



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



2023-0795

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1433 State Route 7,
Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403, Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Prosecutor's Ruling

Involves: Fred Wild III (S), Sergeant [REDACTED] (S), Sergeant [REDACTED] Deputy [REDACTED] (S), Officer [REDACTED] (S), Officer [REDACTED] (S), Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office (O)

Activity Date: 05/23/2024

Activity Location: Email

Authoring Agent: SAS Charles Moran #67

Narrative:

On May 23, 2024, at 1310 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Chuck Moran (Moran) received an email from Trumbull County Assistant Prosecutor Chris Becker (Becker). The email contained an attachment that was the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office report documenting the review of BCI case 2023-0795. The report was 88 pages long.

The report contained a conclusion section that stated, "Because this office finds that there can be no other conclusion other than the fact that the officers use of force was reasonable there will be no presentment of this matter to a grand jury and this investigation will be closed with no action against any of the officers involved" (p. 87).

The Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office report is attached to this report.

References:

None

Attachments:

1. Trumbull County Prosecutors Office - Ruling - Brookfield OIS Report May 2024

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DENNIS WATKINS

Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney

4th FLOOR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
160 HIGH STREET N.W. WARREN, OHIO 44481-1092
PHONE: 330-675-2426 • FAX: 330-675-2431
Email: Prosecutor@co.trumbull.oh.us

NEWS RELEASE

MAY 23, 2024

**RE: OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING IN BROOKFIELD TOWNSHIP,
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO ON MARCH 21, 2023**

On March 21, 2023, at approximately 1:16 a.m. law enforcement officers from various law enforcement agencies shot and killed Fred Wild near a cabin on a residential property located at 1433 State Route 7, in Brookfield Township, Trumbull County, Ohio.

Incident Synopsis

On March 21, 2023, at approximately 1:06 A.M., multiple law enforcement agencies responded to the residence of 1433 State Route 7 NE, Brookfield, Trumbull County, Ohio to apprehend Fred Wild, who had multiple warrants out for his arrest and had been involved in two different high-speed pursuits in Trumbull County in the previous three days.

The location where Wild was reported to be was in a cabin, in a wooded area on the property. A stolen pickup truck was reported to be parked near the cabin. Law enforcement personnel from multiple jurisdictions met at a location off State Route 7 to formulate a plan to arrest Wild.

A total of ten officers met and formulated a plan to arrest Wild. Nine officers headed down a dirt road to where the Cabin was located. One law enforcement officer remained at the drives entrance on State Route 7.

As the officers approached the cabin where Wild was reported to be staying, they could hear music and made visual contact confirming he was in the cabin.

The pick-up truck that Wild had been driving was observed parked so close to the cabin that Wild was later able to exit the cabin through the window and get directly into the driver's side of the truck without setting a foot onto the ground.

As officers approached Wild became alerted to their presence and exited through the cabin window and directly into the truck.

Numerous commands were given by multiple officers for Wild to show his hands and to stop. Wild did not comply with any of the numerous commands. While he was in the vehicle's driver's seat, officers attempted to break the passenger side window to arrest Wild on the pending warrants.

Other officers were approaching the cabin from a wooded area and were directly in front of the pick-up truck when Wild started the vehicle. Wild immediately put the truck into drive and began to accelerate the truck so fast that the tires were spinning and spewing gravel and dirt.

At least three officers were extremely close to the vehicle and at least two were in the direct path of the direction the truck was facing. The truck was equipped with a snowplow and as the vehicle sped away from the cabin, five of the officers on scene fired at the truck to stop Wild from running over the officers who were in the path of the truck.

Wild was struck by five gunshots and was killed as he was driving away, Wild somehow was able to put his foot on the brake. After confirming Wild was deceased and that no officers were injured, Trumbull County Sheriff Paul Monroe was contacted.

Sheriff Monroe immediately contacted the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was called to investigate the shooting.

A total of twelve cartridge casings were recovered at the scene matching four of the five weapons that were fired by law enforcement officers.

BCI performed a thorough investigation and was assisted by the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Warren District Reconstruction Unit. The Reconstruction Unit assisted by providing a forensic map of the scene. Additionally, the Reconstruction Unit provided bullet trajectory analysis by use of the forensic map.

Background

In the days and hours before the shooting incident that occurred at the cabin at 1433 State Route 7, local and state agencies had been involved in attempting to locate and apprehend Fred Wild.

On two occasions local departments were requested to have Wild vacated from the premises he occupied. The attempts by law enforcement agencies to locate and/or apprehend Mr. Wild were unsuccessful. During this time, criminal charges arose from different departments for Wild. Listed below are summarizations from three agencies that had direct involvement, either known or unknown at the time, with Wild.

Investigative Report – Liberty Township Police Department

On March 18, 2023, Liberty Township Police Department received a call of an unwanted person on the property of 969 Keefer Rd. Girard, OH 44420. The caller informed Trumbull County 911 (TC911) Center that her father, Fred H. Wild III,

was at her residence and she was frightened by his comments and actions. The caller also advised TC911 that he had an active warrant for his arrest.

Liberty Township Police Officers confirmed Mr. Wild had an active warrant and responded to the residence. Before their arrival, Wild left the residence in a black Dodge Ram, registered to him. Officers checked the area and spotted the truck near a local church. An attempt to conduct a traffic stop was made, but the vehicle did not stop, and a pursuit ensued. At some point, the officers lost sight of the vehicle and the pursuit ended.

According to the report neither the vehicle nor Mr. Wild were located. The investigating officer would follow up and file charges against Mr. Wild through Girard Municipal Court for failure to comply with the order or signal of a police officer,

The Investigative Report from Liberty Township Police Department is documented as Incident #23-0002901.

Investigative Report – Lordstown Police Department

On March 20, 2023, at approximately 2:05 P.M., Lordstown Police Department received a call of an unwanted person on the property of 8447 Tod Ave. Warren, OH 44481, which is the address to Bare Root Landscaping. A responding officer spoke to the caller while enroute and learned the unwanted person was named Fred Wild.

The responding officer was also informed by the caller of the pursuit Mr. Wild was in with the Liberty Township Police Department. A current description of Mr. Wild's vehicle was given to be a black Dodge pickup truck. When officers got close to the location, a black pickup truck was seen leaving Bare Root Landscaping. Officers made identification of the vehicle and attempted to stop it. The vehicle began to flee after officers activated emergency lights and sirens. A pursuit ensued for nearly 38 miles which reached speeds up to 110 mph with numerous other traffic violations. Officers lost sight of the vehicle as it drove alongside a set of railroad tracks.

Eventually, the Dodge was located, but Mr. Wild had already fled on foot. A search of the area was conducted, but Mr. Wild was never located. Agencies assisting in some capacity include Trumbull County Sheriff's Office, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Vienna Police Department, and Brookfield Township Police Department.

The Investigative Report from the Lordstown Police Department is documented as Incident #23-00131.

Within the report, the offense is listed as failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer, Ohio Revised Code 2921.331, a Misdemeanor of the First Degree.

Investigative Report – Brookfield Township Police Department

On March 20, 2023, at approximately 9:20 P.M., Brookfield Township Police Department received a call of a reported motor vehicle theft. An officer responded to the residence of 324 Albright McCay Rd. SE, Brookfield, OH 44403 and contacted the victim/owner of the vehicle. The victim/owner was identified as William M. Shafer who resides at the property where the vehicle was kept. Mr. Shafer identified the vehicle as a blue and grey 1996 Chevrolet GMT-400 pickup truck with Ohio registration EHM9704.

Mr. Shafer informed the officer that the vehicle was stolen between the hours of 5:30 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. The officer received a detailed description of the vehicle and learned it had a yellow Myers snowplow attached to the front. Mr. Shafer also informed the officer that there was a set of keys inside the vehicle, but the exact location of where the keys were was unknown.

Mr. Shafer completed an affidavit, and the officer cleared the scene. The Investigative Report from Brookfield Township Police Department is documented as Incident #23-001415. Within the report, the offense listed is theft (motor vehicle), Ohio Revised Code 2913.02A1, a Felony of the Fourth Degree.

