



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



2022-2918

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 500 West Hopacan, Barberton, OH
44203, Summit County

Investigative Activity: Interview of Other Person; Consent Search
Involves: Christle Stephens (O)
Zachary Zoran (S)
Activity Date: December 26, 2022
Activity Location: 921 Nathan Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44307
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Todd A. Clark #139

Narrative:

On December 26, 2022, at approximately 1512 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Todd Clark (Clark) and SA Charles Moran (Moran) went to 921 Nathan Avenue, Akron, Ohio, to attempt to learn where Zachary Zoran (Zoran) lived. Earlier on December 26, 2022, SA Clark and SA Moran interviewed Pamela Stratford, Zoran's mother. SA Clark and SA Moran learned Zoran lived at the Nathan Avenue location prior to getting an apartment in Barberton, Ohio. The Nathan Avenue home was a drug and alcohol rehabilitation living facility.

Upon our arrival, we spoke to a group of males who were standing on the porch. The males indicated Zoran had moved out the home and into an apartment in Barberton, Ohio, on Saturday (December 24, 2022). Zoran was removed from the home by the Akron Police Department and taken to Akron General Hospital. Zoran was released from the hospital within three hours and returned to the home. The males indicated no one wanted Zoran at the residence, so the manager called Lyft, who provided Zoran with a ride. The males believed Lyft took Zoran to his house in Barberton, Ohio. The males said Zoran's residence was located in the downstairs of a double home.

One of the male's indicated Christle Stephens (Stephens) was the case manager for The Light Center Recovery (TLC). TLC operated the Nathan Avenue home. The male provided a telephone number (██████████) for Stephens. After SA Clark spoke with Stephens on the male's cell phone, arrangements were made to call her back.

At 1522 hours, SA Clark and SA Moran spoke with Stephens. Stephens provided Zoran's address, 166 Sylvester Street, Barberton, Ohio. Stephens said it had been a "long four days" of dealing with Zoran. Stephens said the program Zoran was involved with had sober living and clinical aspects to it. The programs are through the Ask Foundation and TLC Recovery. Zoran was a client in the program.

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Stephens indicated Zoran had gotten his apartment and driver's license this past week. Stephens said she believed Zoran had a drug relapse after obtaining his residence and driver's license. Stephens believed this occurred sometime around Thursday (December 22, 2022). Zoran admitted to relapsing on methamphetamine. Stephens said since Zoran admitted to relapsing, Zoran sent multiple text messages and made phone calls with threats, obscenities and accusations. Stephens indicated Zoran was doing this to her, people living at the Nathan Avenue home and another female outside of the house.

Stephens believed Zoran called the police on himself on Friday (December 23, 2022). Stephens said she believed Zoran told the police there were bodies buried across the street from the Nathan Avenue house and heroin inside the Nathan Avenue home. Stephens said the police responded and deemed him to be okay.

Stephens said Zoran continued to terrorize the residents of the house throughout the night and into Saturday (December 24, 2022) morning. Stephens said Zoran broke a microwave and was carrying a bat inside the home. Stephens said she called the police again on December 24, 2022. Stephens thought the police would take Zoran to behavioral health and "pink slip" him. Stephens said the police removed Zoran from the home forcefully. When Zoran returned to the home, she had him discharged. Zoran was instructed to go to his home at 166 Sylvester Avenue, Barberton, Ohio. Stephens paid for a ride for Zoran to his Barberton home using Lyft. Zoran was told to stay away from the Nathan Avenue home. Stephens said Zoran posted on his Facebook account about being in Barberton, Ohio.

Stephens said Zoran lived in the downstairs apartment (A) on Sylvester Avenue. Stephens said the apartment was empty, without any furniture, because he just moved in. Stephens indicated she believed the inside of the apartment was painted white and brown. Stephens said the home was a transitional home provided through AMHA (Akron Metro Housing Authority) and Zoran had a landlord.

Stephens said Zoran was clinically diagnosed as mentally ill and was on medication. Stephens believed Zoran had PTSD, major depression and unipolar depression. Stephens believed Zoran was being treated at Portage Path. Stephens recalled Zoran's conditions from memory, and indicated she would have to look at her med book to verify the information she provided.

Stephens indicated Zoran may have property inside the Nathan Avenue home. Stephens gave SA Clark and SA Moran permission to get the property. SA Clark advised Stephens that SA Clark would call her to schedule a second interview.

