



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



2025-2000
Officer Involved Critical Incident - Tiedeman Road at I-480
West, Brooklyn, OH 44144, Cuyahoga County

Investigative Activity: Officer Interview – Officer Jeffrey Lee
Involves: Officer Jeffrey Lee
Activity Date: 07/03/2024
Activity Location: 716 W. 130th St., Brunswick, Ohio 44233 (FOP 15 Hall)
Authoring Agent: SA Daniel P. Boerner

Narrative:

On Thursday, July 03, 2025, at 1003 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (SA Fletcher) and SA Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Brunswick (BPD) Officer (Ofc.) Jeffrey Lee (Ofc. Lee), who was accompanied by his attorney, Brian Smith, from the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). The interview took place at 716 W. 130th St., Brunswick, Ohio 44233 (FOP 15 Hall). The interview was audio and video recorded.

Ofc. Lee read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

Ofc. Lee was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the Tuesday, June 24, 2025 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of Tiedeman Rd. near the I-480 Westbound entrance ramp in Brooklyn, Ohio. Reportedly, Ofc. Lee did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. Ofc. Lee did report using a pepper ball gun during the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

Ofc. Lee stated that on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, he was not assigned a radio call sign and that he did not utilize his radio. He has been employed by the Brunswick Police Department for thirteen (13) years and has been a police officer for a total of thirteen (13) years. During the incident, Ofc. Lee wore his standard SWAT uniform. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He responded to the scene in an unmarked Brunswick Police Department SWAT pick-up truck (a black Ford F-150). During the incident, he was assigned to the passenger side rear of a Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB) armored vehicle that was referred to as a bearcat. The armored vehicle was marked with SWAT emblems and emergency lights. He was not equipped with a body-worn camera (BWC), and he did not have any other recording devices on his person. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the

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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.

Ofc. Lee stated that he was notified of the incident via an Active 911 (an app used by the SWAT team to notify members of a call-out) page. Ofc. Lee stated that he responded to the BPD from his residence. Ofc. Lee reported that he grabbed his SWAT kit (comprising of a tactical helmet, a marked tactical SWAT vest, a navy-blue t-shirt, and a pair of navy-blue tactical pants) and responded to the staging area (4800 Tiedeman Rd. Brooklyn, Ohio 44144, The Plain Dealer) with two other SWAT officers.

Ofc. Lee reported that once they arrived at the staging area, Ofc. Lee realized that the rear gate latch on the unmarked BPD response vehicle (a black Ford pick-up truck) had failed and that some of his SWAT gear had fallen out of the truck. Ofc. Lee reported that he and another SWAT officer retraced their steps, located their gear, and returned to the staging area.

Ofc. Lee then responded to the rear of the SEB SWAT Bearcat closest to him. Once at the rear of the SWAT Bearcat, Ofc. Lee was directed to rotate in and out with officers located at the passenger side rear rifle port. At this time, Ofc. Lee was carrying his rifle. During one of his rotations at the rifle port, Ofc. Lee stated that he observed the subject holding a firearm to his head. Ofc. Lee stated that the subject was holding the firearm in his right hand.

Eventually, Ofc. Lee was directed to put down his rifle and pick up a pepper ball gun. Ofc. Lee reported that the initial plan was to deploy pepper balls into the subject's truck, but only if the subject left the truck without the firearm. Ofc. Lee reported that the thought process was to deploy the pepper balls into the truck to deter the subject from going back inside the truck. Ofc. Lee stated that throughout the incident, the subject continued to put the firearm to his head. Ofc. Lee stated that he heard the subject state, "I'm sorry for making you guys do this." (16:36 mark). When asked what he thought that meant, Ofc. Lee stated that he believed that the subject was going to do something to make officers shoot him (25:40 mark).

Ofc. Lee then heard "popping sounds" and then watched as the subject fell to the ground near the front of the truck (16:51 mark). Ofc. Lee could not see the subject until he observed the subject flailing on the ground near the passenger-side front tire. The subject continued to hold a firearm in his right hand. At that moment, Ofc. Lee deployed two (2) to three (3) pepper ball rounds at the subject.

Ofc. Lee stated that he did not know that the subject had been shot until the subject fell over, and the firearm fell from his hand. Ofc. Lee held his position for a moment

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and then moved up to clear the subject's truck. After officers cleared the truck and secured the subject's firearm, first aid was rendered to the subject.