This was later identified as the vehicle Wild had fled from officers and nearly struck officers at the 1433 State Route 7 cabin location.

INVESTIGATION OF OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

The following is a summary of the investigation into the events leading up to the shooting in the early morning hours of March 21, 2023. However, a more detailed discussion of the events that occurred in the months prior to the shooting was developed by investigators after numerous interviews and evidence was gathered.

On March 20, 2023, at about 2342 hours, the Brookfield Township Police Department received a call from Brian Adkins regarding the whereabouts of Fred Wild (Wild). Brookfield officers met with Adkins, and he told them that Wild had stolen a truck and was staying in a cabin on the west side of Adkins's property located at 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield, Township.

Earlier on March 20th, Wild led officers from multiple law enforcement agencies on a vehicle pursuit throughout Trumbull County (As noted above this was the second vehicle pursuit in three days for Wild). Wild eluded apprehension on the 20th just like he had done on the 18th.

After that incident on the 20th, Wild stole a truck from a residence in Brookfield Township and drove it to Adkins' residence. Officers were aware that Wild had active warrants for his arrest in Liberty Township, Mentor, and Lake County.

Brookfield officers requested assistance from other law enforcement agencies. Those agencies were the Trumbull County Sheriff's Office (TCSO), the Ohio State

Highway Patrol (OSHP), the Vienna Township Police Department (VTPD), and the Lordstown Police Department (LPD).

The officers from those agencies met and discussed a plan to approach and apprehend Wild at the cabin. On March 21, 2023, at about 1:06 a.m., the officers traveled to the property and parked their vehicles on the roadway. The officers walked west along a dirt driveway toward the cabin. The area around the cabin was a wooded area and was very dark. As the officers approached the cabin, music was heard. At some point, Wild became aware of the presence of the officers and stood up inside the cabin.

Some officers were on the south side of the cabin and other officers were on the east side of the cabin. Officers activated their weapon-mounted flashlights and began providing verbal commands to Wild. Wild opened a cabin window and jumped through the window directly into the open driver's side window of the stolen truck that was parked in such proximity to the south side of the cabin that he could enter the truck directly from the window. Officers continued providing verbal commands for Wild to surrender as he started the truck.

After Wild started the truck, he revved the engine and drove the truck forward. The rear tires spun and kicked up gravel. Wild struck several trees in front of him with the snowplow attached to the front of the truck. Officers continued providing

verbal commands. Two or three officers were near the front snowplow and bumper of the truck as Wild accelerated forward.

Five officers fired rifles at Wild and the truck as he drove forward. Wild was struck multiple times and at some point applied the brakes as he died. It was believed that he died quickly based upon locations of his wounds and the subsequent autopsy.

Officers checked him immediately after the incident and it was clearly apparent that he was deceased. When paramedics arrived, Wild was officially pronounced deceased.

To understand how Wild put himself in the position where officers were required to shoot him in self-defense it is necessary to look at the events that led up to March 21, 2023.

Investigators went through digital evidence, including Wild's cell phone, body cameras, security and other digital evidence, numerous reports including the autopsy of Wild, forensic reconstruction, forensic firearms testing in addition to thousands of photographs and the physical evidence recovered in connection with this case.

Investigators spoke to all the officers involved and numerous friends, acquaintances, and relatives of Wild in order to get a full understanding of what led to the shooting of Wild.

RICHARD PROVERBS

Proverbs was interviewed on March 21, 2023. Proverbs was the owner of Bare Root Landscaping and at various times employed Wild. Proverbs told investigators that Wild had applied for a carpentry job with his company in 2019. He said Wild was in trouble multiple times for DUIs and it affected his employment because he was in and out of jail.

Proverbs stated Wild would work for him when Wild was not a “loose cannon” and “reckless” with his drinking. Proverbs went on to say that Wild did “odd things” and talked about “weird stuff like building submarines.”

Proverbs said Wild’s son, Mason Baumbach, told him that Wild was supposed to be taking medication. Proverbs said Wild has not been employed by his company since October or November of 2022.

Proverbs was aware that Wild was dating a female named “Katy” and she lived in Mentor, Ohio. Proverbs said Katy had showed up at his business in the week prior to the shooting to get keys made for Wild’s truck.

Proverbs said Wild stayed in different locations. Wild sometimes stayed with his mother in Girard, Ohio and he sometimes stayed in a camper on Proverbs’ property. Proverbs said he did not have any issues with Wild as an employee of his company. Proverbs said Wild came back to his company at the end of February 2023 and worked for four days. Wild left for the weekend and did not return. Proverbs

checked court websites and learned that Wild had been arrested for a DUI in Mentor, Ohio. Proverbs tried to call Wild after he was released from jail but Wild did not answer and did not return any of Proverbs calls.

Proverbs stated Wild “showed up unannounced” about a week before March 20, 2023. Proverbs said Wild would “sporadically” help Proverbs and some other employees with working on Proverbs’ house. Proverbs noticed that Wild was not completing his work and mentioned it to Wild. Wild then “disappeared” for a couple days.

Proverbs’ next contact with Wild was when Wild had contacted another employee of Proverbs and told him he had run out of gas. Proverbs spoke with Wild and Wild was “crying” about his truck running out of gas. Wild said his truck was going to be towed and he needed Proverbs to lend him money for the tow. The employee that Wild had initially contacted picked Wild up and brought him back to Proverbs’ property. Proverbs met Wild and said they could go fill up his truck with gas. Wild advised that he had lost the keys to the truck. Proverbs then arranged for Wild’s truck to be towed back to his business.

A few days later, Katy Wheeler, Wild’s girlfriend from Mentor, came to Proverbs’ business and said she was looking for Wild. Proverbs found Wild “passed out” in his truck on the business property. Proverbs spoke with Wild, and he said he was probably going back to Mentor with Katy. Proverbs left and returned a short

time later. Proverbs then saw Wild and Katy. Wild told Proverbs that he was going to the hospital because he broke his hand.

In the days that followed, Wild was continuously found asleep on a couch inside Proverbs' business. Proverbs said that Wild was drunk and passed out on those occasions.

On March 17, 2023, Proverbs paid Wild for the work he performed and told Wild that he would have to leave the business. Proverbs told investigators that he believed Wild had paid for his tab at a local bar with the money Proverbs had paid him.

On March 19, 2023, Wild texted Proverbs and said he was staying at an Airbnb. Wild sent a photo of a structure with green foam insulation. Proverbs said Wild texted him so much that he silenced his notifications.

On March 20, 2023, Proverbs saw Wild's truck at his business. Proverbs went inside and saw Wild asleep on the couch. Proverbs told Wild that he could not stay there and that he had to leave. Proverbs left and returned a short time later and Wild's truck was there, but he could not find Wild. Proverbs left the business and later received a text from another employee that Wild was at the business.

Proverbs returned to his business at about 2:00 p.m. and Wild was "ranting and raving." Proverbs then told Wild he had to leave, or he would call the police. He provided Wild with some gas for his truck and Wild was screaming at him about

paying him for work that he did not do that day. Proverbs asked Wild what work he performed for payment and Wild “lost it.” Wild was “throwing tools” and was “freaking out.” Proverbs was not scared of Wild, but he was worried about the safety of his family.

Proverbs also spoke to investigators about some past incidents involving Wild. Proverbs told investigators that Wild was arrested for throwing something through a window at a Menards store. He was also involved in a pursuit in Liberty Township a few days before the incident on March 20, 2023. Proverbs said Wild possibly had a “musket” because that was the only firearm he could legally own. Proverbs related to investigators that Wild told him stories over the past several years. He recalled a story about Wild driving his truck through his house while he was getting divorced.

MASON BAUMBACH

Mason Baumbach, the son of Fred Wild, was interviewed on March 24, 2023.

