



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



2024-3996  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 780 Taylor Road, Gahanna,  
Ohio 43230 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Records Received, Subpoena Served, Review of Records  
**Involves:** Alex Taylor Russell (S), Joshua James Rhoades (O)  
**Date of Activity:** 01/24/2025  
**Author:** SA James H Gore, #168

**Narrative:**

On the evening of January 24, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Gore (SA Gore) received subpoenaed records from Cash App for the account using the "Cash Tag" of [REDACTED] and the user name of Joshua Rhoades. The names appeared on a Cash App card that was discarded by Alex Russell (Russell) as he fled from officers from the Gahanna Division of Police (GPD) on December 19, 2024.



Images of Cash App card abandoned by Alex Russell

The Cash App card was one of several bank cards and drivers licenses in other persons' names that were discarded by Russell. At the time, it was unknown if the bank cards were stolen. It was later determined that Russell was using the stolen identities of different people to commit acts of financial fraud.

The records from Cash App confirmed that Alex Russell opened the account using the stolen identity of Joshua Rhoades, who was a real person from California. In response to Cash App's

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"know your customer" (KYC) identity verification process, photos of a California driver's license bearing Joshua Rhoades' information were uploaded. The same driver's license was among the items discarded by Alex Russell when he fled from GPD officers:



Fake California driver's license bearing Joshua Rhoades' information with image of Alex Russell from Cash App

An array of "selfie" photos was also uploaded to Cash App by Russell:



Images of Alex Russell posing as Joshua Rhoades from Cash App

Cash App records showed that multiple payment sources (debit cards) were linked, or attempted to be linked to the account:

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| Payment Source History |                                      |         |                                      |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
|                        | Card Brand                           | Zipcode | Link Result                          |
| 33                     | TEXANS CREDIT UNION                  | 76093   | SUCCESS                              |
| 34                     | ONPOINT COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION       | 97006   | SUCCESS                              |
| 35                     | CREDIT UNION OF TEXAS                | 75230   | INVALID_ZIP                          |
| 36                     | CREDIT UNION OF TEXAS                | 75093   | SUCCESS                              |
| 37                     | CREDIT UNION OF TEXAS                | 75093   | SUCCESS                              |
| 38                     | CREDIT UNION OF TEXAS                | 75093   | SUCCESS                              |
| 39                     | CREDIT UNION OF TEXAS                | 75093   | SUCCESS                              |
| 40                     | CREDIT UNION OF TEXAS                | 75093   | SUCCESS                              |
| 41                     | TEXANS CREDIT UNION                  | 75093   | CV_ERROR_SUSPECTED_FRAUD             |
| 42                     | TEXANS CREDIT UNION                  | 92346   | CV_ERROR_SUSPECTED_FRAUD             |
| 43                     | TEXANS CREDIT UNION                  | 75230   | CV_ERROR_SUSPECTED_FRAUD             |
| 44                     | TEXANS CREDIT UNION                  | 75093   | SUCCESS                              |
| 45                     | RANDOLPH BROOKS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION | 75093   | TOO_MANY_SUCCESSFUL_CARD_LINKS_THIRT |
| 46                     | RANDOLPH BROOKS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION | 75093   | TOO_MANY_SUCCESSFUL_CARD_LINKS_THIRT |
| 47                     | RANDOLPH BROOKS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION | 75093   | TOO_MANY_SUCCESSFUL_CARD_LINKS_THIRT |

List of debit cards linked to Cash App account

All but one of the financial institutions were in Texas. The outlier was OnPoint Community Credit Union, which was based in Oregon. This aligned with information investigators learned from Alex Russell's mother and brother, who suggested that Russell may have been in Texas.

Most of the transactions on the account appeared to be for fast food purchases, meal delivery services from GrubHub, and transportation services from Lyft. There were, however, purchases made at various hotels. There were also transactions for the purchase and sale of small amounts of Bitcoin. Some of the locations of the transactions were identifiable, and this was useful in determining Alex Russell's travel pattern prior to arriving in Gahanna. For example:

- On December 19, 2024 (date of officer-involved incident) at 0132 hours Eastern Time (EST), a cash deposit of \$400 (minus deposit fee of \$1) was made to the card at a 7-Eleven store in Gahanna (*Note: 7-Eleven operates as Speedway gas stations in Central Ohio*). The nearest Speedway station to the Springhill Suites hotel where Russell was staying was at 240 S. Hamilton Road in Gahanna.
- On December 16, 2024 (date Russell checked into the Springhill Suites in Gahanna) at 1834 hours EST, there was a charge of \$8 to the card at an unspecified Springhill Suites location.
- On December 16, 2024 at 1652 hours EST, a charge of \$151.58 was made to the card at an unspecified Holiday Inn Express hotel.
- On December 16, 2024 at 1443 hours EST, a charge of \$2.69 was made at the Norwalk Tobacco & Vape store in Norwalk, Ohio.
- On December 16, 2024 at 0142 hours EST, a charge of \$7 was made at the Fairfield Inn in Sandusky, Ohio. A charge of \$40 was attempted two minutes prior at 0140 hours, but it was declined. The transaction at 0142 hours went through after \$482.05 worth of Bitcoin was sold and transferred to the card.
- On December 12, 2024 at 1306 hours Central Time (CST), a charge of \$76.84 was made at the Extended Stay Hotel #9710 in Plano, Texas, which is a suburb of Dallas.

