



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Prosecutor Summary



Involves: Jayden Cole Stephenson (S), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date of Activity: 03/13/2025

Activity Location: Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation – 1560 SR 56 SW, London, OH 43140

Author: SA Steven Seitzman

To: Mr. Mathias Heck, Jr., Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney

CC: Special Agent Supervisor William Jones, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

From: Special Agent Steven Seitzman, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation

Date: May 2, 2025

Case Title: Officer–Involved Critical Incident– [REDACTED] Miami Township, Ohio (Montgomery County)

Case Number: Special Investigations Unit (SIU): 2025–0559; BCI Laboratory: 25–15576

Investigative Request

On Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at approximately 1500 hours, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation was requested by Miami Township Assistant Chief of Police James McCarty to conduct an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer–involved critical incident. The incident occurred at [REDACTED] Miami Township, Montgomery County, Ohio, and resulted in the death of Jayden Cole Stephenson (Jayden).

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the February 19, 2025, officer–involved critical incident in Miami Township, Montgomery County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Not all facts and details are presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the

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majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent Steven Seitzman was assigned as the lead Special Investigations Unit case agent. BCI Special Agents Lauren Frazier and Kenneth Smith responded to assist. Additionally, BCI Crime Scene Unit technicians Holly Ryczek, Dylan Wical, and Special Agent Mathew Austin responded to process the scene by documenting and collecting pertinent evidence. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor William Jones. Additionally, personnel from the BCI Laboratory Division performed a scientific analysis on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

Summary of Process

- Recorded interviews of the Miami Township police officers who discharged their weapons
- Recorded interviews of Miami Township Police Officers Crystal Rankins, [REDACTED] Morgan Spencer, and [REDACTED], all of whom were identified as officers with some level of involvement in the incident or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interviews of Jayden's family members, including Christina Schindler, Terry Bennett, and Larry Bowlin
- Special agent attendance of the post-mortem examination (autopsy) of Jayden
- Obtained and reviewed post-mortem examination and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of prior law enforcement contacts with Jayden
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- Review of all available body-worn cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available Ring and cellphone camera footage provided by the Schindler family
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans/model of the scene
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident
- Review of the Miami Township Police Department's reports, photographs, and investigative materials relative to the incident, excluding any information derived from a compelled administrative statement

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- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations, including:
 - Firearm operability testing
 - Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and projectiles
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved, including training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records of the involved officers
- Collected and reviewed Axon TASER 7 logs
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the involved officers
- Obtained the Miami Township Police Department's policies and procedures regarding the use of force
- Review of EMS records pertaining to the response and treatment administered

Incident Summary/Overview

The following information is based on the statements of the involved law enforcement officers, witnessing officers, the statement of the 911 caller, video footage, evidence collected, TASER logs, and dispatch/CAD information.

On February 19, 2025, at approximately 1404 hours, Christina Schindler called 911 to report that her son, Jayden Cole Stephenson, had "pulled a knife" on family members at [REDACTED] in Miami Township, Montgomery County, Ohio. Ms. Schindler stated that she was inside the house with Jayden, her daughter, Sophia Cresong, and Jayden's grandmother, Terry Bennett. She reiterated that her son had a knife in his hand and was in the living room. She further told the dispatcher that Jayden broke a vase by throwing it across the living room. She further mentioned that as he was holding the knife, he made a threatening statement, saying, "Get my car, or else." She told the dispatcher that she believed Jayden was experiencing a mental health crisis. She stated that Jayden was not on any medications, though he was previously prescribed lithium. The dispatcher requested a description of the knife from Ms. Schindler. Ms. Schindler said, "He just flipped it out. Like, it opens and closes." She then confirmed that the knife was similar to a standard pocket knife. During the call, she said, "Now he's coming at us." The dispatcher told her to seek refuge in another room or get out of the house. Shortly after, a doorbell can be heard. Ms. Schindler said that it was her dad at the door and pleaded with Jayden to stay away from him. She then reported that Jayden was getting "really aggressive, like coming at us with the knife." As the police were arriving, Ms. Schindler stated that everyone had evacuated the house except for Jayden.

Miami Township Police [REDACTED] and Officer Crystal Rankins responded to the call. At approximately 1410 hours, [REDACTED] was the first to arrive. [REDACTED] approached the front door, which was closed. At 1411 hours, he began to converse with Jayden through the closed door. [REDACTED] joined [REDACTED] at the front door. [REDACTED] had a less-lethal shotgun, while [REDACTED] had a TASER. [REDACTED] provided lethal cover for both [REDACTED]. At approximately 1413 hours, [REDACTED] opened the front door to speak with Jayden. As the door opened, Jayden could be seen sitting on a stool in the family room with an object, presumably the knife, in his right hand. [REDACTED] asked Jayden to drop the knife several

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- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

The Miami Township Police Department had the following previous encounters with Jayden:

- On January 28, 2025, at approximately 0123 hours, Christina Schindler called the Miami Township Police regarding a domestic disturbance. She reported that Jayden was causing property damage within the residence and had used meth a few days prior. According to the notes added to the call, Ms. Schindler did not request any enforcement action and officers stood by while Jayden collected items to leave for North Carolina. A police report was not generated. The call for service log and 911 call are attached to this investigative report ([REDACTED]).
- On February 17, 2025, at approximately 1502 hours, Miami Township Police were dispatched to Everybody Fitness. The gym manager, Jeffery Haffner, reported that Jayden was engaging in disorderly conduct within the gym, including throwing weights and attempting to fight another patron. Mr. Haffner further reported that Jayden appeared to be under the influence of drugs. Jayden was permanently trespassed from the gym. No police report was generated. The call for service log and 911 call are attached to this investigative report (# [REDACTED]).
- On February 18, 2025, at approximately 0025 hours, Ms. Schindler contacted the Miami Township Police to report another domestic dispute between her and Jayden. She stated that Jayden was breaking items within the residence was exhibiting increasingly violent behavior. During the call, Ms. Schindler could be heard saying, "Oh shit. Jayden! Oh God, Terry, are you okay?" The dispatcher inquired about a mental health diagnosis. Ms. Schindler said he was at Beckett Springs Behavioral Health Hospital approximately eight or nine months ago. She expressed uncertainty about a specific diagnosis and clarified she was unsure if the issue was drug-induced. She advised the dispatcher that Jayden had departed the residence and was driving on expired tags.
 - Once police arrived, Ms. Schindler, and Jayden's grandmother, Terry Bennett, reported that the incident had escalated to a physical altercation. Specifically, Ms. Bennett stated that Jayden pushed her. Ms. Bennett further expressed her suspicions that Jayden had been experimenting with methamphetamine. Ms. Schindler and Ms. Bennett voiced concerns about Jayden's mental well-being, but neither provided the officers with a formal diagnosis. Jayden was subsequently arrested for domestic violence. He was also issued a traffic citation for expired registration, and his vehicle was impounded. The incident report, 911 call, and radio traffic are attached to this investigative report ([REDACTED]).
- Also on February 18, 2025, following Jayden's release from the Montgomery County Jail, Ms. Schindler contacted the police to report that Jayden was exhibiting delusional and paranoid behavior, specifically, she said he believed individuals were trying to kill him. The notes in the call for service indicated that Jayden did not exhibit any of the behaviors that would warrant involuntary hospitalization for a psychological

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evaluation. A police report was not generated. The call for service log and recorded call are attached to this investigative report.

Autopsy Report

On Monday, April 14, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agent Steven Seitzman received the postmortem examination and toxicology report for the body of Jayden Cole Stephenson.

The postmortem examination report was authored by Bryan D. Casto, M.D., Forensic Pathologist. The cause of death was listed as [REDACTED] The manner of death was listed as [REDACTED]

SA Seitzman reviewed the report and noted the following:

- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
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 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

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photographed from the roadway and once the warrant had been signed, the entire scene was documented through photography. A Leica BLK360 3D scanner was utilized to collect measurements of the living room and second floor.



HVR_0001 – Overall front of [REDACTED]

The residence was described as a two-story house with a basement. The basement consisted of a family room, bedroom, bathroom, and laundry room. The first floor consisted of a living room and kitchen. The second floor consisted of two bedrooms, a master bedroom, and a bathroom.

A fired (less-lethal) shotgun shell was located on the porch to the west of the front door of the residence. On the first floor in the living room, an additional fired shotgun shell was located just inside the front door. A third fired shotgun shell was located on the first step of the stairs leading from the living room to the basement. A fired less lethal beanbag projectile was located underneath the living room couch. In the area between the stairs leading to the basement and stairs leading to the second floor, a second fired less lethal beanbag projectile was located surrounded by shotgun wadding pieces. Taser wires were observed on the floor in the center of the living room. A third fired less lethal beanbag projectile was located in the kitchen/dining room area to the east of the dining room table. On the stairs to the second-floor hallway, taser wires were observed. One of the taser probes had been embedded in a

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stairwell post on the first floor. These wires extended into the master bedroom where the decedent was located.

