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### Ohio Attorney General's Office Bureau of Criminal Investigation

**Investigative Report** 

2023-2306

Officer Involved Critical Incident -

, Alliance, OH 44601, Stark County



Investigative Activity: Witness Interview – Activity Date: September 3, 2023

Activity Location: Aultman Alliance Community Hospital, 200 E. State Street,

Alliance, Ohio 44601

**Authoring Agent**: SA Nick Valente #139

#### Narrative:

On September 3, 2023, at 1704 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (Valente) responded to Aultman Alliance Community Hospital and
interviewed witness regarding the September 3, 2023, officer-involved shooting. was accompanied by her sister Nina Kelly (Kelly) at the time of the interview. The interview was audio and video recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report and the video recording was saved as Reference Item A.
Note that SA Valente did not direct the video camera at during the interview as she was receiving medical care and her medical gown left her partially exposed at times. This report only summarizes the information the author deemed most relevant to the investigation. For a full accounting of what was said refer the audio/video recordings of the interview.
Prior to speaking with Kelly advised SA Valente that was developmentally disabled and functioned at "about the level and eleven-year-old."
SA Valente introduced himself to and explained the reason for his presence. SA Valente asked if she would consent to BCI agents entering her home to collect evidence and process the scene. Understood the request and voluntarily provided consent. SA Valente then completed a "Consent to Search" form documenting the same. SA Valente read the form aloud to indicated she understood and again consented to BCI agents conducting a search of her home and collecting any potential evidence. Indicated in writing she was doing so on behalf of her sister.
SA Valente asked to describe what happened earlier today. stated "he took a butcher knife and was gonna kill me" and began to cry.
referred to George Appleby (Appleby) as Joe. When asked how she knew Joe and what their relationship was stated he was a friend and she had known him for a couple of years. It is sister Kelly then provided SA Valente with additional details regarding the relationship between her sister and Appleby. Kelly stated that Appleby had a history of violently

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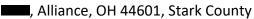
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Officer Involved Critical Incident -





physically assaulting her sister. Kelly described her sister as protecting Appleby and lying about injuries she sustained from him in previous assaults. When asked what happened on this occasion, stated "I can't remember" and again began to cry. SA Valente told he noticed she had stitches on her neck and asked if those were the result of Appleby holding a knife to her neck. stated "yes." When asked if she knew why he caused that injury to her, stated "cause he's crazy." When asked where she and Appleby were when the police arrived, stated "in the bedroom and they had to kick the door in." When asked how she got into the bedroom, stated "I don't remember." When asked if she was present when the officer shot Appleby, stated "no, they got me out of there" and seemed to be surprised when her sister told her Appleby was killed by the police. Note that earlier in the interview, wolunteered that she knew Appleby had been killed by police during the incident. When asked if she heard the shooting, stated "I'd have to ask my sister. I think I was here. I wasn't there, I don't know. I really don't know." When asked again if she saw or witnessed the shooting, stated "no." SA Valente told he was under the belief she was in the apartment when the shooting occurred. replied "oh no." SA Valente noted blood present on shades s hands, chest, and neck while conducting the interview. SA Valente also noted a small row of 4 fresh stitches present on the left side of s neck. allowed SA Valente to photograph her injuries. Those photographs were attached to this report. When asked, stated she would voluntarily allow Aultman Hospital to release her medical records related to this event to BCI. declined to sign the form and again requested her sister do so on her behalf. Kelly then signed the release of medical records waiver on behalf of The medical records release waiver was also attached to this report. stated she did not have a phone and the best way to contact her was through her sister, Kelly. provided SA Valente with Kelly's cell phone number ( Throughout the interview seemed distraught, annoyed, and mostly focused on leaving the hospital.

#### Reference Item:

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1. A – Video Recorded Interview of

#### Attachments:

- 1. 2023-09-03: Consent to Search Residence Alliance, Ohio
- 2. 2023-09-03: Audio Interview of
- 3. Collection of three photographs showing injuries sustained by



### **CONSENT TO SEARCH**



Date & Time	SUNDAY SEPT. 3 PD 1	7023	
Location	DULTMON PLIANCE	HOSPITAL	
I	, having been	informed of the constitutional right not to	
have a search made	e of the premises, property, or items her	reinafter mentioned without a search warrant	
(and of my right to	refuse to consent to such a search), hereby	y authorize	
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These above-named officers/agents are authorized by me to take from my premises, curtilage, vehicles, property, computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device (as specified above) any letters, papers, materials, data, or other property which they desire. I state that I am a person who is authorized to give consent for the search of the above mentioned property.

This written permission is being given by me to the above-named officers/agents voluntarily, of my own free will, without threats or promises of any kind, I am not under the influence of drugs or alcohol that prevent me from understand this document, and I understand this document and the English language.

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