



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



2024-3413  
Officer Involved Critical Incident - Bernard Park - 1105  
Bernard Ave., Findlay, OH 45840

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer Noah Burkholder  
**Involves:** Officer Noah Burkholder  
**Activity Date:** 11/08/2024  
**Activity Location:** Findlay Police Department, 308 Dorney Plaza, Findlay, Ohio, 45840  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Tiffany Najmulski

**Narrative:**

On Friday, November 08, 2024, at 1113 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Tiffany Najmulski (SA Najmulski) and SA Ryan Emahiser (SA Emahiser) interviewed Findlay Police Department (FPD) Officer Noah Burkholder (Burkholder), who was accompanied by his attorney, Yvonne Trevino, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at FPD. The interview was audio and video recorded.

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

Burkholder was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the October 28, 2024 officer-involved shooting which occurred around Bernard Park, Findlay, Ohio. Reportedly, Burkholder did not discharge a firearm during the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this officer.

Officer Burkholder has been employed by the FPD for about 10 years. He has been a police officer for approximately 12 years. During the incident, Burkholder wore his standard FPD police uniform with a police badge affixed to it. He also wore a ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove a FPD marked unit with FPD emblems and emergency lights.

Officer Burkholder stated he and [REDACTED] were sent to Bernard Park in reference to three juveniles consuming alcohol. When Officer Burkholder arrived, [REDACTED] was already speaking with the juveniles. Officer Burkholder said he saw Seagram's wine coolers sitting on the picnic table. Officer Burkholder helped identify one of the juveniles while [REDACTED] obtained information on the other two juveniles and then talked to the subject's mother on the phone. Officer Burkholder

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said [REDACTED] told the subject's mother the juveniles would be placed into custody for consumption of alcoholic beverages.

The female juvenile handed over a vape pen she had in her possession. She then told officers she wanted to go the hospital for mental health help and pulled up her sleeves exposing superficial cuts. Not long after talking to the female, the subject took off running and [REDACTED] gave chase. Officer Burkholder said he stayed with the other two juveniles. Officer Burkholder said he was facing south when the subject ran southeast towards the railroad tracks. Officer Burkholder said the subject turned his head facing back and shot his gun in the general direction of [REDACTED]

Officer Burkholder saw the subject produce a firearm and began firing at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who in return fired at the subject.

Officer Burkholder said that he did not think the other two juveniles were going to pull out a firearm, so he went to assist Officer Burkholder. Officer Burkholder said officers approached the subject, found the firearm underneath the subject's body and saw that the subject had been shot by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said once he was able to locate the firearm, render it safe and make sure [REDACTED] was ok, he ran to his vehicle and grabbed the first aid kit. Officer Burkholder said by the time he returned, other officers had arrived on scene and started assisting with life saving measures. Officer Burkholder said when he recovered the gun it appeared to be in operable condition with one round in the chamber and the safety was off. Officer Burkholder did not know how many rounds were in the chamber.

Officer Burkholder then rode with the subject in the ambulance once it arrived on scene. Officer Burkholder said his body camera was on through the ambulance ride and while at the hospital.

Officer Burkholder explained that the cruiser dash camera's do not automatically come on unless they activate their overhead lights. Neither officer turned on their overhead lights. Officer Burkholder said officers activate their body cameras themselves, which they had done.

Officer Burkholder said when he arrived, he observed three younger kids in the park and at one point a man rode his bicycle over the tracks near the park. Officer Burkholder stated the park sits in a residential neighborhood. While Officer Burkholder said he did not think he was in the direct path of the subject firing his weapon, rounds can ricochet off the pavement and not knowing exactly where everyone else in the park was, anyone in the area was at risk at being struck by the bullets. Officer Burkholder

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stated [REDACTED] was in the path of the bullets and he considered [REDACTED] to have been in danger of being hit.

Officer Burkholder said he remembered seeing sparks hit the pavement when the subject shot his gun. Officer Burkholder said he was unsure how many rounds were shot but thought the subject shot at least two rounds and [REDACTED] shot at least five rounds. Officer Burkholder did not hear additional shots fired. Officer Burkholder said he was watching the other two juveniles as well as what was happening with [REDACTED] and the subject so he could not say for certain.

The interview concluded at approximately 1137 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.

**Attachments:**

1. Audio Interview (Case Documents) Officer Noah Burkholder
2. BCI Criminal Investigation Notification (Case Documents) Criminal Notification form Burkholder

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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).

NOAH BURKHOLDER  
Printed Name of Interviewee

11-08-2024  
Date / Time

*NR*  
Signature of Interviewee

SA Tiffany Najmalski  
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA Tiffany Najmalski  
BCI Agent (Signature)