The decedent was located in the upstairs master bedroom. There was damage to the doorframe of the master bedroom, with a piece of the frame located across the hallway in the south bedroom. Suspected blood was located on the frame piece. Stephenson was located lying face-up on the floor just inside the master bedroom. He was not wearing any clothing on his torso; however, he had a mauve long-sleeved shirt draped across his left shoulder and a black and beige striped long-sleeved shirt around his hips. He was wearing a pair of black sweatpants and was not wearing any socks or shoes. He had a diamond-like earring in his right ear and was wearing a white rubber bracelet on his left wrist. Taser prongs/wire were located across the decedent's left arm that extended out into the second-floor hallway. These were collected for documentation purposes. A projectile was located on the floor next to the right side of the decedent's torso.



HVR_0227-Overall of Jayden and taser prongs (item 11), projectile and knife (item 12)

Montgomery County Coroner Investigator Rob Hartman arrived on scene and assisted with the examination of the decedent. [REDACTED]

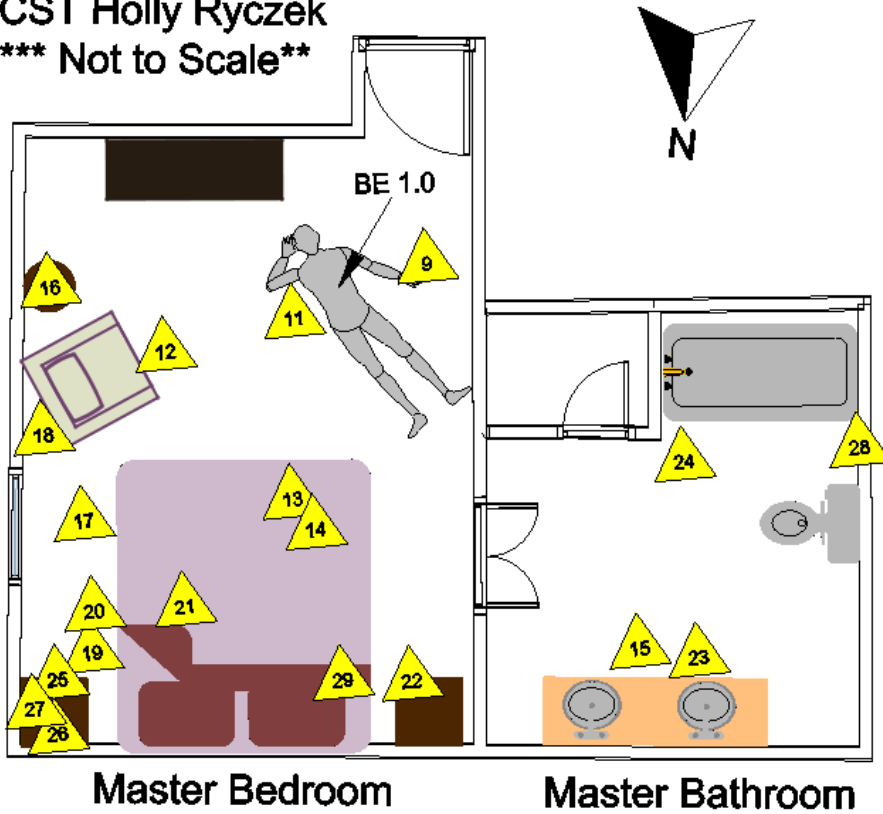
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Underneath the decedent, a black, cracked iPhone was located. Once the decedent was removed from the residence, a projectile fragment was observed on the floor.

Ohio BCI Case # 2025-0559
02/19/2025

Miami Township, Ohio 45342

CST Holly Ryczek
*** Not to Scale**



Evidence Legend	
9	Apple iPhone
11	Projectile
12	Folding knife
13	Taser probe
14	Less lethal shotgun
15	Taser probe
16	FC 9mm luger cartridge case
17	FC 9mm luger cartridge case
18	FC 9mm luger cartridge case
19	FC 9mm luger cartridge case
20	Expandable baton
21	FC 9mm luger cartridge case
22	Fired shotgun shell
23	Fired shotgun shell
24	Less lethal beanbag round
25	FC 9mm luger cartridge case
26	FC 9mm luger cartridge case
27	FC 9mm luger cartridge case
28	Less lethal beanbag round
29	Unfired shotgun shell

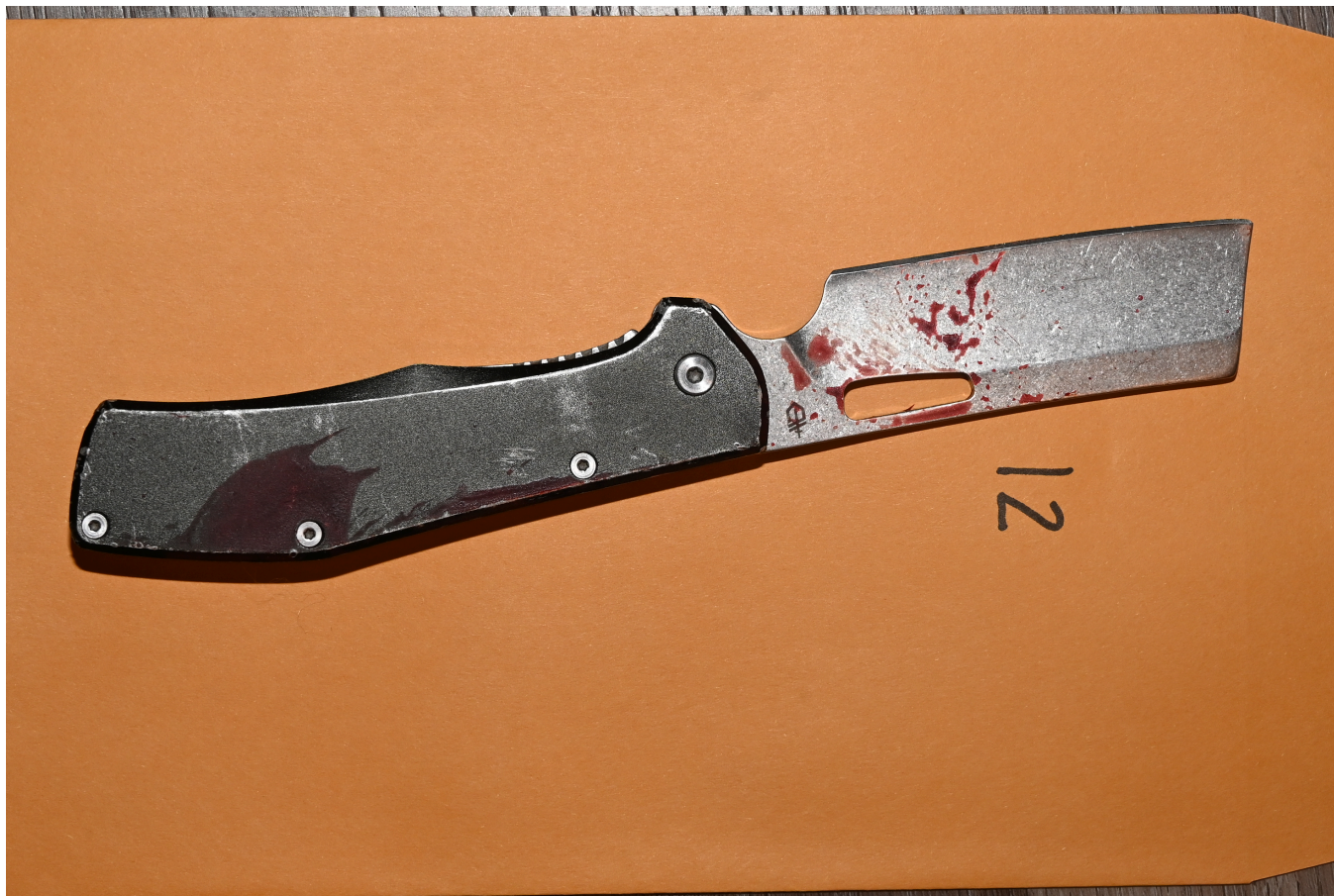
Not to scale diagram of master bedroom and master bathroom

Multiple FC 9mm Luger cartridge cases were located on the east side of the master bedroom. These included one on an end table, two on the floor in-between the east wall and the bed, one next to a floor vent, one on the bed, and three underneath a nightstand table. Next to the two cartridge cases on the floor, a black expandable baton was observed. The baton was released to SA Smith at 1919 hours to be returned to MTPD.

A Gerber brand pocketknife with a cleaver blade with suspected blood was located on the master bedroom floor in front of a chair. A TASER prong with the TASER wire attached was observed on the bed. A less lethal shotgun was located on the bed just above the taser probe. The shotgun was a Scattergun Technologies 12 gauge shotgun with a Streamlight TL-Racker shotgun forend light, and a black plastic shogun shell holder screwed into the side, that

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obscured the firearm serial number. The shotgun was empty with no rounds in the magazine tube or chamber. A fired shotgun shell was located on the floor underneath a nightstand table on the west side of the bedroom. An unfired shotgun cartridge was located on top of the bed.