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On December 28, 2022, at 1132 hours, SA Clark and SA Moran met with Stephens at 921 Nathan Avenue, Akron, Ohio. Stephens said Zoran was living at the "Iron Man House." The "Iron Man House" is a sober supported living facility. Zoran began the program in June 2020 after being transitioned from Northeast Applied Health, a rehabilitation facility. Stephens indicated Zoran was addicted to methamphetamine. Stephens said there was also a mental health team which worked with Zoran, but he had completed that part of the program in October 2021. Stephens indicated the supported sober living program involved a treatment plan in which Zoran received counseling from Stephens or Steven Pierce (Pierce). As part of the program, they diagnosed him and set up a treatment plan. As part of the plan, Zoran lived at the Nathan Avenue home. Stephens said when Zoran completed the program, he would have transitioned from the "Iron Man House" into his own home. Stephens said Zoran, after a relapse about a year ago, was progressing well in the program prior to this incident. Stephens indicated the prior relapse was due to a medication issue, not drugs. Stephens indicated drug testing, including random testing, was part of the program. Zoran's last drug test was on Monday (December 19, 2022). Stephens indicated she was unaware of any suicidal issues involving Zoran.

Stephens said on Thursday, December 22, 2022, Zoran obtained his driver's license in Barberton, Ohio. Stephens said Jim Greathouse took Zoran to his driver's license exam. Prior to that, Stephens indicated Zoran's housing was completed through the AMHA approximately three to four days prior. Later that day, Stephens indicated she was not at the home, but learned Zoran was acting weird from the other residents. Stephens described Zoran as being "off." Stephens indicated she believed his behavior was similar to his past episode, which was due to a medication issue.

Stephens said Zoran was texting the group chat, which was set up for the "Iron Man House." Stephens said Zoran was making accusations which were not true. Stephen said the accusations progressed until Zoran called the police on himself. Zoran told the police there were dead bodies buried across the street at the green house. Stephens indicated the dead body accusations were similar to what Zoran said during the previous episode. Stephens said the police responded to the home during the night and conducted a wellness check on him. Stephens said the police did not take him for evaluation, and Zoran complained in the group chat about not being taken.

Stephens indicated Zoran's conduct progressed into Friday, December 23, 2022, and into December 24, 2022. Zoran admitted to Stephens and Pierce that he had relapsed on meth on Thursday. Zoran began sending threatening messages via the "Iron Man House" group text. Zoran accused the group of having his son. Stephens said she called the police again. Stephens told the police Zoran's history. Stephens said the police told her Zoran was standing in the

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kitchen with a bat and requested information regarding Zoran's medication. After talking with the police, they told her they would take Zoran to Akron General Hospital. Stephens said the police transported him from the home. Stephens believed the police were taking Zoran to the psychiatric ward.

Stephens said Zoran subsequently returned to the Nathan Avenue home. Zoran told the residents at the home the hospital released him. Stephens said Zoran was lucid when he returned and was apologizing for his actions. Zoran indicated he had drugs in the home. Stephens said the residents were afraid of Zoran, so Stephens and Pierce made the decision that Zoran had to leave the home. Stephens said Zoran was upset, but understood he had to leave the home. Stephens believed Zoran took the drugs he had at the home with him to his apartment and used again.

Stephens provided a ride to Zoran through Lyft to Zoran's residence. Stephens said she communicated via text message with Zoran during the ride to his home. Stephens said there was a lull in the communication with Zoran after he was dropped off at his home, but the messaging picked back up a while later. During the lull, Stephens thought Zoran went to bed.

Stephens said Zoran accused the people on the group text of stealing his son. Zoran wanted to kill everyone in the group. Zoran indicated he wanted to kill cops. Stephens said Zoran was posting on his social media as well. Stephens was unsure what happened to him, but she believed he was using drugs. Stephens believed Zoran probably texted his mother during this time.

Stephens indicated Zoran did not have a good relationship with his mother. Zoran believed his mother was abusing his son. Zoran was working with Pierce to obtain an attorney to address the issues regarding his son in court. Stephens indicated that the school that Zoran's son attended was contacted about the suspected abuse. Stephens said Zoran had a relationship with his aunt, Sherry. Stephens said Zoran felt Sherry was on the fence regarding whether she was on his side concerning his son. At some point, Zoran felt Sherry was telling his mother what Zoran talked with her about regarding his son.

Stephens said Zoran was prescribed Gabapentin, Zoloft, Flexeril, Prostatin and just received a prescription for Ketamine. Portage Path was responsible for managing Zoran's prescription medication. Stephens said the Ketamine was prescribed for pain by Western Reserve. Zoran went to Western Reserve for chronic pain management. Zoran was receiving pain management due to a previous spine surgery. Stephens said Zoran was diagnosed with PTSD, anxiety and depression. Stephens said Portage Path may have additional psychiatric medical information.

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Stephens said Zoran had PTSD because of his interactions with the police. Stephens said Zoran had come to terms with his issues with the police. Stephens said Zoran realized his problems with the police were because of his behavior.