Ofc. Lee told agents that he feared for his safety and for the safety of others on scene. He added that he considered the situation to be dangerous. Ofc. Lee said that he felt "a little on edge because at this point, just based on everything that I had witnessed, I had come to the conclusion myself that, uh, he was not going to surrender peacefully. You know, I just didn't know, you know, was he going to take his own life? Was he going to do, you know, something to make us do it for him? You know? And then when he literally said, 'I'm sorry for making you guys do this, uh, you know, I was kind of like, okay, here we go.'" (25:04 mark).

Ofc. Lee was shown a screen shot of drone footage from the incident and was asked to indicate where both he and the subject were at when he fired the pepper balls (*Figure 1, Officer Interview Overhead Diagram.jpg*).

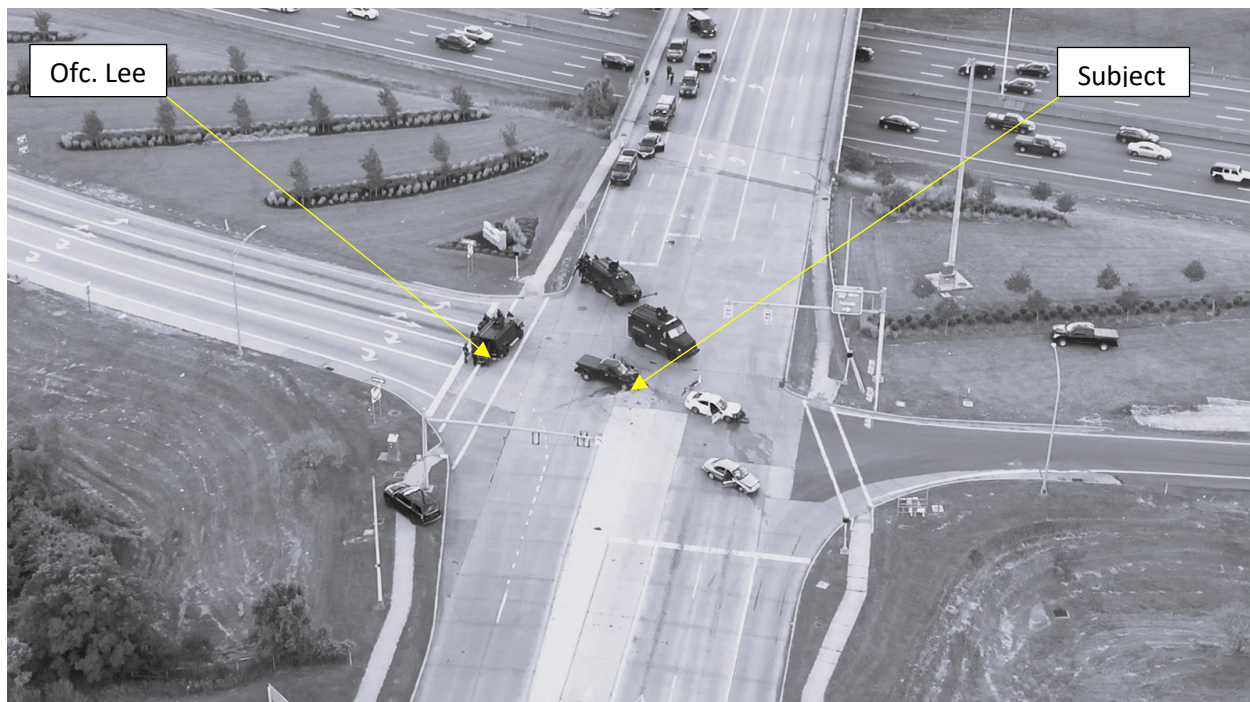


Figure 1, Officer Interview Overhead Diagram.jpg

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The interview concluded at approximately 1036 hours.

The interview was audio and video recorded. The audio/video recording was uploaded to Axon Justice and placed in a folder titled "Reference Item J - Witness Officer Interviews." The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the references/attachments for further details.

References:

Reference Item J - Witness Officer Interviews - Stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form - Ofc. Jeffrey Lee
2. Officer Interview Overhead Diagram.jpg

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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).

ofc Jeffrey Lee #31
Printed Name of Interviewee

7/3/25 10:00 A.M.
Date / Time

ofc Jeffrey Lee #31
Signature of Interviewee

SA ALLISON FLETCHER #187
BCI Agent (Printed)

Allison Fletcher #187
BCI Agent (Signature)