Baumbach told investigators that Wild had been involved with vehicle pursuits with the police in the past. Baumbach indicated that Wild was a “paranoid schizophrenic” and an “alcoholic.” Baumbach did not believe Wild was not taking any medications for paranoid schizophrenia and Wild was never diagnosed by a doctor. Baumbach said he has been told by doctors that Wild’s “writings” are like those of a paranoid schizophrenic and Wild has signs of being a paranoid

schizophrenic. Baumbach said in the past Wild had all his family members' phones "tapped" and thought the government placed microphones in the power outlets.

When asked about Wild's alcoholism, Baumbach said Wild has struggled with alcoholism his entire life and Wild was an alcoholic.

Baumbach said he last spoke with Wild on March 17, 2023. Baumbach said Wild was at his house and was drinking. Wild tried to convince Baumbach to get in his truck with him so they could ride around a lake. Baumbach said he had to contact the Liberty Township Police Department (LTPD) and when they arrived Wild led the officers on a vehicle pursuit. Baumbach said he contacted the LTPD for a "welfare check" on Wild. Baumbach said he had contacted the police three times in the last two weeks requesting a welfare check on Wild.

Baumbach said he had "writings" from Wild and he believed that Wild was not trying to harm anyone, but he was trying to get away and "run forever." Baumbach said Wild only owns "black powder" weapons. Baumbach also said there were crossbows in the cabin and if Wild had wanted to harm the police, he would have shot them.

Investigators asked Baumbach about Wild's "writings" and if they were old or were recent. Baumbach said the writings were recent and were from March 12, 2023. Baumbach said there were more writings in Wild's Dodge truck that were

more recent. Baumbach said he was trying to figure out how to get access to the truck and that Wild would have hidden the writings in there.

Baumbach said Wild displayed signs of paranoid schizophrenia over the past two months. Wild also had mood swings and possibly “schizoaffective disorder.” Baumbach said Wild’s mood swings were sometimes “manic” and “depressive.” Baumbach said Wild would be happy, then angry, and then sad, and would not want to do anything for “a week.” Wild would then be mad that he was not doing anything “and then go off and do something really crazy and then regret it later.”

KATY WHEELER

Investigators interviewed Katy Wheeler, Fred Wild’s girlfriend, on March 21, 2023, at her residence in Mentor, Ohio. Wheeler initially told investigators that she last communicated with Wild on March 20, 2023, at 1:10 p.m. via text message. After investigators informed Wheeler of Wild’s death, she stated she had received a text from Wild earlier in the morning of March 21st stating it was “all her fault” and that she didn’t know what that meant at the time.

Wheeler said the text thread between her and Wild on March 20, 2023, was mostly humorous. Wheeler told agents about Wild’s mindset and that he was “delusional” and “manic.” She explained that Wild told her he was “hearing voices.” Wheeler said Wild was infatuated with Alanis Morissette and believed they would be “together one day.”

Wheeler told investigators that she noticed Wild's behavior changing in the fall of 2022. Wheeler did not believe that Wild was seeing a doctor for any mental health issues.

Wheeler was asked if she had ever heard Wild say anything negative about law enforcement or make any threats towards law enforcement. Wheeler stated she did not hear Wild say anything negative about law enforcement. Wheeler further stated Wild had been arrested many times, "for his own stupidity," but she never heard him make any statements about harming any law enforcement officers.

Wheeler recalled the incident that said Wild called her on March 16, 2023, and asked her to pick him up at Bare Root Landscaping. Wheeler stated he was depressed and lonely. When she picked Wild up, she noticed he had been drinking. She told investigators that they stayed at a hotel in the area overnight. The next day, Wheeler thought that Wild had somehow broken his hand. They went to a hospital, but Wild did not want to wait in the emergency room so they left. They later obtained a new key for Wild's truck and went back to Bare Root Landscaping where Wild's truck was located.

Wheeler related to investigators that in February Wild was charged with an OVI and other charges. He was arrested again for felony vandalism shortly thereafter. As a result of the OVI, Wild's truck was impounded.

Eventually, they got Wild's truck out of the impound lot. The truck had a lock on the steering wheel. Wheeler stated Wild was able to cut the lock off the steering wheel and continued to drive despite not having a valid license. The truck was supposed to stay in Wheeler's driveway, but Wild drove off with it.

In the week leading up to the shooting, Wild was involved in a trespassing complaint in Liberty Township. When the police arrived, Wheeler stated Wild fled from the police and got away from them. Wheeler stated Wild went to a friend's house to hide. When asked about his friend's house, Wheeler stated his friend's name is "Brian." Wheeler was aware that Wild ran out of gas at some point and that he tried to get his son to pick him up.

Wheeler shared with investigators a text message she received from Wild regarding him running out of gas. The text message was dated March 18, 2023, and stated "so I got the high-speed cop chase I wanted. I got away fast they fucked up trying to pin me in. I was gone. But now what. truck only goes 115. kinda disappointed. Government shuts it down. another 100 mph I'd be good. 215 mph at least I'd be faster than nascar. oops they could track my phone. I better not dial 911."

Wheeler told the investigators that after Wild fled from the police, he stayed overnight in the woods. Wheeler stated, "Um, he's been paranoid. He thinks, er, he...he thought that his life was like that movie the Truman show...He literally thought someone was filming his life and that it was like scripted somehow and he

thought other people controlled his life. He thought he was alien or something. He really believed all of this too. Um, you know, definitely paranoid and delusional these past several months. But like I said, I didn't think it was to the point that he would harm anybody or himself or get shot. It was harmless stuff like the texts I showed you with the sawhorse, it was nothing violent.”

BRIAN ADKINS

BCI agents interviewed Brian Adkins at his home on March 23, 2023. Adkins had known Wild for years. He said Wild abused alcohol and was likely schizophrenic and was supposed to be taking medication for it. Adkins recalled Wild being treated in the “psych ward” for his mental health issues in the past.

Adkins told investigators about past incidents where Wild acted recklessly, including an incident where Wild drove a truck through his own home while upset about a divorce he was going through at the time.

Despite Wild suffering from schizophrenia and being a heavy drinker, Adkins believed Wild to be an honest and non-violent person who was a very good carpenter. Adkins stated he did not believe Wild was paranoid but thought he could be when not taking medication. Adkins went on to state that he did not believe Wild held any negative beliefs or ill will against law enforcement.

On the date that Wild fled from the Liberty Township Police Department, Wild went to Adkins' property in his black truck and went to one of the cabins

located on the property. Adkins found Wild on the property with his dog and said Wild was drinking a beer near one of the cabins.

Wild told Adkins he had just been in a police pursuit and fled to Adkins' property to hide. Adkins talked to Wild briefly and left the back of the property thinking Wild would soon leave. Sometime later that evening Adkins noticed Wild was still at the back of his property, and noting the cold weather, went to check on him. Wild told Adkins he could not leave because he was out of gas. Adkins retrieved a red gas can containing gas and placed it on the rear bumper of Wild's truck.

The next day Adkins noticed Wild was still at the back of his property and "that's when the real goofiness started." Adkins recalled that Wild began spray painting orange zebra stripes and a large heart with arrows on his truck. Wild also used a bungee cord to affix his front bumper to the truck which was falling off the vehicle.

Adkins left his home and subsequently learned from Baumbach that Wild was involved in a pursuit on March 20, 2023. Around this same time Adkins got an alert on his phone about a police chase from Lordstown, Ohio to Brookfield Township, Ohio and immediately believed the alert was about Wild.

Adkins then called his wife and told her to lock the doors, not knowing what state of mind Wild was in. When Adkins returned home and checked his security

cameras. He saw Wild driving a stolen truck belonging to William Shafer along his driveway toward the west of his property.

Adkins then confronted Wild and told him he was spiraling out of control and needed to get help. Wild told Adkins he did not want to go to jail. Adkins told Wild he needed to go to a hospital. Wild asked Adkins to give him some work to do so that he could make money to buy a plane ticket and flee (to an unknown location).

Adkins refused to give Wild any work or money. Adkins told Wild the police knew where he was or would find out soon. Adkins told Wild “they’re going to shoot you” while referring to the police finding him. Adkins stated to investigators he told Wild a second time that police might shoot him. Adkins told Wild if police came to the home looking for Wild, he would not tell the police he was on the property but would not stop the police from searching the property for him.

