



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



2025-0512

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 294 Ira Avenue, Akron,  
OH 44301, Summit County

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Father of Involved Subject

**Involves:** John Smith Jr. (W)

**Activity Date:** 02/17/2025

**Activity Location:** 294 Ira Avenue, Akron, OH 44301

**Authoring Agent:** SA Allison Fletcher #187

**Narrative:**

On February 17, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) and SA Jesse Bynum (Bynum) conducted an interview with John Smith Jr. (John), who was the father of Marcus Smith (Smith), at his residence located at 294 Ira Avenue, Akron, Ohio, 44301.

Prior to the interview, SA Fletcher, and Akron Police Department (APD) Detective Sergeant Mike Orrand (Orrand) made a death notification to the next of kin, John at his residence. John agreed to participate in an interview with BCI agents after he made some personal phone calls. A summary of the interview with John has been provided below:

Approximately one and half years ago, Smith was enrolled at the University of Cincinnati in a Sociology Doctoral (PHD) program. Smith was also employed as a teacher at the university. Six months prior to the completion of his PHD Program, Smith failed an exam in one of his classes and became very upset over the grading scale. Smith believed the test and grading scale had been skewed by the professor in favor of a female student. Around the same time, Smith ended his relationship with his girlfriend (unknown name).

John believed Smith began to struggle mentally after the combination of failing his PHD program, being removed as a teacher, and ending his romantic relationship.

Due to the struggles Smith was experiencing, Smith sought medical help and was prescribed an unknown medication. Smith also attended sessions with a therapist. Smith continued the process of switching therapists and medications a few times until he was prescribed his final (unknown) medication that John believed was helping Smith.

John was unaware of any diagnosis that Smith may have received. He recalled doctor's stating that Smith was "too smart", and they were unable to determine a diagnosis.

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Smith continued to mentally struggle and was known to have suicidal ideations. John recalled one incident (unknown date) where Smith laid tires in the roadway (unknown location) and laid on the tires. It was unclear what Smith's intentions were during the incident involving the tires. According to John, Smith was never violent with any of his behavior over the last year. John believed, "whatever he [Smith] was doing, he wasn't doing it to nobody else but himself" [06:24].

Although Smith was a resident of the Cincinnati area, he consistently visited his father, John, in Akron. Smith visited more frequently during the last year and a half while Smith was unemployed and no longer enrolled in school. John recalled Smith sometimes being "his old self" and other times turning "into something [he] didn't know" [05:19].

Unfortunately, Smith was beginning a pattern of lying to his father after he took multiple credit cards and John's Ohio driver's license stating he [Smith] was going to book travel plans for the two of them. Smith never followed through and kept the credit card for himself.

Beginning last Friday, February 14, 2025, Smith was again, visiting his father in Akron. Later in the day, John noticed Smith packing up his belongings into his [Smith's] personal vehicle, a red Toyota Corolla. Smith told John he was leaving to go back to Cincinnati. John left for dinner that evening and returned at approximately 2300 hours and found Smith and all Smith's belongings to be gone.

On Monday February 17, 2025, at approximately 0800 hours, Smith returned to the 294 Ira Avenue residence. John engaged in a brief conversation with Smith who stated he had been in Columbus at the "Casino." Smith also told John he had used his [John's] credit cards to pay for a rental vehicle and hotel while in Columbus. John observed a dark colored Toyota parked in the roadway in front of the residence. The vehicle did not belong to Smith.

After the brief conversation, John returned to his bedroom to get dressed. When he left the bedroom, he noticed the basement light was turned on and thought maybe Smith went into the basement for something. John then proceeded to use the restroom. When he left the restroom, he attempted to locate Smith in the house and was unable to find him.

John then noticed his loaded .38 caliber revolver, that he kept under his bed pillow, was missing. He also noticed that his car keys were missing from their hook, and his white Toyota Corolla was no longer parked in the driveway. It appeared as though Smith had driven the white Toyota Corolla across the front yard as it had been parked in front of another vehicle in the single car driveway.

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John realized that Smith had stolen his white Toyota Corolla, credit cards, and loaded firearm and contacted the APD for assistance. He provided the dispatcher with a description of his son Smith, and the vehicle he was driving. After the phone call, John proceeded to go about with his house chores.

Not long after his phone call to APD, John heard gunshots outside his residence. He looked out his kitchen window and observed Smith walking down the center of Ira Avenue, shooting a gun towards Lakeshore Boulevard (West). John ran outside his house and began yelling at Smith to stop. Smith continued to walk west on Ira Avenue and fired the gun again. John then observed APD officers in the area where Smith was shooting his gun. Smith put the firearm down to his right side as he continued to walk towards officers, officers then shot Smith multiple times and he fell to the ground.

John recalled Smith firing his gun 2-3 times at officers. Smith was standing near a yellow fire hydrant on Ira Avenue just northwest of John's residence. The officers were west of Smith's location. As John watched Smith walk towards officers, he thought to himself, "he [Smith] just committed suicide" [19:23].

John provided an approximate location where he observed Smith and officers during the incident. A photo of his vantage point from the kitchen window of 294 Ira Avenue was taken (Figure 1).

The interview and notification were audio recorded. The recordings and the photograph depicting John's view from the kitchen window have been saved to Evidence.com as Reference Item D.

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Figure 1 - 2025-02-17 John Smith Kitchen Window View

**References:**

Reference Item D - John Smith Jr. Interview

**Attachments:**

None

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