



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: Scene Processing (Scene 1)
Involves: Alex Russell (S)
Activity Date: 12/19/2024
Activity Location: 780 Taylor Rd. Gahanna, OH 43230
Authoring Agent: SA Brittney VanBibber #186

On December 19, 2024, the Gahanna Police Department (GPD) requested assistance from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) in reference to an officer involved critical incident (OICI). Reportedly, the GPD was investigating the use of a fraudulent credit card when the subject, later identified as Alex Russell (Russell), fled from them on foot carrying a handgun. BCI was advised that Russell held the gun to his own head resulting in GPD using less lethal force; however, the less lethal force was ineffective. Russell continued to run before reportedly pointing his firearm in the direction of officers. Four GPD officers then discharged their service weapons. BCI was informed Russell was transported to a hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Special Agent (SA) Sarah Taylor, SA Brittney VanBibber, Crime Scene Technician (CST) Holly Ryczek, and CST Dylan Wical responded to assist. SA VanBibber arrived at 780 Taylor Rd. Gahanna, OH 43230 at approximately 1215 hours. The scene was secured with crime scene tape, marked police cruisers, and uniformed personnel. SA VanBibber utilized a crime scene log to record access into the scene. The scene was documented using photography and a Leica 3D scanner.



Image 1. 780 Taylor Road Driveway

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The scene was observed to be in the driveway of 780 Taylor Rd. and adjacent grass areas. Suspected blood, clothing/personal property items, two firearms, and medical supplies littered the grass to the east of the driveway. Prior to SA VanBibber's arrival GPD had marked several items and possible officer locations using letter placards. These placards were captured in overall photographs and then removed/replaced with BCI placards.



Image 2. Area to east of driveway

A suspected bullet hole was located in the window of a neighboring home (820 Taylor Rd.) to the east of the scene. The suspected bullet hole was labeled as ballistic event (BE) 1.0 for documentation purposes. The projectile perforated the screen and one pane of a double paned window and came to rest in the windowsill on the exterior of the home. The projectile was collected as item 1.

A Smith & Wesson M&P Shield 9mm handgun (serial number JDZ1795) with one FC cartridge in the chamber and five additional cartridges in the magazine was located in the grass to the east of the driveway and collected as item 2. A single FC 9mm cartridge was also located in the grass to the east of the driveway and collected as item 19. In the same area one pair of Nike sweatpants and one pair of gray boxer shorts, both with suspected bullet holes and blood, were collected together as item 3. In addition to the clothing one pair of Nike Air Jordan shoes were collected as item 4. Along the west side of the driveway, a pair of black rimmed glasses were collected as item 6.

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Image 3. Item 2 Smith & Wesson M&P Shield 9mm

A Smith & Wesson Model M&P 15 rifle (serial number [REDACTED] with one cartridge in the chamber and 26 additional cartridges in the magazine, was collected from the grass east of the driveway as item 5. One .223 REM cartridge casing was collected from the driveway as item 7. One .223 REM cartridge was located just to the east of the driveway and collected as item 8.

Two round cardboard pieces (items 16 and 17) and one plastic piece (item 21) that are consistent with less lethal ammunition were located in the grass to the east of the driveway and collected.

A total of 17 WIN 9mm cartridge casings were collected. Items 9-15, 18, 20, 22-24 were collected from the bushes to the east of the driveway. Items 25-29 were collected from the tree line to the east of the driveway.

GPD Detective Kim Glunt provided agents with a bag of clothing that was collected from Russell at the hospital. The bag from the hospital contained a damaged black George shirt and one pair of white socks, both with suspected blood. These items were labeled as item 30.

The hotel, SpringHill Suites, where the initial encounter with law enforcement occurred, Russell's suspected foot path, and personal items Russell allegedly dropped were all documented through photography. After agents consulted the GPD, it was decided they would further document and would collect those items as part of their investigation. SA VanBibber cleared the scene at approximately 1945 hours.

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Disposition of Evidence

On December 20, 2024, at approximately 1245 hours, SA VanBibber placed all of the items from Scene 1 and Scene 2 in a secured drying cabinet at BCI in London, OH.

On December 26th, at approximately 1455 hours, SA VanBibber retrieved the following items which were submitted to the BCI laboratory at 1627 hours for comparison:

Scene 1- Items 1-2, 5, 7,9-15,18, 20, 22-29

Scene 2- Items 1-3

All remaining items were placed into Temporary Evidence Locker #1 to be submitted into the major crimes evidence vault at approximately 1653.

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