Adkins gave Wild some coffee and cigarettes and told Wild he needed to leave the property. Adkins subsequently called the police on a non-emergency number to request to meet with a police officer at a warehouse near his home.

Adkins then met with a police officer at a nearby warehouse and told the officer that Wild was hiding at the back of his property. During the conversation Adkins told the officer and a second officer who arrived shortly thereafter, they would not be able to drive down his driveway without Wild noticing their presence and being alerted.

Adkins told the officers that Wild had a history of mental problems, had previous arrests for drunk driving and domestic violence, currently had a stolen truck, was schizophrenic, and “out of his mind.” Adkins stated the officers began calling for additional police help to locate and arrest Wild.

Adkins gave the officers a description of the area where Wild was. Adkins offered to lend the police night vision goggles to help locate Wild which they declined.

After speaking with the officers Adkins returned to his home. Shortly thereafter he noticed police staging in the street in front of his house. Knowing they were there to locate and arrest Wild, Adkins went outside and sat on his back porch to observe with binoculars.

Adkins then observed a motion light on one of the buildings behind his home go off. Due to the lack of light Adkins could not see anything else that happened.

Adkins did however hear, seconds later, what he believed to be police giving Wild orders to “get down, get down.” Adkins could not make out exactly what was being said. Almost immediately after hearing the police yelling orders, he heard gravel being flung backwards by truck tires. Adkins heard gunfire immediately afterwards. Adkins could not tell how many shots were fired but recalled it was multiple shots all in very quick succession which began “not even

one to two seconds” after he heard the gravel being flung out from the tires of the truck.

OFFICERS

OFFICER TED DREWEK

Lordstown Police Officer Ted Drewek. On March 21, 2023, SA Moran of BCI interviewed Lordstown Police Department (LPD) Officer (Ofc.) Ted Drewek.

Ofc. Drewek said he was in dispatch at the LPD when they received a call from Trumbull County dispatch requesting assistance for a call in Brookfield Township. Ofc. Drewek said the LPD was contacted due to being involved in a vehicle pursuit earlier that day with the subject. Ofc. Drewek also had access to a thermal monocular.

Ofc. Drewek went to an area near the scene and met with other law enforcement officers from different agencies. A briefing occurred and an overhead map was shown of the property and of a cabin in the woods where the subject was likely located. They discussed how they would walk down the “gas well driveway” and who would “flank” the structure.

There was information that the cabin was “12 by 12”, had only had one door, but multiple windows. Ofc. Drewek said about “six or eight” officers began walking down the driveway. Police cruisers were parked on the road (in front of the property along State Route 7). Ofc. Drewek saw light and “heat” coming from a cabin in the

woods through the lens of the monocular. He said he heard “loud music playing” and was not certain if the subject had other people with him.

Ofc. Drewek said as they approached the cabin, he saw a truck parked very close to the cabin. The truck was facing east. Ofc. Drewek believed that other officers in the woods stepped on some branches causing them to break and it possibly alerted the subject to the presence of the officers. Other officers said the subject was facing north, but Ofc. Drewek could not see him through the thermal monocular.

Ofc. Drewek said he was on the south side and was using the thermal monocular to investigate the truck and attempting to investigate the cabin. As he began to walk around the southwest to west side of the cabin when he heard other officers begin to yell, “Police!” Ofc. Drewek was not using his thermal monocular at this time.

He said the subject jumped through the cabin window directly into the driver’s side front seat of the truck. The snowplow on the front of the truck was up and Ofc. Drewek wondered if the subject planned his actions and escape.

Drewek said the subject started the truck and “plowed through some trees” and a “couple” of officers moved out of the way of the truck “and then shots were fired.” Ofc. Drewek did not know how many gunshots were fired. Ofc. Drewek estimated the truck moved forward about “30 feet” with a “full gas pedal.” Drewek saw tire tracks on the ground that showed the sudden acceleration of the truck.

Drewek said he could hear the “engine revving” and the music was still playing. Drewek said he was not certain how the subject knew the officers were there. He added that “it happened so quick” and was glad that no officers were struck in a potential crossfire situation.

Ofc. Drewek confirmed that he did not fire his weapon during the incident because he was holding his flashlight and the thermal monocular. He did not have the opportunity to even draw his pistol from the holster. Ofc. Drewek reiterated that the incident happened “quick” and estimated about 15-20 seconds elapsed from the time the subject entered the truck to when it came to a stop.

Drewek was asked about the moments when the truck hit the trees and the officers who were moving out of the way. Ofc. Drewek said he knew that officers were around the cabin, but he was not exactly certain where all the officers were located. He did not know if any officers were in front of the truck. Drewek said he was positioned near the rear passenger side of the truck when it started moving. After the truck stopped, Ofc. Drewek said the cabin needed to be cleared and other officers checked the cabin.

Ofc. Drewek was not equipped with a body-worn camera (BWC) because the LPD does not issue them to officers.

OFFICER JOSHUA ELLWOOD-BELLAS

Brookfield Township Police Officer Joshua Ellwood-Bellas' interview was conducted on April 3, 2023.

Ellwood-Bellas confirmed that he did not fire a weapon during the Incident. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas said he participated in a search for the subject, Wild, during the day on March 20, 2023. During the initial search Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas participated in; he was told the subject may be in possession of a muzzle loader as the subject was believed to have one with him when he fled from police. Since a muzzle loader was not recovered from the subject's truck when it was searched, Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas believed it was possible the subject may still be in possession of that weapon.

Later that evening, Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas accompanied Brookfield Township Police Sgt. [REDACTED] while he spoke with Brian Adkins about Wild's location on the property located at 1433 State Route 7.

Subsequently other law enforcement officers from different agencies arrived. The assembled group of law enforcement devised a plan to approach and attempt to apprehend the subject. The plan was for two officers to position themselves on all sides of the cabin before making the subject aware of their presence.

Officer Ellwood-Bellas reported he was paired up with OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED]. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas and Sgt. [REDACTED] were assigned to position themselves near a

window on one of the backsides of the cabin, though Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas could not recall specifically which side of the cabin he was assigned to watch during the beginning of the interview.

The group of officers and troopers drove to the property where the subject was located. The group of officers and troopers walked up the driveway “which was a good distance.”

As the group approached the cabin where the subject was located, they could hear music coming from inside the cabin. Ellwood-Bellas stated the group never made it to their intended location because Wild heard them.

Ellwood-Bellas recalled the subject, upon seeing the officers, jumped out the window of the cabin and into the truck. Some of the officers then began to attempt to break the passenger window of the truck. The subject “started the truck and then he started driving forward and I was more focused on trying to get out of the way of the truck”.

While detailing the activity of the involved parties further, Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas stated Sgt. [REDACTED] was the first person he heard giving the subject commands. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas did not hear the subject respond to those commands. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas reported that at the time Sgt. [REDACTED] began giving the subject commands, Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas had not yet reached his assigned position at the (north) side of the cabin. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas was still approaching the (east) side

of the cabin from the driveway/woods alongside the driveway. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas, from his position in front of the truck, saw the subject enter the truck, saw the headlights of the truck turn on and heard the engine start. Based on the location Ellwood-Bellas pointed to on the overhead image of the scene, he was likely within a few car-lengths distance of the truck and directly in front of its presumed path.

Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas heard and saw the vehicle begin to accelerate very quickly after it was started. When asked what action he took if any at that moment, Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas stated “I wanted to get out of the way. That was, that was my main concern, was getting out of the way of the truck so that I could not get hit”. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas believed he was in the path or potential path of the truck at that moment. When asked if he thought the subject saw him in the path or potential path of the truck, Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas stated, “I would say yes”.

When asked to clarify if the truck began to accelerate towards him before or after he began to move out of the truck’s likely path of travel, Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas was unable to say with certainty which was accurate but did state “it would probably be really close”. When asked what he thought or felt at the moment the truck began moving forward, Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas stated “I wanted to get out of the way of the truck so I didn’t get hit. That was my, that was my biggest concern, so I didn’t get hit”.

Ellwood-Bellas later reiterated that he felt if he didn't move out of the way of the truck when it began to move towards him, he would have been hit. Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas was equipped with a body worn camera during the incident.