After the interview, Stephens indicated Zoran had a bedroom on the first floor of the Nathan Avenue home. Stephens signed a Consent to Search form, allowing SA Clark and SA Moran to search Zoran's room. SA Clark and SA Moran searched Zoran's room. There was nothing of evidentiary value to this investigation discovered. SA Moran photographed Zoran's room.

On January 3, 2023, Stephens forwarded screenshots of the Lyft receipt (two screenshots) and text messages between her and Zoran to SA Moran. A review of the information provided by Stephens revealed that on December 24, 2022, at 2233 hours, Lyft picked Zoran up from 921 Nathan Street, Akron, Ohio 44307, and transported him to 166 Sylvester Barberton, Ohio 44203. The ride was completed at 2249 hours.

Stephens provided two screenshots of text messages. The screenshots were not dated; however, it appears the texts started at 2110 hours and ended at 2134 hours. Zoran admitted during the texts that he used methamphetamine and claimed there was no excuse for doing so. Zoran admitted smelling "like a meth factory." Zoran admitted he had drugs in his possession and he was going to flush them. Zoran responded to Stephens saying she was "surprised they let you go," by texting he was surprised also. Zoran texted, "They said I was fine and not a dangerous person that it was just the meth." Zoran texted he had not done methamphetamine in four years and four months. Zoran indicated he believed people were upset with him and things would never be the same. Zoran texted, "Being honest with you though, I don't remember ever texting the group chat as often as I did."

The audio recordings of the interviews, copy of the Consent to Search Form, photographs from the consent search of Zoran's room, email from Stephens, screenshots of the Lyft receipts and screenshots of text messages between Stephens and Zoran were attached to this report for review. The original Consent to Search Form was placed in the BCI SIU case file.

Attachments:

1. 2022-12-26: Conversation with males at 921 Nathan Avenue Akron Ohio
2. 2022-12-26: Phone Interview Christle Stephens
3. 2022-12-28: Interview Christle Stephens
4. Consent to Search Form - 921 Nathan Avenue Akron Ohio

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5. 2023-01-03 Email Christle Stephens with Screenshots attached
6. Screenshot Text Messages Stephens and Zoran 1
7. Screenshot Text Messages Stephens and Zoran 2
8. Screenshot Lyft Receipt 1
9. Screenshot Lyft Receipt 2
10. Photo - 921 Nathan St - IMG_3301
11. Photo - 921 Nathan St - IMG_3302
12. Photo - 921 Nathan St - IMG_3303
13. Photo - 921 Nathan St - IMG_3304

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CONSENT TO SEARCH



Date & Time 12/28/2022 12:37
Location 921 NATHAN AKRON, OH 44307

I, CHRISTLE STEPHENS, having been informed of the constitutional right not to have a search made of the premises, property, or items hereinafter mentioned without a search warrant (and of my right to refuse to consent to such a search), hereby authorize

to conduct a complete search of my
 premises, and all curtilage
 any vehicles
 personal property, to wit: Room of ZACHARY ZORAN
 computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device, (including data acquisition, copying, and analysis), to wit: _____

located at
921 NATHAN AKRON, OHIO 44307

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.

Christle Stephens 12-28-22
Signature Date/Time

CHRISTLE STEPHENS
Printed Name

From: [Charles Moran](#)
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 2:28 PM
To: [Todd Clark](#)
Subject: Screenshots from Christle Stephens FW: Zachary Zoran
Attachments: [Screenshot_20230103-095247_Ly. .jpg](#)
[Screenshot_20230103-095233_Lyft.jpg](#)
[Screenshot_20230103-095929_Messages.jpg](#)
[Screenshot_20230103-100655_Messages.jpg](#)

From: Christle Stephens <cstephens@tlcrecovery.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2023 10:07 AM
To: Charles Moran <Charles.Moran@OhioAGO.gov>
Subject: Zachary Zoran

You don't often get email from cstephens@tlcrecovery.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Chuck,

Attached is the Lyft receipt you requested. I've also sent a screenshot of a conversation that him and I had once he was back at the house after being discharged from Akron General. He appeared rational and coherent....apologized for his relapse. Took ownership of it. Hope this helps.

This message is intended for use only by the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please contact sender immediately and destroy the material in its entirety, whether electronic or hard copy. Thank you.

Please consider environment before printing this email

< **ZaChariaH** ▾



Wonderful 9:10 PM

I have no excuse for using. My dad got sick and died around this time of year but it's still no excuse.

I feel sad asf all my friends are here. 9:11 PM

Read 9:11 PM

Things were good. You just got your license.

I know. But then I used. 9:12 PM

Read 9:12 PM

You said some really horrible nasty shit to quite a few of us

I know I did. I know things will never be the same. 9:12 PM

Read 9:13 PM

Is the dope gone?