The records showed that on the morning of December 19, 2024 at 0149 hours EST, Russell sent a peer-to-peer Cash App payment of \$200 to someone using the screen name of "Rhonda Coleman." There were records of other peer-to-peer payments to and from other parties using the names of "B Franklin" and "Ad Edwards" earlier in the month on December

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5th and 6th. SA Gore was able to identify the Cash Tag for "Ad Edwards" as [REDACTED], with an account creation date of November 2024. Any further identification efforts for the other accounts would require an additional subpoena.

There were also several suspicious declined charges to Facebook, all in the amount of \$250.15. The first one was on December 18, 2024, and the rest were on December 22nd, 26th and 30th, respectively, which were days after Alex Russell was killed. SA Gore was aware that fraudsters were known to purchase and sell stolen identity information on Facebook's sister platform, Instagram, so it was speculated that this may have potentially been the case here.

The records from Cash App are available for review as an attachment to this report.

***Note: The records from Cash App contain personally identifiable information (PII) for the real Joshua Rhoades, who is a victim of identity theft; an un-redacted copy should not be released to the public.***

**References:**

No references.

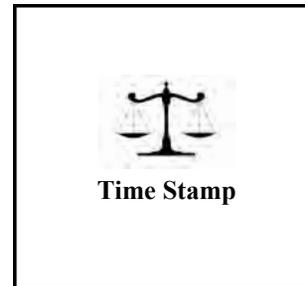
**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: Cash App Subpoena 2024-3996 12-23-2024

Attachment # 02: 170164-for-subject-SQ\_CASH-C\_sydvkhy3p

**IN THE FRANKLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT  
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

TO: **Block, Inc.**  
**Attn: Law Enforcement Response Team**  
**1955 Broadway, Suite 600**  
**Oakland, CA 94612**  
**Phone: (415)375-3176**



<https://squareup.request.csdisco.com/us/form>

**INVESTIGATIVE SUBPOENA**

Ohio Revised Code §2935.23 authorizes this Court to issue subpoenas in aid of felony investigations. Upon the representation of **The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation** that there is an active felony investigation of **§2913.49 Ohio Revised Code, case number 2024-3996**, you are hereby ORDERED to appear before this Court at the time, date, and location set forth below, and provide the following information:

Any and all subscriber information for the person(s) assigned to the following Cash App accounts:

1) Display name, "Joshua Rhoades" and the \$Cashtag, [REDACTED]

including, but not limited to the following:

(a) Full names and dates of birth for all subscribers on the account(s); (b) Addresses, including payment addresses, business addresses, email addresses; (c) Length of service, including start date; (d) All telephone or instrument numbers associated with the account(s); (e) Affiliated bank, credit union, or other financial institution names, addresses, and account number(s); (f) Any virtual payment card numbers, Cash Card numbers, debit card numbers and/or stored-value card numbers associated with the account(s); (g) Any other personal identifiers or information listed on the subscribers' profiles (including photo ID if available); (h) Transaction records for said accounts from 10/01/2024 through 12/20/2024.

\*Please do not disclose the existence of this request to the user(s) or subscriber(s), as doing so may jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation.\*

**The failure to comply with this court-ordered Investigative Subpoena may result in a contempt of court citation.** However, you can comply with this Investigative Subpoena without the court appearance scheduled below by providing the requested information to the law enforcement officer who requested this subpoena, and whose contact information is set forth below, prior to the date scheduled for the appearance.

It is so ORDERED on December 23, 2024.

Electronically Signed  
  
2024-12-23 9:09 am EST

FRANKLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT  
Judge, Andrea C Peebles

**Instead of appearing in Court**, provide the information above to the requesting officer prior to the Court date:

**Special Agent James Gore**

James.Gore@ohioattorneygeneral.gov

or

James.Gore@OhioAGO.gov

OR

You are hereby scheduled to appear on your Court date: 2/24/2025 at 10:00 AM before the Duty Judge in Courtroom 10C, at the Franklin County Municipal Court, 375 South High Street, 10th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.