TROOPER KEVIN BROWN

Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Kevin Brown was interviewed on April 11, 2023. Trooper Brown confirmed that he did not fire a weapon during the incident. Trooper Brown said dispatch radioed to troopers that the Brookfield Township Police Department had requested assistance from the OSHP due to learning of the location of a male subject (Fred Wild III) in a shed on private property in Brookfield Township.

Trooper Brown met with other law enforcement officers from different jurisdictions at a location on the roadway near the driveway of the residence where the shed was located. Trooper Brown recommended that some officers stay with their cruisers while the perimeter team surrounded the shed. The officer in their cruiser(s) could then drive along the driveway in a marked unit and turn the emergency lights on and use the "PA system" to call the subject out in case there was a barricade situation. Trooper Brown was assigned to stay with his cruiser near the driveway on State Route 7.

Trooper Brown said that OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED] was designated to be the only OSHP trooper to use the radio and when they were in position, OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED]

would radio for Trooper Brown to drive his cruiser along the driveway toward the shed. Trooper Brown was asked if he heard anything or heard any radio traffic. Trooper Brown said he did not recall hearing any radio traffic before the incident. He said he was inside his cruiser with the window down and “heard multiple shots.” Trooper Brown drove his cruiser quickly to the cabin. He did not hear anyone say anything before he heard the gunshots. He believed he was too far away on the road to hear anyone.

Trooper Brown was asked what he saw when he drove his cruiser to the area near the cabin and incident. Trooper Brown saw the truck in the driveway and the officers were walking around with “a deer in the headlight look” and they were not “really saying anything.” Trooper Brown asked what happened and did not receive a definitive response. He checked on the officers for any injuries and none appeared to be injured. He observed the deceased subject in the truck. Trooper Brown instructed the involved officers to place their weapons that were fired into his cruiser to secure them.

Trooper Brown said he was equipped with a BWC during the incident.

SGT. TIMOTHY GRIMM

OSHP Sgt. Timothy Grimm was interviewed on April 11, 2023. Sgt. Grimm confirmed that he did not discharge a firearm during the incident. Sgt. Grimm said

he was at a Speedway gas station speaking with a TCSO deputy and a Champion Police Department (CPD) officer when they were notified about the assistance requested in Brookfield Township.

Sgt. Grimm explained when he reported to work that night, he was notified about the vehicle pursuit earlier that day where the subject fled and was unable to be located. Sgt. Grimm said there was a briefing where BTPD officers explained that they met with the homeowner who told them that he saw the subject drive to the property in a truck.

The homeowner approached the subject and asked him to leave. The subject refused to leave and said he was going to stay overnight. The homeowner knew the truck that the subject was driving was stolen. The homeowner said he believed the truck was parked at the “back” of the property and was some distance behind the cabin on the property.

The officers planned how eight officers were going to walk back to the cabin, surround it, and call the subject out. Sgt. Grimm explained that it was dark outside, and the officers were not going to use any lights. It was decided that Trooper Brown would stay back by State Route 7 in his cruiser, and he would drive toward the cabin when the officers surrounded it and started calling the subject out.

Trooper Brown was going to give orders over the “PA” system of his cruiser.

The officers began to walk down an “access road” toward the cabin. Sgt. Grimm heard a “radio blaring” and saw lights from the cabin. Sgt. Grimm saw the truck parked “right up against this hunting shed.” He estimated it was a “couple inches” away from the structure and part of the truck was blocking the door to the cabin. Sgt. Grimm said it was a “well thought out process” because the subject likely knew it would be hard for law enforcement to access the interior of the cabin.

Sgt. Grimm moved to the right (to the north) as they approached the cabin. Other officers moved toward the front (to the south) of the cabin. As they moved into position, the subject stood up inside the cabin and saw the officers outside. Officers identified themselves and provided verbal commands to the subject to “get his hands up.” Sgt. Grimm saw the subject jump through the cabin window directly into the driver’s side of the truck.

The officers near the truck continued providing verbal commands and tried to break the passenger side window of the truck. Sgt. Grimm saw Trooper Boyle was near the “corner” of the cabin and OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED] was in between Sgt. Grimm and Trooper Boyle.

The subject started the truck and began “driving erratically towards all officers that were on scene.” Sgt. Grimm said he could tell by the subject’s “demeanor” that he was likely “under the influence of something.” The subject stared “straight

forward” and had “zero regard for anybody’s life.” Sgt. Grimm added, “His intent was that he was getting out of there at any cost.”

Sgt. Grimm said the subject began to drive the vehicle forward and toward Sgt. [REDACTED] and that is when “shots were fired.” Sgt. Grimm explained that he could not fire his weapon because there was an officer in front of him and he did not have a clear line of sight.

Other gunshots were fired, and the truck came to a stop. Officers approached the truck and made sure the scene was secure and the subject was no longer a threat. Sgt. Grimm added that there was a potential threat to Trooper Brown as he was driving on the driveway toward the cabin because the subject had a snowplow on the front of truck and Sgt. Grimm believed the subject’s intent was to “get away at any cost.” Sgt. Grimm said the subject did not have “any regard for anybody’s safety.”

The scene was secured and BCI was contacted. Sgt. Grimm was asked what he believed might have happened to any officers that were near the truck. Sgt. Grimm stated, “Um, like I said, his, the way he was driving if there was anybody, officers, that would have been, that were in front of him, I mean, it’s dark out, we’re not, we weren’t sure exactly where everybody was at the time, he was, he was going to run anybody over that he, that got in the way.”

Sgt. Grimm continued, “They would have been seriously injured or killed.”

SA Moran asked Sgt. Grimm about the manner that the subject started to drive the truck. Sgt. Grimm said he heard the “engine rev up” and he heard the “tires spinning through the mud.” Sgt. Grimm said he did not recall the subject striking anything with the truck. He added, “Everything kind of happened so fast.”

Sgt. Grimm said after the incident he saw a few small trees that had been knocked down by the truck, but he did not recall that during the incident. Investigators asked Sgt. Grimm about the positions of the officers. Sgt. Grimm said he knew where the OSHP troopers were, but he was not certain of where the other officers were located.

Sgt. Grimm was asked if he could tell where the gunshots were fired from. Sgt. Grimm said one of the first gunshots was near the area where Sgt. [REDACTED] was located, and the subsequent gunshots were from behind the truck. Sgt. Grimm said it was a possibility that Sgt. [REDACTED] fired first because the subject drove the truck “straight at” Sgt. [REDACTED].

Sgt. Grimm said he was equipped with a BWC during the incident.

TROOPER SCOTT BOYLE

OSHP Trooper Scott Boyle was interviewed on April 11, 2023. Trooper Boyle confirmed that he did not discharge a firearm during the incident.

Trooper Boyle said he spoke with a Liberty Township Police Department (LTPD) one or two nights before the incident and the LTPD officer mentioned the

subject Fred Wild, being in the area and having felony warrants. The LTPD officer told Trooper Boyle that the LTPD was also likely going to request felony warrant(s) for Wild.

The next day, Trooper Boyle learned about the vehicle pursuit involving Wild and multiple law enforcement agencies in Trumbull County. At the start of Trooper Boyle's shift before the incident, OSHP dispatch informed him that the BTPD had information about Wild's location from a homeowner in the area. There was information that Wild was a "flight risk" and told the homeowner that he would leave the property in the morning. Trooper Boyle and other OSHP troopers went to Brookfield Township and met with other law enforcement officers from other agencies at a mechanic shop near the homeowner's property. They spoke about a plan and viewed an overhead map, but it was difficult to see the exact layout of the property and buildings.

Trooper Boyle said he was going to cover the east side of the building with OSHP Sgt. Grimm. The law enforcement officers parked their cruisers on the road in front of the residence and walked about ¼ of a mile down a road on the property. Trooper Boyle could hear music "playing in the distance."