HVR_0294-Close-up image of recovered knife

The master bathroom was located on the west side of the master bedroom. A fired shotgun shell was located on the bathroom floor. A TASER prong with taser wire attached was observed nearby. Two fired less lethal beanbag projectiles were located in the master bathroom, one on the floor, and one inside the westmost wall near the toilet (item #28).

A ballistic event (BE) was observed in the carpet of the master bedroom where Stephenson's body was located. This was marked as BE 1.0 for documentation purposes. The projectile appeared to continue through the master bedroom floor into the basement bedroom with visible suspected bullet damage to the basement bedroom ceiling, labeled as BE 1.1. Additional suspected bullet damage was observed on the basement bedroom north wall (BE 1.2) which continued into the adjacent laundry room (BE 1.3). In the laundry room, the projectile entered (BE 1.4) and exited (BE 1.5) a black laundry basket. The projectile then penetrated a cardboard box (BE 1.6) where it terminated. The projectile was collected.

SA Frazier and SA Seitzman searched the residence for items of evidentiary value. Unopened

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disposable syringe packages and a vial of suspected testosterone were located inside a dresser in the south second floor bedroom. In the master bedroom, a Chippa firearms SAA 1873 .22LR revolver (S/N: 17H00749) was observed along with a box of 22LR ammunition. In the master bathroom closet, two additional firearms were located. One was a Beretta 3032 Tomcat 32 Auto pistol (S/N: DAA537119), and the other was a Ruger LCP 380 Auto pistol (S/N: 371804417). Also in the closet were two boxes of 32 Auto ammunition. These items were documented through photography and not collected.

Scene 2—Processing of Involved Officers

CST Wical arrived at the Miami Township Police Department at approximately 1642 hours to process the involved officers. He began by photographing the officers and noted that they were in their department-issued uniforms. He further noted the following:

- [REDACTED]—Miami Township Police Department: [REDACTED] reportedly discharged her service weapon during the OICI. Her service weapon was a Glock 45 (S/N: [REDACTED] 9mm semi-automatic handgun with a mounted Holosun sight (S/N: MS093041) and a TLR-7X Streamlight (S/N: 188388A). CST Wical observed one cartridge in the chamber and 13 cartridges in the seated magazine. Her two spare magazines were emptied and were found to be fully loaded. When the two spare magazines were returned to [REDACTED], one cartridge was left in the gun box and was collected. The handgun, magazine, and 15 cartridges were collected as Item 1. CST Wical observed and took photographs of suspected blood on [REDACTED] left leg.
- [REDACTED]—Miami Township Police Department: [REDACTED] reportedly discharged his service weapon and deployed his taser during the OICI. His service weapon was a Glock 45 ([REDACTED] 9mm semi-automatic handgun with a mounted Holosun sight (S/N: MS093007) and a TLR-7X Streamlight (S/N: 188383A). CST Wical observed one cartridge in the chamber and 11 cartridges in the seated magazine. The handgun, magazine, and cartridges were collected as Item 2. His service taser was a Taser 7 (S/N: [REDACTED]) with a # [REDACTED] sticker on the bottom of the grip. CST Wical observed both cartridges seated in the taser, however both probes were absent.
- [REDACTED]—Miami Township Police Department: [REDACTED] reportedly discharged his less lethal shotgun during the OICI. The less lethal shotgun was reportedly left at the residence where the OICI occurred. CST Wical inspected his service weapon and two spare magazines. His service weapon was a Glock 45 (S/N: [REDACTED] 9mm semi-automatic handgun. CST Wical observed one cartridge in the chamber and 17 cartridges in the magazine. His two spare magazines were inspected and were found to be fully loaded.

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- [REDACTED]—Miami Township Police Department: [REDACTED] reportedly discharged his service taser during the OICI. His service taser was a Taser 7 (S/N [REDACTED]) with a [REDACTED] sticker on the grip. Both cartridges were observed to be absent in the chamber. CST Wical inspected his service weapon, a Glock 45 (S/N: [REDACTED]) 9mm semi-automatic handgun. CST Wical observed one cartridge in the chamber and 16 cartridges in the magazine. His two spare magazines were found to be fully loaded.

CST Wical photographed witnessing Officer Morgan Spencer (#127) and Officer Crystal Rankins (#78). Their service weapons and magazines were inspected and were found to be fully loaded. Sgt. Todd gave CST Wical Officer Rankin's jacket (with suspected blood), [REDACTED] handcuffs, and a pair of bloody gloves in separate paper bags. These items were documented with photography and were returned to MTPD. Both involved service tasers were documented with photography and were returned to MTPD.

No further action was taken with respect to the officers involved.

CST Wical cleared from the MTPD headquarters at approximately 1727 hours.

On February 20, 2025, at approximately 1245 hours, CST Ryczek collected [REDACTED] three magazines, and a chamber cartridge from Assistant Police Chief McCarty. The items were collected as item #3.

Scene 3—Montgomery County Coroner's Office

On February 20, 2025, at approximately 1151 hours, CST Ryczek responded to the Montgomery County Coroner's Office. CST Ryczek collected the items recovered from Jayden Stephenson's autopsy and processed the items at BCI Headquarters at approximately 1400 hours. Eight projectiles and a TASER prong were recovered, amongst other items.

Scene 1—Follow-up Evidence from [REDACTED]

On Thursday, February 20, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agent Steven Seitzman received a phone call from Alan Statman, who identified himself as the attorney representing Christina Schindler. Mr. Statman informed SA Seitzman that two spent casings had been discovered by a restoration company, which had been engaged to clean the scene of the incident. Mr. Statman advised that the casings were located in the upstairs bedroom where the incident occurred. On the same date, SA Seitzman contacted Charlie George, the Operations Manager for DryMaxxOhio. Mr. George confirmed that he located two spent casings in the bedroom of the residence. SA Seitzman met with Mr. George on Friday, February 21, 2025, at the involved residence. Mr. George turned over the spent casings.

Disposition of Evidence

The following items were submitted to the BCI laboratory at approximately:

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Scene #1 ([REDACTED]): Item #11 (projectile), items #16–#21 (cartridge cases), items #25–#27 (cartridge cases), and items #30 and #31 (projectiles)

Scene #2 (Miami Township Police Department): Item #1 (Glock 43 pistol [REDACTED]), Item #2 (Glock 43 pistol [REDACTED]), and item #3 (Glock 43 pistol [REDACTED])

Scene #3 (Montgomery County Coroner's Office): Item #1 (8 projectiles and 1 TASER prong)

Scene #1 follow-up ([REDACTED]): Item #32 (two additional spent cartridge casings recovered by SA Seitzman on February 21, 2025)

All remaining items, except clothes still in the drying cabinet, were placed into temporary evidence locker #1 to be submitted into the major crimes evidence vault.

BCI Firearms Laboratory Report

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agent Steven Seitzman received an Ohio BCI Laboratory report for items of evidence submitted on February 20, 2025, and additional items submitted on February 24, 2025. The report originated from the BCI Firearms Unit of the laboratory and was authored by forensic scientist Lauren Van Dyne. The items previously submitted to the lab included:

1. BCI #11/Scene 1– projectile located in master bedroom
2. BCI #16/Scene 1– cartridge casing located in master bedroom
3. BCI #17/Scene 1– cartridge casing located in master bedroom
4. BCI #18/Scene 1– cartridge casing located in master bedroom
5. BCI #19/Scene 1–cartridge casing located in master bedroom
6. BCI #21/Scene 1 cartridge casing located in master bedroom
7. BCI #25/Scene 1– cartridge casing located in master bedroom
8. BCI #26/Scene 1–cartridge casing located in master bedroom
9. BCI #27/Scene 1– cartridge casing located in master bedroom
10. BCI #30/Scene 1– projectile located in master bedroom
11. BCI #31/Scene 1– projectile located in basement
12. BCI #1/Scene 2– [REDACTED] duty pistol
13. BCI #2/Scene 2– [REDACTED] duty pistol
14. BCI #3/Scene 2– [REDACTED] duty pistol
15. BCI #1/Scene 3– 8 projectiles recovered during the autopsy of Jayden Stephenson
16. BCI #32/Scene 1– two cartridge casings located in master bedroom (submitted to lab on February 24, 2025)

SA Seitzman reviewed the lab report and noted the following:

- [REDACTED] duty pistol (item 12) was found to be OPERABLE. It was identified as the source of items 1 (1EB1), 11, and two of the projectiles submitted in item 15 (a total of four fired, jacketed bullets). [REDACTED] duty pistol was also identified as the source of items 2, 4, and 16 (four fired 9mm Luger cartridge cases).
- [REDACTED] duty pistol (item 13) was found to be OPERABLE. It was identified as the source of six of the projectiles submitted in item 15 (six fired jacketed bullets

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recovered from the autopsy of Jayden Stephenson). [REDACTED] duty pistol was also identified as the source of items 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 (six fired 9mm Luger cartridge cases).