No. 9:13 PM

Read 9:13 PM

Oh hell

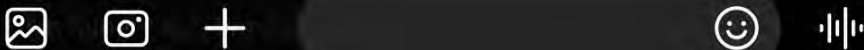
I'm going to flush it though 9:13 PM

Read 9:13 PM

Wtf Zach :(

Idk 🤔👉

I'm hungry asf. I've Ate like 2 meals in 3 days



< Z ZaChariaH



Read
9:18 PM

You never gave it a chance you fucking got high

I smell like a meth factory

9:19 PM

Read
9:19 PM

I'm sure. I'm surprised they let you go.

Me too. They said I was fine and not a dangerous person that it was just the meth

9:20 PM

Read
9:21 PM

The progression of the disease of addiction ain't no joke....

I know. I'm really disappointed in myself I hadn't has and meth in over 4 years and 4 months

9:22 PM

1 year

Idk why I'm a moron

9:24 PM

Being honest with you though. I seriously don't remember ever texting the group chat as often as I did

9:25 PM

You probably will never forgive me.

9:27 PM

Read
9:33 PM

You told everyone in the men's chat alot of stuff.

I know I did I'm a moron.

I read some of it but not all.

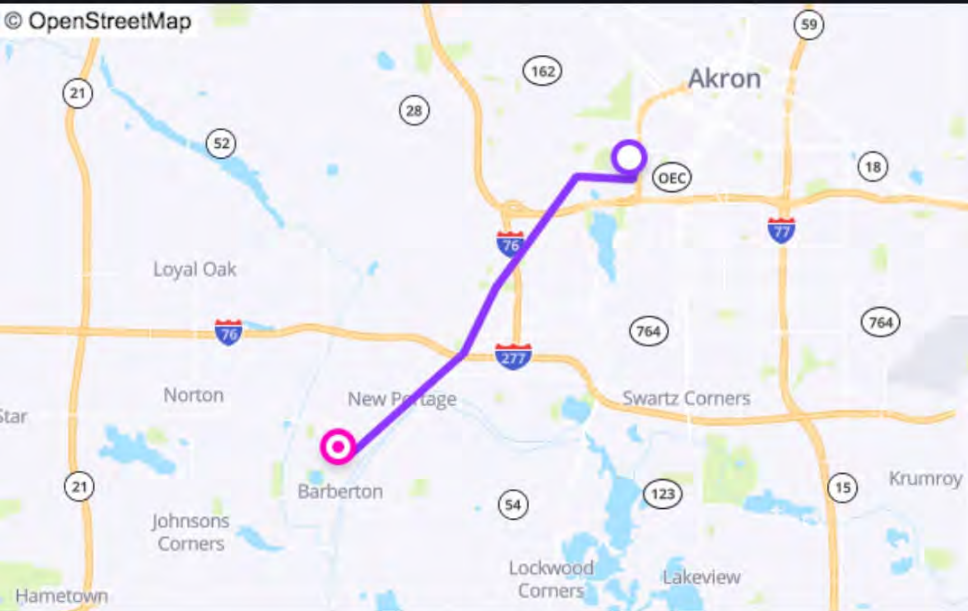
9:34 PM





← Ride on 12/24/22, 10:33 PM

Trip

Dec 24, 2022, 10:33 PM • 5.4 miles • 16 min




- 
921 Nathan St
 Akron, OH 44307 Pickup
10:33 PM
- 
166 Sylvester St
 Barberton, OH 44203 Drop-off
10:49 PM

Payment

Lyft Standard fare (5.4 mi, 16m) \$40.99

VISA Visa * XXXXXXXXXX **\$40.99**
 Total charge

 **Personal** >
 Visa * XXXXXXXXXX

← **Ride on 12/24/22, 10:33 PM**

Lyft Standard fare (5.4 mi, 16m) **\$40.99**

VISA Visa * [REDACTED] **\$40.99**
Total charge

👤 **Personal** >
Visa * [REDACTED]

Your payment method has already been charged. Changing profiles will not affect the payment method used.

Resend receipt to email >

Ride

Lyft Standard
Cory • Ford Edge



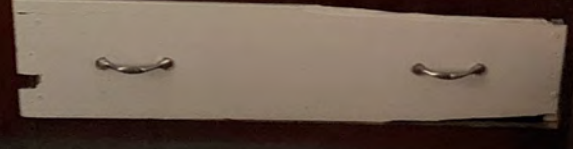
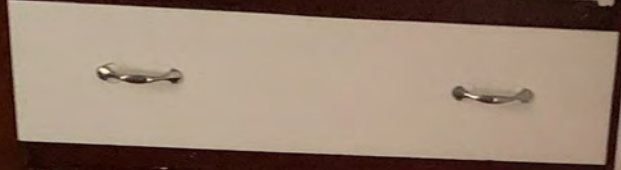
This ride wasn't rated

Help

Find a lost item >

Get help with another issue >







Other bags have zero chill.