Trooper Boyle recalled a "spotlight" activating as the law enforcement officers were walking on the road on the property and he was worried Wild might see them coming. They continued moving into the wood line and Trooper Boyle saw

a light emanating from a window. Trooper Boyle said during the briefing, law enforcement officers discussed that the stolen vehicle that Wild had was likely parked further back on the property.

Trooper Boyle said they approached the cabin and he had “no idea” that Wild had the truck parked next to the cabin. Trooper Boyle said, “stick snapped” and he saw Wild approach a cabin window and look out of it. Wild bent down and possibly saw a law enforcement officer because “he jumped through the window of the cabin and then through the window of the truck.”

Other officers activated lights and Trooper Boyle saw the truck parked next to the cabin for the first time. Trooper Boyle said he was trying to “process” what was happening.

Trooper Boyle said he saw the other officers moving toward the truck and he moved to an area near the front of the truck. He stated, “And I’m standing right in front of the snowplow, and I pull up on him (raised hands and arms as if raising a rifle up), as I do that I see him putting the truck in drive so I start rolling out of the way and I hear him smashing the throttle. He’s you know, peeling out, um, I mean, just roasting the tires and he’s peeling out so I get out of the way and then right as that was, all happened I was still moving to the side um, I heard the shots being fired.”

Trooper Boyle said the reason he did not shoot was because the truck was moving, and he was concerned about “crossfire.” He also said he was “pinned up against the cabin.” Trooper Boyle said Wild “somehow” stopped the truck and officers approached and cleared the vehicle.

Trooper Boyle checked Wild for weapons and a pulse. Trooper Boyle said he saw a bullet wound to the back of Wild’s head and it was clear he was deceased. Trooper Boyle and another officer cleared the cabin.

Trooper Boyle stated, “I mean, I felt threatened um, when I ran up to the front of the truck.” Boyle was asked what he thought would have happened if he didn’t move or move out of the way?” Trooper Boyle responded, “I would have got tore up underneath that plow um, he had it raised just enough, yeah, it wouldn’t have been good.” Trooper Boyle stated, “So I know he was in like, flight mode um, he was trying to get the hell out of there. He wasn’t responding to anything anybody had to say um, he was just trying to get the hell out of there. So, I mean, he didn’t care what was in front of the truck or anything.”

When asked about the acceleration of the truck Boyle said he could hear the “tires spinning” and he could hear “rocks getting thrown up.” He also heard the “rev of the engine.”

Trooper Boyle said he was not certain of who was around his location, but he remembered seeing OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED] standing on a pile of rocks or pallets nearby

(made a motion to his left and slightly behind). Trooper Boyle pointed to an area on the overhead scan map where the rocks or pallets were located (near the front of the truck when it was parked). He recalled seeing Sgt. [REDACTED] after he cleared out of the way of the truck and turned to his left and saw Sgt. [REDACTED] on the rocks or pallets. Trooper Boyle stated, "I would say he had some threat his way as well."

Trooper Boyle indicated that he wanted to review his BWC video. Investigators played the video for Trooper Boyle. Trooper Boyle showed investigators some moments at the BWC video timestamp of 01:16:19 where his BWC recorded Wild driving the truck forward. These moments also recorded Sgt. [REDACTED]'s position near the front of the truck just before the gunshots were fired.

Investigator Moran asked Trooper Boyle if there was anything else that clarified or confirmed his memory of the incident after reviewing his BWC video. Trooper Boyle stated, "Yeah, that was the first time that I actually got to see Sgt. [REDACTED] that he was actually in the way of the plow there so, um, I mean, I'm surprised he didn't get hit by the plow." Trooper Boyle added, "He had a direct threat towards him."

Trooper Boyle said he was equipped with a BWC during the incident.

Involved Officers

INVOLVED OFFICERS

SGT. [REDACTED]

Brookfield Township Police Department Sgt. [REDACTED] was interviewed on April 3, 2023.

At the time of the incident, he had been a law enforcement officer for eight years. Sgt. [REDACTED] was on duty at the time of the incident, and he was scheduled to work from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. that night.

He drove BTPD cruiser [REDACTED], a marked BTPD Dodge Charger white colored, with an overhead light bar. He wore his standard BTPD uniform and a jacket that had a badge and BTPD patches on it. His pistol was in a holster on his duty belt, and he carried other common law enforcement equipment on his duty belt. Sgt. [REDACTED] was wearing a body-worn camera during the incident. He was not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time of the incident. Sgt. [REDACTED] had no physical disabilities at the time of the incident.

Sgt. [REDACTED] used a rifle during the incident. It was a Daniel Defense, 5.56mm. He is right-handed. He carried using a single point sling. He carried the rifle with no round in the chamber and a magazine inserted with 30 cartridges. He carried one extra ammunition magazine with 30 cartridges in it. He carried a total of 60 cartridges during the incident.

Sgt. ██████'s Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission certificate was valid and current. He said he received use-of-force training in November 2022.

Sgt. ██████ provided details about the incident of March 21, 2023. Sgt. ██████ said he attended training during the afternoon hours on March 20, 2023, and he learned about a vehicle pursuit that started in Lordstown and ended in Brookfield Township. They ended training and went to assist with the search for the subject involved but were unable to locate him.

Sgt. ██████ reported for his regular duty shift at 11:00 p.m. that evening and he learned about a vehicle that was stolen near the area where the pursuit subject was last seen. Other BTPD officers told Sgt. ██████ that the stolen vehicle subject was the same subject from the vehicle pursuit, Fred Wild III. Sgt. ██████ went to Wild's father's home to attempt to gather information about Wild's location. Wild's father said Wild was possibly with a friend named "Brian" and he lived on State Route 7.

Sgt. ██████ also learned about an active warrant for Wild. Sgt. ██████ obtained information about Brian Adkins. A short time later, Adkins contacted the BTPD and requested to meet with officers. Adkins informed Sgt. ██████ that Wild was a family friend and he saw the new story about the vehicle pursuit earlier that day and believed Wild was the subject.

Adkins advised he had reviewed his home surveillance videos and saw a blue truck driving along his driveway at about 6:00 p.m. Adkins knew the truck belonged

to William Shafer. Adkins went to the rear of his property and found Wild there. Wild told him he fled from the police, stole the truck, and was hiding on Adkins' property.

Adkins told Sgt. [REDACTED] about the property and how Wild was located at the rear of the property. Sgt. [REDACTED] then requested and was granted permission by Adkins to search the hunting cabin to locate the subject. Sgt. [REDACTED] asked Adkins if he had seen the subject with any weapons or if there were any weapons inside the hunting cabin. Adkins told Sgt. [REDACTED] he did not see the subject in possession of any weapons.

Regarding the cabin Sgt. [REDACTED] said Adkins told him "Um, he's like you know it's a hunting cabin, so I'm pretty certain there's crossbows in there is what he said. Um, he doesn't think there's any firearms, but he wasn't certain. There was definitely ammunition."

Sgt. [REDACTED] requested assistance from other law enforcement agencies to assist with searching for Wild. BTPD Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas, two TCSO deputies, four OSHP troopers, two VTPD officers, and one LPD officer arrived to assist. The officers met and discussed the property and formulated a plan to try to apprehend Wild.

The officers walked along the lengthy driveway at 1433 State Route 7. They saw a light coming from a cabin and could hear music. The truck was parked near

the cabin with the driver's side window lined up with the cabin window. The truck was blocking the door to the cabin. Sgt. [REDACTED] saw Wild through the cabin window.

Someone stepped on a stick and Wild was alerted to the presence of the officers and looked out the window. Sgt. [REDACTED] activated his rifle mounted flashlight and ordered Wild to show his hands. Wild opened the cabin window and dove into the open driver's side window of the truck.

Sgt. [REDACTED] then walked in front of the truck with the intent to grab the subject before he could fully get into the truck from the hunting cabin. As Sgt. [REDACTED] began to walk in front of the truck, he realized he would not be able to get between the truck and hunting cabin and began backing up to his original position.

Sgt. [REDACTED] stated "So he starts, I think the truck started when I was still, I don't remember when it started. I was either in front or I had moved, but I basically aborted that plan. I said I'm getting out of the way 'cause he's gonna try and leave. So, I stepped back to the passenger side. Um, were still yelling 'show us your hands.' I could hear somebody beating on the passenger window of the truck."

