



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



2022-2813  
 Officer-Involved Critical Incident- 673 Slate Hollow Ct, Powell

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer  
 Involves: DCSO; Deputy Brandon Gaunt, Badge #56  
 Activity Date: 1/3/2023  
 Activity Location: Law Offices of Joe Hegedus  
 Authoring Agent: SA Matt Collins, #151

**Narrative:**

On Tuesday, January 03, 2023, at 1000 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Matt Collins (SA Collins) and SA Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) interviewed Delaware County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) Deputy (Dep.) Brandon Gaunt (Gaunt), who was accompanied by his attorney, Joe Hegedus, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at Mr. Hegedus' law offices. The interview was audio recorded. When SA Collins arrived to Mr. Hegedus' law offices, SA Collins was provided a written/typed statement of Dep. Gaunt. Later SA Collins asked Dep. Gaunt to read the statement on the record.

Dep. Gaunt read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

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:**

<b>Name:</b> Brandon Richard Gaunt	<b>Rank:</b> Deputy (Dep.)
<b>Badge Number:</b> #56	<b>Cruiser/Vehicle Number:</b> #15
<b>Radio Call Sign:</b> #56	<b>Immediate Supervisor:</b> Sgt. Maurer
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> SO.1; Disp. 1	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> Present & Utilized
<b>Cruiser Description:</b> Marked Ford Explorer	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:</b> N/A
<b>Assignment:</b> Patrol District 7	<b>Normal Shift:</b> 1400-2200
<b>In-Car Camera:</b> Operational, But Not Used	<b>Spotlight:</b> Present; Not utilized
<b>Emergency Lights:</b> Present & Utilized	<b>Siren:</b> Present & Utilized

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<b>Shift Day of Incident:</b> Normal Shift	<b>Duty Status:</b> On-Duty
<b>Days Off:</b> Tue/Wed	<b>Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:</b> No
<b>Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:</b> Unk	<b>Consider Self Well Rested?:</b> Yes
<b>Total Length as Officer:</b> 6 years total; 2yrs prior at CPD	<b>Length at Current Agency:</b> 4 years
<b>Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid):</b> No	<b>Corrective Lenses:</b> Contact Lenses
<b>Uniform Worn:</b> External vest with Sheriff on Front, Sheriff on back; duty Belt, dark gray pants, black shirt, with SO patches on shoulders	<b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> taser on left side, radio, set of cuffs, glove pouch; firearm on right side; vest has two sets of cuffs, body camera, mag pouch
<b>Ballistic Vest:</b> External Armor	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Present & Used
<b>Other Recording Devices:</b> No	<b>Partner:</b> No
<b>Injuries:</b> No	<b>Equipment Damage:</b> No
<b>Training or Areas of Specialty:</b> No	<b>OPOTC Certification:</b> 2017; CPD
<b>Military Experience/Training:</b> No	<b>Use-of-Force Training:</b> No; just annual
<b>Prior Shooting Incidents:</b> No	<b>Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints:</b> No
<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident:</b> No	<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview:</b> No
<b>Alcohol in Past 24 Hours?</b> No	<b>Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident:</b> None

**Officer's Firearm(s):**

**Weapon #1**

<b>Make:</b> Smith and Wesson	<b>Model:</b> M400
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> .223 caliber	<b>Serial:</b> unk
<b>Type:</b> Rifle	<b>Method of Carry:</b> Condition 3 in vehicle
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> Unk	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> Unk

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<b>Extra Magazines:</b> kept on back headrest of patrol vehicle	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> Unk
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Backup
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> Unk	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 3-4
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> Summer 2022	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> In vehicle

Weapon #2

<b>Make:</b> Glock	<b>Model:</b> 22
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> Choose an item.	Had dispatched a deer prior to incident
<b>Type:</b> Semi-Auto Handgun	<b>Method of Carry:</b> <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 15	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> 14+1
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> 2	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> 14
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> No	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Primary
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> 14+1	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 0
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> Summer 2022	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> Level

**Narrative:**

Dep. Gaunt stated he understood DCSO Deputy Ambrozich (Badge #113) was dispatched to a residence for a domestic related call. Dep Gaunt stated he saw the messages on his MDT related to the call. He witnessed one stating there was male screaming for them to "send a deputy," "send the fucking cops," and "protect and serve."

Dep Gaunt stated the male was identified as Sean Hinton (Sean). Dep. Gaunt advised he was going to assist Dep. Ambrozich. Dep. Gaunt stated they were made aware dispatch had contacted the residence, this time speaking with Kelly Hinton (Kelly), who identified herself as Sean's wife. Kelly stated Sean was very intoxicated and there were in fact weapons inside the home and Sean may have a weapon on him. According to dispatch, Kelly also stated there were two children inside the home. Dep Gaunt continued, explaining what he'd been made aware of prior to his arrival. Dep Gaunt was aware Sean was downstairs and Kelly's father in-law (Mike) was attempting to speak with him. Dispatch advised, Kelly was yelling, "It's all coming to a

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head!" and "Get that gun off of him or the cops are going to fucking shoot him!" Kelly had told dispatch Sean had served in the Marine Corp. Dispatch advised Kelly was crying and saying Sean was talking about killing himself. Dispatch said Kelly stated Sean had a gun on his waist. Dispatch said Kelly did not want to open the door because she feared it would upset Sean.

When Dep. Gaunt arrived on scene he witnessed Kelly and Mike carrying children out of the home. Dep. Gaunt said Deputies Cline and Ambrozich were already on scene and Ambrozich advised via radio, the situation was turning into a barricade. Dep. Gaunt said he returned to his patrol car and retrieved his rifle and ballistic shield. However, when he came back to the house, Kelly attempted to go back in and he dropped the shield in order to prevent Kelly from entering the home.

