



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



2025-3318
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 681 4th St. SW, Warren,
OH 44483, Trumbull County (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview of Witness Warren PD Sergeant Thaddeus Stephenson

Involves: Thaddeus Stephenson (W), Brad Bailey (S)

Activity Date: 10/20/2025

Activity Location: Warren City Police Department - 141 South Street
Southeast, Warren, OH

Authoring Agent: SA Ryan Emahiser

Narrative:

On Monday, October 20, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Ryan Emahiser (SA Emahiser) and SA Joseph Lamping (SA Lamping) interviewed Warren City Police Department (WPD) Sergeant (Sgt.) Thaddeus Stephenson (Stephenson), who was accompanied by his attorney, Dan Leffler, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at the Warren Police Department. The interview was audio-recorded and the recording has been uploaded to Axon Justice located in Reference Item F.

Sgt. Stephenson was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the October 12, 2025, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 681 4th St. SW, Warren, Ohio. Reportedly, Sgt. Stephenson did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

Sgt. Stephenson advised that he was hired by WPD in 2003, and other than a short layoff period he has been employed by WPD for 22 years. Sgt. Stephenson said his typical shift is [REDACTED] with his days off being [REDACTED]

Sgt. Stephenson stated that on the day of the OICI he was at WPD preparing for roll call when he and other officers present heard over the radio that there was a vehicle pursuit entering the city. Sgt. Stephenson advised that he was unsure who was pursuing the vehicle but did know that the agency was pursuing the vehicle from the Bristol or Champion area. Sgt. Stephenson stated that dispatch advised the pursuit was in the area of 4th St. and Highland Ave, so he and other WPD officer headed in that

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direction. Sgt. Stephenson said that WPD was unable to hear any of the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) radio traffic. When Sgt. Stephenson arrived in the area of 4th St. and Highland Ave, he initially did not see the vehicle pursuit, and he and [REDACTED] pulled onto 4th St. with [REDACTED] driving his marked WPD cruiser ahead of Sgt. Stephenson.

Sgt. Stephenson explained that suddenly he saw police emergency lights in the distance and then saw approximately four officers running toward the front of [REDACTED] WPD cruiser. Sgt. Stephenson said at that time it was dark out, but that he was able to recognize that these were police officers running towards the front of [REDACTED] cruiser but could not tell from what departments the officers were. Sgt. Stephenson stated that he then heard shots fired and a fired round struck Sgt. Stephenson's cruiser windshield and Sgt. Stephenson ducked inside his cruiser to avoid being struck. Sgt. Stephenson advised that he heard several other fired rounds strike his cruiser while he was ducking for cover near the steering wheel. Sgt. Stephenson said he briefly saw the subject, Brad Bailey (Brad), near [REDACTED] cruiser prior to ducking for cover and only recalled that Brad was standing near the cruiser and moving his arms. Sgt. Stephenson stated that he did not recall seeing Brad with a gun prior to ducking for cover, but explained that he was further away, it was dark, and he had to quickly duck for cover when the fired rounds struck his cruiser.

Sgt. Stephenson stated that after the fired shots ceased, EMS was called to respond, and when he exited his cruiser Brad was lying face down in the roadway with handcuffs on his wrists. Sgt. Stephenson said that all the officers present appeared to be in shock, himself included, and he advised the officers present to start life saving measures.

Sgt. Stephenson advised that as officers began life saving measures, he began calling WPD administration to advise them of the situation, and eventually he was relieved from the scene.

SA Emahiser asked Sgt. Stephenson if he recalled hearing any radio traffic advising officers that Brad may have weapons, and Sgt. Stephenson stated that he recalled overhearing radio traffic that the subject that was being pursued was supposed to have several guns in the car.

Sgt. Stephenson did not have any additional information to provide and the interview was concluded.

The interview was audio-recorded, see below reference for the recording location.

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References:

Reference Item F - Officer Interviews folder > Thaddeus Stephenson subfolder -
stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

None

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