- [REDACTED] duty pistol (item 14) was found to be OPERABLE. It was not found as the source of any of the submitted projectiles or cartridge cases.
- Item 1 (1EB2- bullet fragment) and 10 (two lead fragments) were found to be unsuitable for testing.

Witnesses

Christina Schindler

SA Seitzman interviewed Christina Schindler on February 19, 2025, at approximately 1600 hours. Ms. Schindler advised that she has resided at [REDACTED] for approximately four years. She said she lived there with her husband, Brett Schindler, and her son, Jayden Cole Stephenson, and her daughter, Sophia Cresong.

SA Seitzman asked Ms. Schindler about the events leading up to the OICI. She stated that her son, Jayden, had been in a "psychosis" and saying things that do not make sense. She explained that he said he had been seeing demons. She further stated that he claimed to be Jesus and only had a month left to live.

Ms. Schindler stated that Jayden's mental health issues manifested approximately one year ago after he spent a year living with his father, Chad Stephenson, in North Carolina. She said Chad provided Jayden with acid, mushrooms, and Adderall. She recalled that within three days of Jayden returning to her from North Carolina, he was noticeably experiencing mental health issues. Specifically, he saw nonexistent people looking at him. She said he voluntarily sought treatment at that time and went to Beckett Springs in West Chester. The staff at Beckett Springs was uncertain whether he was experiencing schizophrenia or a drug-induced psychosis. She stated that he was prescribed lithium; however, he did not take it long enough to have an effect. She said that he smoked marijuana.

SA Seitzman asked Ms. Schindler what prompted her to contact the police. She stated that Jayden "pulled a knife." She clarified that she and Terry Bennett, Jayden's grandmother, were present when he brandished the knife. She said he was upset because he wanted his car out of the impound lot. She further stated that he picked up a large vase and threw it.

Ms. Schindler described the knife as a pocket knife. She demonstrated how Jayden held the knife in his right hand and extended his arm out toward her. He then told her, "You're going to take me to get my car" while pointing the knife. She said he threatened to break everything in her house.

Ms. Schindler stated that Jayden sat on a barstool in the living room, still holding the knife. She recalled that the police arrived quickly. She said the police had their guns out when they arrived. She remembered there being approximately five police officers who arrived at that point. She said she could not see what was happening. She later clarified that she was outside the house after the police arrived. She said one of the officers told her they were going to utilize a bean bag gun. She said they did not shoot him with a bean bag gun. She said, "They

killed him." She estimated hearing five gunshots. She said, "They fired a few shots, and then they waited and fired again." She remembered an ambulance eventually responding, but she thought it took a long time.

Ms. Schindler stated that Jayden's behavior had been getting progressively worse in the days leading up to the OICI. She said that she first called the police about Jayden approximately a week and a half prior to the date of the OICI. She stated that he was verbally abusive and got in her face. She said this happened when he wanted to go back to North Carolina, and she told him if he went he would not be welcome back. She said he then began tearing up the house. She said he drove to North Carolina, then turned around and came back.

Ms. Schindler informed SA Seitzman that she had also contacted the Miami Township Police two days prior on February 17, 2025. She said she wanted Jayden admitted to the hospital because he was "not firing right." She said the police sergeant who responded determined that he would be arrested for domestic violence, based on threats he made. She said the sergeant reviewed video footage she had taken of her son's behavior, and in one of the videos he referenced "merking" her. She said Jayden was released the next morning, Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Ms. Schindler stated that she contacted the Miami Township Police Department again on February 18, 2025, based on his behavior. She said when he spoke, he did not make any sense. She also said he claimed to "know what she was thinking." She said he would point at her and say, "Look at her face. I don't even know what's wrong with her face."

SA Seitzman asked Ms. Schindler if Jayden had been in any other trouble with law enforcement. She stated that three or four nights ago, he tried to fight people in a gym while holding 45-pound weights.

Terry Bennett

On February 19, 2025, at approximately 1624 hours, SA Seitzman interviewed Terry Bennett, who was identified as Jayden's paternal grandmother.

Ms. Bennett described the moments leading up to the arrival of the Miami Township police officers on February 19. She stated that Jayden woke up at approximately 1145 hours. She said Jayden had just taken a shower and got dressed. She remembered him getting agitated about his car being impounded. She described him as being "fixated" on getting his car. She further described him as being "very aggressive" toward his mother, Christina Schindler. She said his stepfather, Brett Schindler, left the residence due to his behavior. She recalled that approximately 45 minutes after Brett left, she was able to get Jayden to eat. She said she told him he was not going to get his car unless he went to the hospital. She remembered him saying, "So you really won't?" At that point, he pulled the knife out of his pocket. SA Seitzman asked her if Jayden pointed the knife at her or Ms. Schindler. She answered by saying, "No, he didn't point...he didn't even really point the knife at us." SA Seitzman asked her to show him what Jayden did with the knife. She demonstrated that Jayden held the knife up at shoulder level. She said he paced around the house with the knife in his hand. She recalled that at some point during the incident, she asked Jayden what he was thinking. He answered by saying something to the effect of, "I don't even know anymore." He then asked her if she heard voices

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in her head. After she answered, she asked him if he heard voices in his head, which he answered by saying, "absolutely not." She opined that he had the knife because he wanted her to know that he had it and that he did not want to go back to jail. She recounted him saying, "I'm telling you, if they [the police] come, it's going to be a problem." She said she was almost able to convince Jayden to give her the knife; however, he saw the arrival of the first officer and "lost it."

Ms. Bennett stated that she spoke with the first officer who arrived and told him not to use deadly force. She said the officer told her to wait by the street. She said she saw the second officer arrive with a shotgun and also told him not to use deadly force. The officer told her it was a beanbag shotgun. She said other officers arrived, and she reiterated not to use deadly force. She then recalled that the officers began yelling at Jayden once they opened the door. She remembered hearing, "Give us the knife!" Show us your hands!" She then went on to say that she heard, "Tap, Tap, [pause] Tap, Tap." She said she heard four shots. She said the shots were fired within five minutes of the officers opening the door. She felt that the officers did not attempt to negotiate with Jayden. She said an officer told her it was less-lethal; however, she was incredulous and said, "Bullshit, I know what a double-tap is. That was lethal."

SA Seitzman asked Ms. Bennett if she ever tried to get Jayden to the hospital without law enforcement intervention. She said, "We tried. That's why we got law enforcement involved, thinking they would be able to either pink slip him or maybe transport him."

SA Seitzman asked Ms. Bennett if Jayden used any drugs. She answered that he used marijuana and Adderall. She said she thought he was purchasing Adderall from a friend in Preble County or "off the street." She said he told her a couple of weeks ago that he was going to discontinue the use of marijuana.

Larry Bowlin

On February 19, 2025, at approximately 1711 hours, SA Seitzman and SA Kenneth Smith interviewed Larry Bowlin, who was identified as Jayden's maternal grandfather.

Mr. Bowlin stated that he came to the residence to give his daughter, Christina Schindler, a gift. He said he got to the house shortly before the police arrived. As he was at the front door, he could tell that Jayden was agitated and "wasn't himself." He recalled Ms. Schindler saying, "Can you wait, dad?" At that point, he walked down the driveway toward his vehicle. He said he waited on the driveway and estimated that the officers arrived no more than five minutes later.

Mr. Bowlin recounted seeing at least four police officers. He saw three male officers and one female officers. He also remembered seeing one of the officers with a "long gun." He said the officers initially waited at the front door. He said he could hear the officers trying "to get him [Jayden] to calm down." He said the officers went in the house and sent everybody out. He said the officers closed the door, so he could not see any of the events that occurred inside the house. He said within ten minutes, he heard what sounded like two shots on the lower level of the house. He said there was a pause of approximately five to ten minutes, at which point he heard two additional shots. He said the last two shots sounded as if they occurred on the second story of the house.

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Involved–Officer Interviews

██████████

On Friday, February 28, 2025, at approximately 0955 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Richard Ward interviewed Miami Township Police ██████████ who was accompanied by his attorney Steve Lazarus and union representative Officer Kurtis Green. The interview took place in a conference room inside the Miami Township Police Department. The interview was audio recorded.

Regarding the incident at issue, ██████████ advised the following:

During his shift, he responded to a dispatch involving a "subject threatening his family with a knife" on ██████████. As he arrived on the scene, he observed several female subjects running out the front door. He stated the female subjects were screaming and stated that the involved subject, Jayden Stephenson, still had the knife and had mental health issues.

██████████ stated that he stood at the front door, which was closed. He then deployed his TASER and peeked through the glass. He stated that he could see Jayden standing in the middle of the living room with a knife in his right hand. At this point, he believed Jayden was there by himself. He recalled indicating on the police radio that he had been told that everybody was out of the house.

