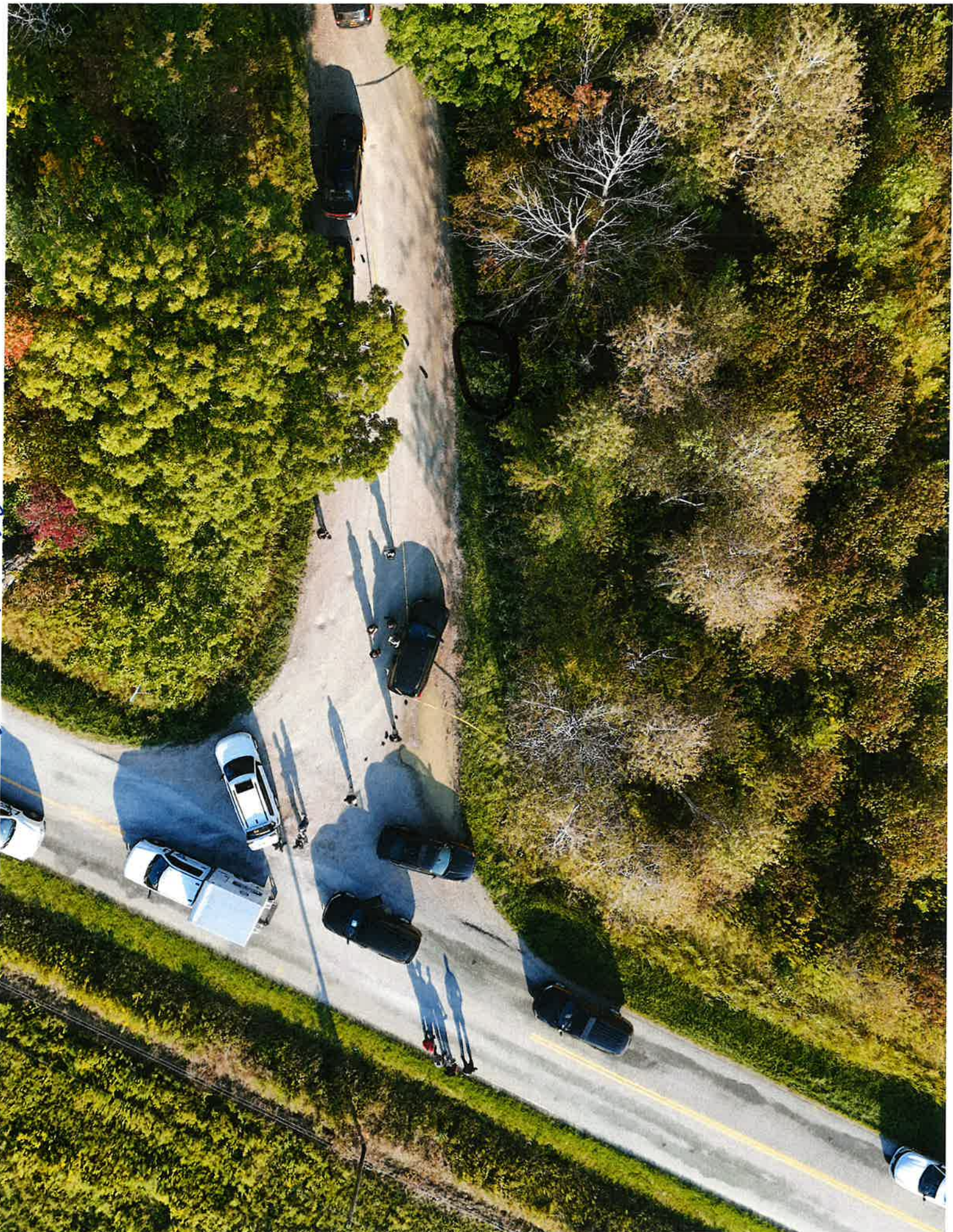
Michael Chicarel
Printed Name of Interviewee

9-22-25 10:20am
Date / Time

M. Chicarel
Signature of Interviewee

JOE LAMPSON #184
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature] #184
BCI Agent (Signature)



Q11-C, #423

9-22-25