Dep. Gaunt stated he took up a position "*at the back door.*" He described the door as having a full-length vertical window to the left of the door which allowed him a clear view to the top of the basement stairs. Dep. Gaunt stated he witnessed Sean come up the stairs, wearing black body armor, armed with a rifle. Dep. Gaunt described Sean "*clearing*" the top of the stairs and he pointed the rifle out in front of himself. Dep Gaunt was asked to elaborate on what he meant by "*clearing.*" Dep Gaunt stated Sean did not run up the stairs. He described Sean to be acting more methodical with his movements. Dep. Gaunt stated Sean pointed the rifle directly at him while he was at the back door. Dep. Gaunt stated, "*I feared for my own safety and the safety of the other deputies. I also knew Kelly, her two children, and father in-law were still in the vehicle in the driveway directly beyond the back door. At this time, I fired my rifle at Sean. Sean immediately dropped to the ground and I ceased firing.*" Dep. Gaunt described Sean not moving, but also could not see Sean's rifle. Dep Gaunt described securing Sean and making the scene safe to treat him for his injury/s.

During the interview, SA Collins asked Dep Gaunt if he'd seen his body worn camera (BWC) video and he stated no. SA Collins asked Dep. Gaunt if he would be willing to watch the video with SA Collins and attempt to clarify or identify anything that may not be in view of the camera. Dep Gaunt agreed to do so. The interview was paused due to having technical difficulties related to getting the video ready to be viewed. The recorder was paused at approximately 1035 hours. SA Collins re-activated it once the interview was ready to restart at 1044 hours.

SA Collins began the video at approximately 03:08 into the recording. He stopped it at approximately 05:04 into the recording. SA Collins indicated it appeared deputies were securing Sean and beginning to render aid to Sean. SA Collins asked Dep. Gaunt if there was

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any other information after that point, which he believed may be relevant to the interview. Dep Gaunt stated no. SA Collins asked Dep. Gaunt if there was any portion he wished to view again and Dep Gaunt stated no.

The interview concluded at approximately 1050 hours.

The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.



On December 12th, 2022 Deputy Ambrozich #113 was dispatched to a home on a domestic. The comments coming in from dispatch to my cruiser computer stated a male was screaming to "send a deputy", "send the fucking cops" and "protect and serve." This male was later identified as resident Sean Hinton. I marked enroute to the address to backup Deputy Ambrozich. Dispatch called back to the residence and spoke to Sean's wife Kelly Hinton. Kelly stated that Sean was very intoxicated and that there were weapons in the house but was unsure where they were. Kelly also stated they had two kids in the house. Dispatch then advised that Kelly stated Sean might have a firearm on him. At that time the father-in-law arrived at the house and attempted to speak to Sean. Kelly advised that Sean was downstairs. Dispatch then advised Kelly was yelling "it's all coming to a head" and "get that gun off of him or the cops are going to fucking shoot him." Kelly advised dispatch that Sean had served in the marine corps. Dispatch advised that Kelly was crying and screaming and was stating Sean was talking about killing himself and "get the fuck off of me." Kelly also stated Sean did have a firearm on his waist. Kelly stated she did not want to open the door for deputies as this would upset Sean.

I arrived on scene and ran up to the house. I arrived as Kelly and her father-in-law were carrying both of the children out of the back door. Deputies Ambrozich and Cline #131 were already on scene and both had their pistols drawn. Deputy Ambrozich stated on the radio that the family was being evacuated as the scene was turning into a barricade. I could hear Sean downstairs yelling for us to stay upstairs and that he was "having a bad day." Deputy Ambrozich advised to get a shield. I left the house and ran to my cruiser. I retrieved the ballistic shield and my patrol rifle. As I was running back up to the house Kelly saw the shield and patrol rifle and began yelling and trying to run back into the house. I had to drop the shield and was not able to set it up as I had to physically block Kelly. Deputies Ambrozich and Cline then came out of the house and attempted to get Kelly back to the vehicle where her kids and father-in-law were.

I then took up a position at the back door. The back door had a full length vertical clear window on its left side that allowed me to see directly to the top of the basement stairs where Sean was. The door was slightly cracked as well. I could hear deputies still trying to get Kelly to the vehicle and knew they were still behind me. At this time, I saw Sean come up the stairs wearing black body armor and holding a rifle. Sean was holding his rifle pointed straight ahead and was clearing the top of the stairs. Sean then had his rifle pointed directly at me at the back door. I feared for my own safety and the safety of the other deputies. I also knew Kelly, her two children and father-in-law were still in the vehicle in the driveway directly beyond the back door. At this time, I fired my rifle at Sean. Sean immediately dropped to the ground and I ceased firing. Sean did not appear to be moving and I could not see the rifle. Deputy Ambrozich and I then entered the house into the kitchen which was directly inside the back door. I could then see the rifle lying next to Sean. I covered Sean with my rifle as Deputy Ambrozich removed Sean's rifle and handcuffed him. Deputy Cline then took my rifle so I could assist with searching Sean for additional weapons. Deputy Ambrozich found a pistol on Sean's waist. Sean had six additional magazines on the front of his body armor which were removed. EMS was already enroute after being called by other deputies on scene. Sean's body armor was taken off so any additional injuries could be identified. Sean did not have a pulse and was not breathing. Sean was bleeding profusely from the head. At this time Sergeant Maurer #101 arrived and removed me from the scene.

1/3/23





**DAVE YOST**  
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Office of [REDACTED]  
Fax [REDACTED]

### 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).

BRANDON GAUNT  
Printed Name of Interviewee

1/3/23 1001  
Date / Time

[Signature]  
Signature of Interviewee

SA Matt Collins  
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]  
BCI Agent (Signature)