██████████ kept watching through the front door and yelling several times for Jayden to drop the knife. He said Jayden was pacing back and forth in the living room. At this point, ██████████ arrived. ██████████ brought a less lethal shotgun. ██████████ stated that he stood on the right side of the door, while ██████████ stood on the left side. He observed Jayden sitting on a barstool in the family room with the knife still in his right hand. He again told Jayden to drop the knife.

██████████ stated that he began conversing with Jayden. He learned that Jayden was upset that his car had been impounded. At the same time he was speaking with Jayden, he broadcast on the police radio to have a medic stage in the area. He said he placed his TASER laser on Jayden; however, he reported that there were obstructions that would have prevented him from effectively deploying the TASER. He said Jayden responded with short answers and was obviously agitated about his car.

As ██████████ continued his dialogue with Jayden, he recalled that Jayden "started to come off the chair and moved toward us [police officers]." At that point, ██████████ fired a beanbag round. He recalled that Jayden spun around but kept the knife in his hand. He then tried to deploy his TASER. He stated that he believed one probe hit Jayden, but the second cord wrapped around his feet. He stated that Jayden ran up the steps, at which point he attempted to use the TASER again. He was uncertain if he hit Jayden; however, he stated that it had no effect whatsoever. From there, he stated that Jayden went into a bedroom on the left and shut the door.

██████████ stated that he deactivated his TASER and re–holstered it so he could draw his duty pistol. He stated that ██████████ and he stacked up

on the door. ██████████ drew his TASER for a less lethal option. He kicked the door open to prevent him from having to expose his arm in the room. Once the door swung open, he could see Jayden's foot sticking out of a side room (bathroom) and straight up in the air. At this point, he believed that Jayden had some type of injury, possibly self-inflicted. He approached Jayden with ██████████ to his right and ██████████ to his left. He could see Jayden lying on his side with the knife in his right hand. He recalled ██████████ deploying his TASER and ██████████ deploying a less lethal beanbag round. He said Jayden then "jumped right back up" and was "fighting through it [the TASER]." He said that Jayden was "bringing his arm up in a slashing motion, and he was coming; he was advancing on us. At that point in time, I felt that he was going to stab one of us or kill one of us. I felt the need to discharge my weapon. As I'm discharging my weapon, I start moving backwards, and he is now entering the bedroom with us, and I remember hearing a few shots and seeing one of ██████████ shots go through his neck. And, as soon as that happened, he dropped to the floor. He had a very weird smile on his face when he was doing this."

SA Seitzman asked ██████████ about the moment Jayden got up from the bathroom floor. He reiterated that Jayden stood up very quickly and aggressively. He said Jayden "loaded his arm" and was exhibiting a "slicing motion." He felt that Jayden was going to swipe at the officers with the blade. He further stated that Jayden was specifically staring while this was occurring. He estimated that Jayden got within two or three feet of him with the knife.

██████████ stated that he was not on his sights for his first shots. He stated that he did not want his arms outstretched as Jayden was approaching him with the knife. He stated that he then created distance between him and Jayden. He was positive that he was the first officer to discharge. He stated that he recalled firing three or four rounds, but Jayden kept coming toward him. He did not see any wounds on Jayden at that time, and he thought he may have missed. He then recalled firing three additional rounds. He stated that he knew ██████████ also fired. He clarified that he could not actually see her, but he knew ██████████ had retreated. He said she fired more than once; however, he was uncertain how many times she fired.

██████████ recalled Jayden falling to the ground. He said someone broadcast that shots had been fired. He then secured Jayden in handcuffs. As he was handcuffing Jayden, he noticed that Jayden's right arm had been shattered. He stated that someone had kicked the knife away from Jayden. He stated that officers began assessing Jayden for wounds. He noted that Jayden had agonal breathing and further observed that his "carotid was blown out completely on both sides, and it was just pumping out..." He then recalled ██████████ and Officer Rankins starting CPR. At that time, he said he went into the bathroom to check for additional persons and/or weapons. He said that it was his belief that officers did everything to save Jayden's life.

SA Seitzman asked ██████████ what his intentions were prior to the use of force, i.e., a "pink slip" Jayden or effectuate an arrest for a criminal offense. He stated that his first action was to separate Jayden from the knife. He stated that he would then determine if a crime had occurred, and if so, Jayden would have been charged. He stated if it was determined that Jayden was only going to self-harm, then a "pink slip" would be warranted. SA Seitzman asked him if he thought a criminal offense had occurred based on the information he had at that point. He stated, "Oh yes. At least a domestic violence." SA Seitzman asked him if he believed

an additional offense occurred when Jayden stood up from the bar stool. He again answered in the affirmative. SA Seitzman asked him what his intention was once Jayden ran upstairs. He stated that he went after him because he did not know if he was going to commit suicide or going to obtain a rifle to shoot from the window or escape. He continued by saying, "He was still very much a threat as far as I was concerned with the knife because he wasn't following commands, and he was...he was obviously very agitated, and if he's hostile towards his family...he's hostile towards...the police; he would be hostile towards strangers."

SA Ward asked [REDACTED] about the Miami Township Police Department's Use of Force policy. [REDACTED] agreed that Miami Township police officers are authorized to use deadly force when faced with a threat of serious bodily harm and/or death. SA Ward asked [REDACTED] if all less-lethal options had been exhausted prior to the use of deadly force. [REDACTED] answered in the affirmative.

SA Seitzman asked [REDACTED] why he fired his weapon. He said he believed Jayden was going to stab him or [REDACTED]. He stated that had he and [REDACTED] backed out of the room, [REDACTED] would have been trapped alone, as he had gone in the opposite direction.

SA Seitzman asked [REDACTED] to describe Jayden's knife. He stated it was five to six inches in length. He said it had a "squared-off nose with a razor-sharp..." He said it was like a "modernized version of a barber's razor" with a folding capability.

SA Seitzman asked [REDACTED] if he had any prior contact with Jayden. He stated that on Monday, February 17, 2025, he talked to Jayden regarding a trespassing complaint at Everybody Fitness on Kingsridge Drive. He said the manager of the gym wanted Jayden trespassing for throwing weights around and menacing other patrons. [REDACTED] stated that he spoke with Jayden and described him as agitated but cooperative. He stated that he explained to Jayden that he was permanently trespassing from the gym and escorted him off the property. He stated that Jayden thanked him toward the end of the encounter.

[REDACTED]

On Friday, February 28, 2025, at approximately 1042 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Richard Ward interviewed Miami Township Police [REDACTED] who was accompanied by her attorney, Steve Lazarus and union representative, Officer Kurtis Green. The interview took place in a conference room inside the Miami Township Police Department.

Regarding the incident at issue, [REDACTED] advised the following:

[REDACTED] responded to back-up [REDACTED] on a call of a domestic violence on [REDACTED]. She said the call involved a male subject threatening his family with a knife. She stated that she did not know the involved male subject, Jayden, and was unaware of any history involving him.

Upon [REDACTED] arrival, she ran up to the front door of the residence and joined [REDACTED]. She recalled seeing female family members outside the residence. Shortly after

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her arrival, [REDACTED] arrived and came up to the door with a less-lethal shotgun. [REDACTED] looked through the door glass and relayed that he could see the involved subject, later identified as Jayden C. Stephenson, in the living room either standing or sitting with a knife in his hand. She stated that she provided lethal cover while [REDACTED] had less-lethal options.

[REDACTED] advised that they opened the door. She was positioned behind [REDACTED] while [REDACTED] stood to [REDACTED] left. She recalled having an obstructed view inside the residence. She could see Jayden sitting in the living room near the kitchen. She was able to see that Jayden had the knife in his hand. At that point, she remembered [REDACTED] trying to de-escalate the situation by asking what was wrong and what the officers could do to calm him. She stated that she also tried to talk to Jayden and told him that the officers were not there to hurt him, but they were there to help him. She stated that Jayden expressed that he was upset about his car being impounded, and he wanted the officers to get his car. She said that [REDACTED] gave repeated commands for Jayden to drop the knife; however, Jayden responded by saying "no." She stated that as time went on, Jayden got more "ramped up" and responded by saying, "Fuck you!" She recalled [REDACTED] asking Jayden if he wanted to hurt himself or family members. She said Jayden answered by saying he did not want to hurt himself, but Jayden followed up by saying, "But one of you guys is gonna find out." She said she took that comment as a threat that Jayden wanted to hurt the officers.

[REDACTED] recalled the situation getting worse. She stated that the officers were approximately 20 to 25 feet away from Jayden at this point. She said Jayden eventually stood up and began walking, at which point [REDACTED] discharged a less-lethal round from his shotgun. She said [REDACTED] also discharged his TASER. She advised that neither less-lethal weapon had an effect on Jayden, as he was able to run up the stairs. She and the other officers gave chase as Jayden ran into the master bedroom and closed the door.