Sgt. [REDACTED] continued, "So the truck fires up and it starts moving as soon as it starts. Um and when he went forward, I remember he hit a little like a tree that was there and ran it right over. I stepped out of the way. My first thought was I'm getting out of the way of this thing, and I focused on him and just assumed were going to have to run down this driveway and it's going to start a pursuit with these guys

waiting. You know, obviously, pretty quickly, uh, I heard a gunshot and as soon as I heard that first shot that's when I kinda like realized, took my attention off of me being, you know, out of the way and realized there's still people in the way. Um, at some point in there I fired my weapon, when I was, yeah, I want to say I was standing close to, I don't know, close to where that dirt is basically the corner of those woods."

Sgt. [REDACTED] stated when he fired his weapon the line or travel for his bullet(s) would have begun at the back-right corner of the vehicle and gone diagonal to the front left of the vehicle. Sgt. [REDACTED] described the truck as having stopped quickly. Sgt. [REDACTED] then ran up to the passenger window and looked in while giving orders and felt "it was pretty clear he was probably deceased."

Sgt. [REDACTED] then broke the passenger window of the vehicle to gain entry as the door was locked. Once he broke the window, Sgt. [REDACTED] looked inside, assumed the subject was deceased, then reached inside the truck, smacked the shifter into park, and turned off the truck. After checking to see if anyone (besides the subject) was injured Sgt. [REDACTED] called for EMS to respond.

When asked what he presumed was happening when he heard the first gunshot, Sgt. [REDACTED] stated "that's what alerted me to like, you know, oh shit, there's people standing in front of that. Like I got out of the way, but they did not. Um, so, my thing was, he started moving. Once he started moving, went right over that little tree with that plow, that's when I perceived a threat towards, not me but the people

that were still out in front of the truck. It was pretty clear that the guy intended to get away.” Sgt. [REDACTED] did not know who fired first and could not see where all the officers were located.

Sgt. [REDACTED] believed he fired one or two gunshots. When asked what his concerns were regarding what could have happened when the truck began to accelerate and he fired his weapon, Sgt. [REDACTED] stated, “That’s when, I didn’t perceive a threat against me but I perceived a threat against the people that were still in front, so I thought he was gonna run somebody over.”

BTPD Sgt. [REDACTED]’s Personnel File information.

Sgt. [REDACTED] was hired by the BTPD in July 2016 as a part-time officer. In November 2017, Sgt. [REDACTED] received a full-time position with the BTPD. There was no record of any discipline related to the use-of-force noted in his personnel file.

Sgt. [REDACTED] attended and successfully completed the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) Basic Training class BAS14-068 at Youngstown State University. Sgt. [REDACTED] also took and passed the OPOTA certification examination and was issued Peace Officer Certificate [REDACTED] by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC).

Based on the records received, it is noted that Sgt. [REDACTED] was a duly certified and sworn Ohio Peace Officer at the time of the officer-involved critical incident.

Sgt. [REDACTED] has completed multiple law enforcement training classes in a variety of law enforcement-related topics.

In October 2022, Sgt. [REDACTED] qualified with his patrol rifle that he used during the incident.

DEPUTY [REDACTED]

On April 3, 2023, Trumbull County Sheriff's Office Deputy [REDACTED] was interviewed.

He has been a law enforcement officer for 10 years. Deputy [REDACTED] was on duty at the time of the incident, and he was scheduled to work from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. that night. He drove TCSO cruiser [REDACTED], a marked TCSO Ford Explorer, black colored, with an overhead light bar. He wore his standard TCSO uniform and a jacket that had a badge and TCSO patches on it. He also wore an external ballistic vest. His pistol was in a holster on his duty belt, and he carried other common law enforcement equipment on his duty belt. He was not wearing a body-worn camera during the incident. He was not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time of the incident. Deputy [REDACTED] had no physical disabilities at the time of the incident.

Deputy [REDACTED] used a rifle during the incident. It was an Aero Precision, 5.56mm. He is right-handed. He carried it at a low ready in his hands. He did not use the single point sling attached. He carried the rifle with one round in the chamber

and a magazine inserted with 30 cartridges. He carried two extra ammunition magazines with 30 cartridges in it. He carried a total of 91 cartridges during the incident.

Deputy ██████ said his Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission certificate was valid and current. He said he receives use-of-force training yearly.

Deputy ██████ was asked to provide details of the incident that occurred on March 21, 2023.

Deputy ██████ said he received a phone call from another officer at the beginning of his shift. The officer told Deputy ██████ about the pursuit that occurred earlier that day and how the subject was possibly armed with a “muzzle loader.” Deputy ██████ met with two OSHP troopers at a gas station and they received a request from the BTPD to assist with locating the pursuit subject. Deputy ██████ went to an area on State Route 7 and met with other officers for a briefing. Deputy ██████ learned that Adkins informed officers that the subject, Wild, was on his property and had a stolen truck near the rear of his property.

The officers walked along the long driveway toward the rear of the property. They approached a cabin and saw the truck parked in very close proximity to it. Deputy ██████ and Sgt. ██████ tried to approach the cabin door, but it was blocked by the truck. Someone stepped on a branch, and it snapped. The sound possibly alerted Wild inside the cabin, and he stood up and looked out the window.

An officer activated a flashlight and Deputy ██████ said he yelled, "Police!" Wild dove through the cabin window directly into the driver's side front seat of the truck. Deputy ██████ then began using the barrel of his gun to try and break out the passenger window of the truck but was unsuccessful. Deputy ██████ described the look on the subject's face at the time by stating "I've seen some looks in people's faces, but I will not forget the look on this guy. Like, looking as fast as all this had transpired, I remember just looking at him and like he had like this different look into his eyes, like, I don't know how to describe it the best but it was, it was a look of uh, he had a uh objective he wanted to, to get and he just, there was, there was nobody home. I don't know if that makes sense. Um, but he was, he was fumbling around trying to get the keys going and I kept striking the passenger window with my AR15 and somehow during this point that's when my magazine fell out. I didn't know that, and I'll never forget how strong that window was."

Deputy ██████ said Wild started the truck and revved the engine and began accelerating forward. Deputy ██████ said he was not the first officer to shoot. ██████ did say he fired one shot but he did not fire additional rounds because he realized that he accidentally dropped the magazine out of his rifle. When asked if he pulled the trigger a second time or how he figured out the weapon was not working, Deputy ██████ stated he did pull the trigger a second time and the trigger was tight, he then

looked at the rifle from the side and confirmed the magazine was no longer seated in the rifle.

Deputy ██████ stated “he (Wild) was an imminent threat and if we did not discharge our firearms to protect the troopers, and you know, I’ll refer to them as my friends because I’m good friends with all them guys, you know, there isn’t many people on midnight shift, especially in the areas we patrol. So, if somebody’s coming it’s gonna be those guys. If we did not discharge our weapons to protect them from serious physical harm, I believe he would have seriously injured one of them or killed one of them, I mean he ran over a tree.” He continued, “Because I thought he was gonna run over the guys I was with. Seriously, physically injure them or kill ‘em, I mean, the guy, he uh, and we all knew that he was in two uh, two chases, he ran from ‘em, he had the felony warrants, I mean we all knew that this guy was a severe flight risk. And the fact that he was in a stolen truck, and ya know committing a B and E nonetheless. We knew this guy was gonna do whatever he could to escape.”

Deputy ██████’s Personnel File with the Trumbull County Sheriff’s Office. Deputy ██████ was hired by the TCSO as a Special Deputy in September 2011. He became a fulltime deputy in January 2015. There was no record of any discipline related to the use-of-force noted in his personnel file.

Deputy ██████'s Training File showed that he attended and successfully completed the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) Basic Training BAS11-076 at Kent State University. Deputy ██████ also took and passed the OPOTA certification examination and was issued Peace Officer Certificate ██████ by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC).