[REDACTED] stated that the officers regrouped outside the closed door. She recalled maintaining lethal cover. She stated that [REDACTED] switched from the TASER to lethal cover, and [REDACTED] drew his TASER to provide a less-lethal option. She stated that [REDACTED] also maintained less-lethal coverage with the beanbag shotgun. She stated that [REDACTED] kicked the door open and ordered Jayden to drop the knife and exit the room. She stated that [REDACTED] verbalized that he could see Jayden on the ground. As she entered the room with the other officers, she could see Jayden's foot sticking out of a bathroom off to the left of the room. She stated that [REDACTED] approached the bathroom. She said her view was obstructed, but she heard [REDACTED] instruct [REDACTED] to discharge his TASER. She said [REDACTED] did as instructed, and immediately after, she heard [REDACTED] discharge the less-lethal shotgun.

[REDACTED] next remembered Jayden getting off the ground with the knife still in his hand. She said he came toward the officers, at which point [REDACTED] began firing. He remembered [REDACTED] retreating backwards as Jayden was "sprinting" toward them with the knife. She stated that she also fired her weapon, aiming it at Jayden's "center mass." She estimated that Jayden got within two feet or less of [REDACTED] with the knife. She said she fired because she feared she was going to get stabbed. She stated that after Jayden was shot, the knife fell next to his body. She instructed one of the other officers to kick the knife away

to prevent Jayden from having access to it. She said [REDACTED] then handcuffed Jayden and assessed for wounds. She described Jayden's right arm as "mangled" and opined that [REDACTED] rounds had caused that injury. She said she could see rounds near his "right lung side" of the chest. She said officers grabbed towels and applied pressure to Jayden's wounds. She said she could hear agonal breathing, and she requested officers remove the handcuffs to administer CPR. She advised that Officer Rankins began chest compressions, and at that time, [REDACTED] discovered gunshot wounds on the left side of Jayden's neck. She opined that the neck wound was caused by her gunshot based on her position at the time. She stated that she applied pressure to the neck wound while Officer Rankins continued with chest compressions. She said [REDACTED] and she also performed CPR after Officer Rankins had become exhausted. She stated that medics arrived and decided that further life-saving efforts would be futile.

SA Seitzman asked [REDACTED] if anyone had informed her that Jayden was alone inside the house when she first arrived. She stated that [REDACTED] told her that. She stated that she asked the family if Jayden had mental illness diagnoses. She believed the "grandma" (Terry Bennett) told her that she did not know. She took Ms. Bennett's answer to mean Jayden had not been diagnosed with any mental health issues.

SA Ward asked [REDACTED] to describe Jayden's knife. She said it was a "folding rectangular blade" and said it was approximately six inches long and two and a half inches wide. When asked if she believed the knife was an instrument capable of causing serious bodily injury or death, she answered in the affirmative.

SA Seitzman asked [REDACTED] if she believed officers did everything within their power to save Jayden's life. She answered in the affirmative.

Witnessing Officer Interviews

Officer Morgan Spencer (trainee)

On February 19, 2025, at approximately 1742 hours, SA Frazier interviewed Officer Spencer, who was in field training during the OICI. Officer Spencer and his [REDACTED] [REDACTED] responded to the domestic violence call. He recalled radio traffic indicating that the subject threw a vase at family members. He also recalled hearing [REDACTED] [REDACTED] announcing over the radio that he had a less-lethal shotgun.

Once Officer Spencer and [REDACTED] arrived on the scene, [REDACTED] instructed Officer Spencer to stay with the family and get them to a safe area away from the immediate scene. Officer Spencer said that there were several family members on the scene, to include the subject's mother, stepfather, sister, maternal grandfather, and paternal grandmother. Officer Spencer moved the family from the front door and took them outside near the garage.

Officer Spencer said that there were four or five officers now on the scene, including [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and Officer Rankins. He said that Officer Rankins asked for the subject's name and tried to de-escalate the situation. Officer Spencer recalled hearing several commands being given by officers, including "drop it" and "stop." He then recalled hearing multiple rounds fired, which, based on his experience, he believed were less-lethal beanbag

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rounds. Shortly after, Officer Spencer said that he held back family members who were yelling and trying to get inside the house. Officer Spencer heard more commands being given before he heard multiple gunshots. He then heard via radio that the subject was in custody/secure.

Officer Spencer said that family members told him that the police were out there two nights before and Jayden went to jail for domestic violence. He was released the following day, and it was unknown if a protection order was put in place. The family told Officer Spencer that Jayden had mental health issues, and they wanted to get him treatment. Officer Spencer said that he was not involved in any past interactions with the involved subject. Officer Spencer said that he did not see the subject at any point but was aware that the initial interaction between the subject and officers occurred in the living room area.

██████████

On February 19, 2025, at approximately 1810 hours, SA Frazier and SA Seitzman interviewed ██████████.

██████████ said that he was dispatched to a disturbance, which he described as a male with a knife who was threatening his family at ██████████. He said that the subject threw a vase at family members and he was threatening them. All information was relayed via radio and on their mobile in-car computer terminal.

██████████ advised Officer Spencer to stay with the family. ██████████ then went to the front door to join the other officers. He said that ██████████ was equipped with a less-lethal beanbag shotgun, ██████████ was armed with his taser, and ██████████ and he were behind them with lethal cover. Officer Rankins was behind him, and he was uncertain what she carried.

██████████ was speaking with Jayden, who was in the living room, trying to get him to drop the knife. ██████████ stated this went on for a couple of minutes. Jayden eventually stood up and was coming towards officers when ██████████ fired the less-lethal shotgun towards Jayden an estimated two or three times. ██████████ discharged his TASER before Jayden retreated backwards, went upstairs, and locked himself in a bedroom.

All officers entered the house. ██████████ switched to a TASER since ██████████ had already fired his. ██████████ transitioned to his duty pistol. ██████████ maintained less lethal cover, and ██████████ and Officer Rankins had lethal cover. The subject was locked inside the bedroom, so they made the decision to force entry into the bedroom by kicking down the door.

██████████ said that ██████████ said he could see Jayden's feet in the bathroom and said it looked like he was seated. ██████████ came around the corner where he could see Jayden, and he described that he saw Jayden seated with his back against the door, his feet out in front of him, and the knife still in his hands. ██████████ said that commands were being given for the subject to "drop the knife" several times. Jayden refused, and ██████████ discharged his taser, striking the subject on the right side. He said that the taser briefly took effect before the subject stood up.

██████████ discharged an additional less-lethal beanbag round towards the subject. Jayden began coming towards officers, and they gave verbal commands to "drop the knife" and "stop." ██████████ stated that ██████████ discharged their firearms, using lethal force to protect themselves and other officers. ██████████ said if the officers didn't shoot, he believes that the subject was going to stab him or another officer.

██████████ stated that the subject was initially about six feet away from officers. When the subject began coming towards officers, he was only three or four feet away when shots were fired. ██████████ stated that he heard multiple shots but did not see the officers fire their weapons. He does not believe that any other officers fired their weapon.

██████████ said that the subject fell to the ground, and they secured him in handcuffs. ██████████ said that Jayden became unconscious, so officers took the handcuffs off and began assessing his wounds. ██████████ began applying pressure on the wounds, and Officer Rankins started cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). ██████████ also assisted with CPR. ██████████ said he verbalized via radio that shots had been fired and requested a medic. The Miami Valley Fire District responded to take over care. It is unknown what type of medical intervention was performed by medics.

Officer Crystal Rankin

On February 19, 2025, at approximately 1845 hours, SA Frazier and SA Seitzman interviewed Officer Crystal Rankin at the Miami Township Police Department. Officer Rankins responded to a family trouble call involving a subject threatening family members with a knife.

Once Officer Rankins arrived on the scene, she said that she observed Miami Township ██████████ at the front door of the residence. ██████████ was equipped with a less-lethal beanbag shotgun. She said that she believed ██████████ had lethal cover but was not sure. She said that ██████████ had lethal cover behind the other officers.

Officer Rankins said that officers were trying to de-escalate the situation with Jayden for several minutes. She recalled Jayden talking about a car. Officers were trying to resolve the situation by telling him they would get him the car if he put down the knife. She said that she saw Jayden with the knife in his hand while he was in the living room area. She clarified that she did not have a complete visual of him.

Jayden refused to comply with officers. Officer Rankins said that officers made a plan at the door to use less-lethal options if Jayden stood up. Shortly after, Jayden stood up, and ██████████ deployed two less-lethal beanbag rounds. She does not believe the beanbag rounds were effective because Jayden got up and ran up the steps.

Officer Rankins said that Jayden ran upstairs into a bedroom and shut the door. Officers followed Jayden into the hallway. She said that their goal was to get to the door safely and apprehend Jayden. Officers called for ██████████ to bring up a TASER. ██████████ advised he was going to kick the door in. Once inside the bedroom, she heard multiple officers giving commands to "drop the knife."

Officer Rankins said she attempted to get a visual of Jayden, at which point she said she saw him entering the bathroom. She was uncertain how the bathroom door was opened. Additional commands were given to "put down the knife." She heard [REDACTED] tell [REDACTED] to deploy his TASER. [REDACTED] deployed the TASER, and she believed it had taken effect. She thought that Jayden was going to comply. She put her handgun away and began switching to handcuffs. She stated that Jayden jumped up with the knife in his hand and started running towards officers. At that point, shots were fired.

Officer Rankins said that all the officers were in the bedroom at this time. She said that it was a small space, so Jayden was only a few feet away when shots were fired. She could not recall how many officers fired their weapons nor how many shots were fired. She confirmed that she did not fire her duty weapon. She said that [REDACTED] was in front of her as she was holstering her firearm and transitioning to handcuffs. She stated that officers were backing up in her direction, and as such, she did not have a clear shot. She said that if officers had not fired, Jayden would likely have stabbed [REDACTED]. She said that Jayden knew [REDACTED] was the one who had tased him. She said that the subject was not happy, and he was focused on coming toward [REDACTED].

Officers began rendering aid to the subject. She said that they grabbed sheets off of the bed to try and control the bleeding. Officers also kept checking his pulse. She asked for medics to respond via radio and began CPR. She said that she, [REDACTED] took turns performing CPR. She said that Jayden was bleeding from his neck, so at the same time they were performing CPR, they were also trying to get the bleeding under control. The Miami Valley Fire Department responded to take over medical intervention.

Dispatch-Related Information

During the investigation, dispatch records, audio recordings, mobile data terminal (MDT) communications, and any other dispatch/communications-related information with respect to the time period under investigation were requested. SA Seitzman received and reviewed the responsive records. SA Seitzman noted the following:

911 Call:

The 911 call audio file, approximately 9 minutes and 23 seconds in duration, revealed the tense and distressing situation occurring inside the residence. As the phone was dialing, the caller, identified as Christina Schindler, can be heard yelling something to the effect of, "Oh my gosh, Jayden." Ms. Schindler told the dispatcher that her son had just "pulled a knife." She then provided the address of [REDACTED]. She reiterated that her son had a knife in his hand. She provided the dispatcher with her son's name, Jayden Stephenson. She further told the dispatcher that Jayden broke a vase by throwing it across the room. She said he was in the living room holding the knife. She further mentioned that as he was holding the knife, he made a threatening statement, saying, "Get my car, or else." Ms. Schindler told the dispatcher that she believed Jayden was experiencing a mental health crisis. She stated that Jayden was not on any medications, though he was previously prescribed lithium.

The dispatcher requested a description of the knife from Ms. Schindler. Ms. Schindler said, "He just flipped it out. Like, it opens and closes." She then confirmed that the knife was similar

to a standard pocket knife.

Ms. Schindler told the dispatcher that she, Jayden's grandmother (Terry Bennett), and Jayden's sister (Sophia Cresong) were inside the house. During the call, she said, "Now he's coming at us." The dispatcher told her to seek refuge in another room or get out of the house. Shortly after, a doorbell can be heard. Ms. Schindler said that it was her dad at the door and pleaded with Jayden to stay away from him. She then reported that Jayden was getting "really aggressive, like coming at us with the knife." The dispatcher instructed Ms. Schindler to evacuate the house, which she eventually did along with Ms. Bennett and Ms. Cresong. She confirmed that Jayden remained inside the house by himself. She further stated that no one had been hurt.

Computer-Aided Dispatch Records:

- According to the Call Detail Report, the incident was reported on February 19, 2025, at 1404 hours. It was labeled as a *Family Problem*.
- [REDACTED] M. Spencer) and [REDACTED] were both dispatched at 1406 hours.
- [REDACTED] responded at 1406 hours.
- [REDACTED] responded at 1409 hours.
- MT78 (Officer Rankins) responded at 1411 hours.
- Multiple officers arrived between 1410 and 1414 hours.
- The following initial information was listed on the Call Detail Record:

COMMENTS

14:04:46 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
WPH2 data. Phone: [REDACTED] UNC: 0, Lat: [REDACTED] Long: [REDACTED]
14:05:32 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
21YO SON JADEN STEVENSON IS THREATENING THEM WITH A KNIFE
14:06:03 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
IN LIVING ROOM, AS SOON AS YOU COME IN
14:06:18 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
LOOKS LIKE A POCKET KNIFE
14:06:37 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
POSS MENTAL ILLNESS, NOT ON MEDS. USED TO BE ON LITHIUM
14:06:48 02/19/2025 - Oswalt VA
JAYDEN - [REDACTED]
14:06:59 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
GRANDMA, SISTER, AND AUNT O/S AS WELL
14:07:11 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
JUST THREW A VASE ACROSS THE ROOM
14:07:38 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
STILL SITTING IN LIVING ROOM WITH THE KNIFE
14:08:50 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
EDITED THEYRE ALL TALKING TO HIM TRYING TO CALM HIM DOWN BUT HE WONT PUT THE
KNIFE DOWN
14:09:34 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
COMPS FATHER JUST ARRIVED.
14:09:51 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
HE IS COMING AT THEM WITH THE KNIFE.
14:09:56 02/19/2025 - Felts AC
TRYING TO GET THEM TO GO OUTSIDE
14:12:01 02/19/2025 - Morse VK

- Shots fired" was entered at 1419 hours

Police Radio Traffic Recording:

The radio traffic began with a tone. The dispatcher then said, [REDACTED]. Again, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. We have a family problem. The son has a knife and is threatening them with it.

The dispatcher provided the name Jayden Stephenson and told the officers that he was in the living room near the front door with a knife. In subsequent transmissions, the dispatcher told the responding officers that Jayden had thrown a vase and was coming at the family with the knife.

An officer on the scene requested medics respond to the area. In a subsequent transmission, an officer indicated that less-lethal had been deployed. Shortly after, an officer broadcast that shots had been fired. The dispatcher acknowledged and said, "99," which is a county-wide officer needs assistance broadcast.

Dispatch to EMS Radio Traffic Recording:

The recording commenced with a dispatcher requesting a medic stage in the vicinity of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] for a "mental health issue." The EMS dispatcher confirmed the transmission by saying "1415," presumably a reference to the time (1415 hours).

Subsequently, the dispatcher announced that shots had been fired. The EMS dispatcher advised that he was advising medics of the additional information. He followed the transmission by saying, "1420," again, presumably referring to the time (1420 hours).

The Miami Township dispatcher requested additional response from the Miamisburg Police Department to assist with securing the scene. All other police agencies were disregarded from the county-wide officer needs assistance. The Montgomery County dispatcher advised that Washington Township (Montgomery County Sheriff's Office) deputies were responding to secure the scene.

Video Recordings

On Saturday, February 22, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agent Steven Seitzman received video footage from Miami Township Assistant Police Chief James McCarty. The videos contained body-worn camera footage of [REDACTED], Officer Crystal Rankins, [REDACTED]

There was also cruiser camera footage for [REDACTED]. It should be noted that Assistant Chief McCarty advised SA Seitzman that the police department suffered a catastrophic failure of their server, making video retrieval a difficult task. As such, the videos were restored from a historical backup. The videos contained prior calls for service that were unrelated to the OICI incident. Furthermore, Assistant Chief McCarty advised that Officer Morgan Spencer's body-worn camera footage was unrecoverable. Moreover, to date, most of the cruiser camera footage has not been recovered.

SA Seitzman utilized Amped Replay to review the videos. The following videos were reviewed:

File Name	Playback FPS	Length (frames)	Duration (time)
[REDACTED]_202502191800_BWC2091957-0	29.9700	131070	01:12:53.335
[REDACTED]_202502191800_BWC2108293-0	29.9700	122460	01:08:06.048
CrystalRankins_202502191808_BWC2119375-0	29.9700	106320	00:59:07.510
[REDACTED]_202502191908_BWC2091942-0	29.9700	120300	01:06:53.976
[REDACTED]_202502191800_BWC2087753-0	29.9700	101040	00:56:11.334

The following is a brief summary of each video. It is recommended that each video be reviewed in its entirety for additional facts and information.

[REDACTED] **BWC**

[REDACTED] began his response at approximately 1405 hours, according to the timestamp in the video (approximately frame 19692). While en route, [REDACTED] advised on the police

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radio that he had dealt with the involved subject, later identified as Jayden Cole Stephenson, the other day and was familiar with him. He arrived at approximately 1410 hours, according to the timestamp in the video (approximately frame 28555). He was the first officer to approach the residence. As he was walking toward the front door, Jayden's mother (Christina Schindler), grandmother (Terry Bennett), and sister (Sophia Cresong) were exiting. ██████ asked if the subject was inside the residence by himself. Either Christina or Terry answered in the affirmative. ██████ asked if there were any guns inside the house. Christina answered in the negative but stated Jayden had a pocketknife.

██████ looked through the glass of the front door and broadcast that the subject was standing inside with a knife. At approximately 1411 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 29812), ██████ told the subject through the closed door to drop the knife. At approximately 1413 hours, according to the timestamp, ██████ opens the front door (approximately frame 33231). At approximately 1414 hours, according to the timestamp, ██████ requested a medic stage in the area (approximately frame 35238). Jayden can be seen sitting on a stool in the family room with an object, presumably the knife, in his right hand. ██████ asked Jayden to drop the knife several times. Each time, Jayden said he would not do so. ██████ asked Jayden to "Let's do this so we can do it the right way." Jayden answered by saying, "Hell no. Fuck no." Jayden asked about his car and told ██████ to "go get it." ██████ inquired about the car. At some point, Jayden said something to the effect of, "You'll find the fuck out...one of you guys will... I don't want to. I don't want to." Jayden was asked if he wanted to hurt himself. He said he did not want to hurt himself. At another point during the conversation, Jayden stated, "It's not going to be good. It's not going to be good." Up to this point, ██████ provided at least 22 commands for Jayden to drop the knife.

At approximately 1418 hours, according to the timestamp, Jayden stood up (approximately frame 42482) and began to walk toward the steps leading upstairs. ██████ said, "Don't do it," but Jayden continued. See the image below.



██████████ BWC footage at frame 42522

The less lethal shotgun was deployed (approximately frame 42537). (Agent's note: It is known through additional investigation that ██████████ was the officer who discharged the less lethal shotgun). It appeared to have impacted Jayden's left leg. A second less lethal shotgun round was fired (approximately frame 42565). A third beanbag round was fired (approximately frame 42602). Between the second and third less lethal shotgun deployments, ██████████ discharged his Taser. After the last beanbag round was fired, Jayden ran upstairs, entered a bedroom, and shut the door.

The officers went upstairs. ██████████ asked the other officers if Jayden had dropped the knife. Another officer could be heard saying that he did not believe Jayden dropped the knife. At approximately 1419 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 44179), ██████████ kicked the door open. Officers located Jayden in the bathroom off the left side of the bedroom. A taser was deployed at approximately frame 44553, which seemed to cause temporary incapacitation. At approximately frame 44666, a beanbag round was fired. At approximately frame 44706, another beanbag round was fired. After that, Jayden quickly stood up and came toward the officers with the object in his right hand. See the image below. Up to this point during the upstairs portion of the incident, officers provided approximately nine commands to Jayden, such as "get out here," "hands up," "show us your hands," and "drop the knife."



██████████ BWC at frame 44727

As Jayden continued to advance toward the officers, multiple gunshots could then be heard, commencing at approximately frame 44749. Based on the video, ██████████ can be seen and heard firing several rounds. It is unknown how many he fired based solely on the video. The final shot can be heard at approximately frame 44815, though that round was fired by ██████████

After the shooting event, officers handcuffed Jayden, who was making snoring sounds. Someone asked who had fired, and ██████████ indicated that they had. At approximately 1420 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 47140), officers can be seen rendering medical aid by putting pressure on Jayden's wounds with a towel. Officer Rankins started CPR at approximately 1422 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 49988).

██████████ BWC

██████████ began her response at approximately 1408 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 16420). She arrived on the scene at approximately 1412 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 23048). As ██████████ approached the house, Terry told her that Jayden had a mental illness. She joined ██████████ who was already at the front door. ██████████ opened the door, and they tried to convince Jayden to drop the knife. She also confirmed with Terry that no one else was inside the residence.

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At approximately 1418 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 33532), ██████████ deployed less-lethal shotgun rounds, while ██████████ deployed a Taser. ██████████ camera was obstructed by ██████████ standing in front of her.

Officers ran upstairs, and ██████████ kicked open a bedroom door at approximately frame 35165. Officers encountered Jayden in the bathroom and deployed additional less lethal rounds. Jayden got up and advanced toward the officers with an object, presumably a knife, in his right hand. See the image below.



██████████ BWC at frame 35743

As Jayden was advancing toward the officers, ██████████ discharged her duty pistol. The number of rounds fired cannot be determined based solely on the video.

Officers took turns administering chest compressions. ██████████ provided compressions until the medics arrived at approximately 1427 according to the timestamp (approximately frame 49923). While the medics were assessing the situation, officers ██████████, Rankins, and ██████████ briefly talked about the incident. ██████████ indicated that she fired. Officer Rankins stated that she did not fire. ██████████ said he deployed a Taser. ██████████ then said that she and ██████████ fired. Medics pronounced the subject deceased at 1430 hours, which was expressed verbally and also in the video timestamp. ██████████ told the medic that she fired, along with ██████████

██████████ BWC

██████████ responded at approximately 1406 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 5799). He was in the passenger seat, as he was training Officer Morgan Spencer. They arrived at approximately 1415 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 21191).

██████████ approached the front door, which was already open. ██████████ and ██████████ were already on the scene. ██████████ could be seen holding a less-lethal shotgun. As he was approaching, Jayden can be heard saying something to the effect of "You'll find the fuck out" to the police officers. His camera view was mostly obstructed by the other officers standing at the doorway.

Once the officers were upstairs, ██████████ approached Jayden, who appeared to be lying on the bathroom floor with an apparent knife in his right hand. He deployed his Taser at approximately frame 28342. The Taser seemed to have a brief effect on Jayden, as his body became rigid, and he moaned in pain. At approximately frame 28464, ██████████ fired a less lethal beanbag round, which appeared to have struck Jayden's right leg. ██████████ fired another less lethal beanbag round at approximately frame 28504, which also appeared to have struck Jayden on the right leg. Jayden stood up at approximately frame 28514 with the apparent knife still in his right hand. ██████████ camera was mostly obstructed by his arms; however, at approximately frame 28559, Jayden can be seen exiting the bathroom into the bedroom, where the officers were positioned. Multiple shots can be heard, and Jayden appears to begin falling to the ground at approximately frame 28581. ██████████ can be seen firing her last round at approximately frame 28605.



██████████ BWC at frame 28605

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Officers initiated life-saving efforts. They took turns administering chest compressions. [REDACTED] took over compressions for Officer Rankins at approximately frame 35570. The remainder of the video did not show any additional information not already known from other footage.

[REDACTED] BWC

[REDACTED] footage began at approximately 1408 hours, according to the timestamp. The audio began approximately twenty-four seconds into the video, and his sirens can be heard. He arrived at approximately 1411 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 6225).

[REDACTED] retrieved a less lethal shotgun from the rear of his cruiser. He loaded rounds into the tube. He then walked toward the front door of the involved residence. As he got closer, Terry could be heard telling him that Jayden had a mental illness. [REDACTED] informed her that he had a less lethal shotgun. His camera view was obstructed for most of the downstairs incident. He can be heard deploying approximately four less lethal rounds.

Once the officers were upstairs, [REDACTED] can be heard firing two additional beanbag rounds into the bathroom; however, his camera view was obstructed. After he deployed the less lethal rounds, he positioned himself on the bed, and multiple shots can be heard. His camera view did not capture the shooting event.

[REDACTED] then coordinated post-shooting activity related to the crime scene. No additional information was obtained that was not already detailed through other footage.

Officer Crystal Rankins BWC

Officer Rankins began her response at approximately 1411 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 40471). She arrived at approximately 1415 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 47941). She approached the front door and stood behind other officers; thus, her view was obstructed.

Officer Rankins footage did not reveal any new information about the shooting event not already obtained through other footage.

Officer Rankins initiated chest compressions at approximately 1422 hours, according to the timestamp (approximately frame 59903). [REDACTED] took over compressions at approximately frame 61921. Officer Rankins took over for [REDACTED] at approximately frame 65820. [REDACTED] took over compressions at approximately frame 67254. At approximately 1427 hours, according to the timestamp, a medic entered the room and advised [REDACTED] to discontinue compressions.

Officer Rankins and [REDACTED] briefly spoke outside the residence in the backyard. She became upset but stated that she just needed to process everything. [REDACTED] expressed that [REDACTED] saved him from getting cut. She confirmed that [REDACTED] also fired.

All body-worn camera footage was stored on Axon Evidence.com.

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Conclusion

All known individuals with pertinent information regarding this investigation have been interviewed or attempts have been made to do so. All known records have been obtained and reviewed. BCI has endeavored to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into this OICI. BCI will continue to provide investigative assistance to any newly identified witnesses or information pertinent to this criminal investigation. It appears that BCI's investigation into this OICI is concluded, unless new information or witnesses re identified through the grand jury or other processes. As always, BCI remains available for consultation and look forward to your assessment of this investigation, as well as your decision as to any additional efforts, processes or further assistance or involvement you might determine to be necessary.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of the facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved critical incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Steven Seitzman. SA Seitzman can be reached via email at Steven.Seitzman@OhioAGO.gov.

End of summary.