Based on the records received, it is noted that Deputy ██████ was a duly certified and sworn Ohio Peace Officer at the time of the officer-involved critical incident. Deputy ██████ has completed multiple law enforcement training classes in a variety of law enforcement-related topics.

In September 2022, Deputy ██████ qualified with his patrol rifle that he used during the incident.

OFFICER ██████

On April 5, 2023, Vienna Township Police Officer ██████ was interviewed.

Officer ██████ at the time of the interview had been a law enforcement officer for 6 ½ years.

██████ was on duty at the time of the incident, and he was scheduled to work from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. that night. He drove VTPD cruiser █, a marked VTPD Ford Explorer with an overhead light bar. He wore his standard VTPD uniform that had a badge and VTPD patches on it. He also wore an external ballistic vest. His

pistol was in a holster on his duty belt, and he carried other common law enforcement equipment on his duty belt. He was wearing a body-worn camera during the incident. He was not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time of the incident. Ofc. [REDACTED] had no physical disabilities at the time of the incident.

[REDACTED] used a rifle during the incident. It was a Windham Armory, .223 caliber. He is right-handed. He carried it using a single point sling that was attached. He carried the rifle with no round in the chamber and a magazine inserted with 30 cartridges. He carried three extra ammunition magazines with 30 cartridges in it. He carried a total of 120 cartridges during the incident.

[REDACTED] said his Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission certificate was valid and current. He said he reviewed the use-of-force policy issued by the VTPD.

Officer [REDACTED] was asked to provide details about the incident that occurred on March 21, 2023.

Ofc. [REDACTED] said he arrived at the VTPD at about 11:00 p.m. and met with VTPD Ofc. [REDACTED]. At about 11:30 p.m., he left the VTPD, and dispatch called him about the BTPD having information about the location of the subject that was involved in a vehicle pursuit earlier that day.

The BTPD requested additional officers from the VTPD, OSHP, LPD, and the TCSO. Ofc. [REDACTED] met with other officers on State Route 7. Sgt. [REDACTED] showed the officers an overhead map of the residence and property at 1433 State Route 7.

Sgt. ██████ told the officers that the male homeowner told him that he observed a truck with a plow attached at the rear of the property and the truck was reported stolen earlier that day.

There was a hunting cabin along the right side of the property driveway leading to back of the property and was about ½ mile back. The plan was to surround the cabin and call the male subject out “peacefully and have him surrender himself.”

The officers moved their cruisers closer to the residence and parked them along the roadway. Ofc. ██████ put on his tactical vest and attached his BWC to his vest. When he exited his cruiser, he “charged” his patrol rifle and turned on and checked his optic. The officers moved down the property driveway. Two officers had “thermals” to try to assist with visibility.

The officers saw the cabin and light from the cabin with the thermal monocular. As they approached a pond near the cabin, Ofc. ██████ heard “loud music” coming from the truck parked nearby. Ofc. ██████ said he could not see the cabin because it was “pitch black.”

As Ofc. ██████ and the officers moved closer to the cabin, he saw the truck parked near the south side of the cabin. Ofc. ██████ used an overhead diagram map to draw the location of the truck. Ofc. ██████ said TCSO Deputy ██████ moved closer and saw the male subject inside the cabin. The male subject was facing north

and away from Ofc. [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED]. Ofc. [REDACTED] let other officers nearby know that the male subject was inside the cabin.

Ofc. [REDACTED] said there were other officers moving inside the “tree line” and pointed to the east and north side of the cabin on the overhead diagram map. Ofc. [REDACTED] said an officer stepped on a stick and the male subject “jumped up and looked out the window.” The male subject likely saw Ofc. [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] standing on the south side of the cabin.

Ofc. [REDACTED] and the other officers turned on their flashlights, announced the presence of law enforcement, and provided verbal commands. Ofc. [REDACTED] said the male subject “immediately jumped through the window into the cab of the truck.” Ofc. [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] moved toward the truck; the passenger window was rolled up and they used their rifles to hit the window to break it, but it did not break.

Ofc. [REDACTED] stated, “And he started up the truck and there um, he um, there was a couple officers this way (pointed to area in front of truck on overhead diagram map) over in front of the truck giving commands as well, and he started the truck, immediately slammed on the gas, spinning the tires, me and the deputy are still trying to break the window and as soon as he got traction, me and the deputy backed off. So, I’d say we were standing roughly close to the roadway, I’m not for sure, but it was close to the roadway that we were standing and he took off through the tree line and ran over a couple trees and was um, actively going straight towards another

officer, I believe it was a state trooper, at the time I believed that the state trooper's life was in immediate danger and I discharged my rifle at the time."

Ofc. ██████ marked two positions (with dots) on the overhead scan map that were in the property driveway on the south side of the cabin indicating that was his location, Deputy ██████'s location. Ofc. ██████ stated, "I took a shot right through the back window." Ofc. ██████ said there were five officers shooting and it seemed that the officers started and stopped shooting at about the same time.

Ofc. ██████ checked on the other officers and saw Ofc. ██████ standing near the door of the truck and checked on him. Ofc. ██████ radioed that shots were fired and to notify supervisors. Ofc. ██████ and an OSHP trooper checked for a pulse on the male subject. Sgt. ██████ was able to break the passenger side window to cover the male subject while they checked for a pulse. Sgt. ██████ radioed and requested an ambulance.

Investigators asked Ofc. ██████i what he thought was going to happen to the trooper in front of the truck. Ofc. ██████ replied, "I thought he was going to run him over with the blade in the truck. Hit him, hit him with the blade and run him over with the truck." When asked what that would have done to the trooper. Ofc. ██████ answered, "Kill him."

██████ was asked what his point of aim was. Ofc. ██████ said he looked through the "back window right at the back of his head" and that was where he was

aiming. SA Moran asked Ofc. [REDACTED] about the moments when he decided to fire. Ofc. [REDACTED] stated, "I'd say as soon as he ran over the tree and um, I saw there, there was no care of what he was going towards or at or who, I made my decision to fire my weapon."

When asked if he knew who the first officer to fire was, [REDACTED] said he did not know who was the first officer that fired. During the incident, Ofc. [REDACTED] was aware that Deputy [REDACTED] had fired because he was next to him. He did not know about any other officers that fired until after the incident when Trooper Brown asked who fired.

VTPD Ofc. [REDACTED]'s Personnel File.

Ofc. [REDACTED] had worked at several police departments prior to VTPD including: Braceville Township Police Department, Orwell Police Department, Newton Falls Police Department, and Champion Police Department. Ofc. Pishotti began his employment with the VTPD in April 2021 as a part-time officer. Ofc. [REDACTED] then became a full-time officer with the VTPD in August 2022.

There was no record of any discipline related to the use-of-force noted in his personnel file.

Officer [REDACTED]'s Training File showed that he attended and successfully completed the OPOTA Basic Training class BAS17-011 at Youngstown State University. Ofc. [REDACTED] then took and passed the OPOTA Certification

Examination and was issued Peace Officer Certificate [REDACTED] by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC).

Ofc. [REDACTED] has completed multiple law enforcement training classes in a variety of law enforcement-related topics.

In August 2022, Ofc. Pishotti qualified with a patrol rifle.

OFFICER [REDACTED]

Officer [REDACTED] of the Vienna Township Police Department was interviewed on April 5, 2023. At the time of the interview, he had been a law enforcement officer for 2 years.

Ofc. [REDACTED] was on duty at the time of the incident, and he was scheduled to work from 7:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. that night. He drove VTPD cruiser [REDACTED] a marked VTPD Ford Explorer with an overhead light bar. He wore his standard VTPD uniform that had a badge and VTPD patches on it. He also wore an external ballistic vest. His pistol was in a holster on his duty belt, and he carried other common law enforcement equipment on his duty belt. He was wearing a body-worn camera during the incident. He was not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time of the incident. Ofc. [REDACTED] had no physical disabilities at the time of the incident. He was wearing contact lenses at the time of the incident.

Ofc. [REDACTED] used a rifle during the incident. It was an Aero Precision, .223 caliber. He carried it right-handed. He carried the rifle with no round in the chamber

and a magazine inserted with 30 cartridges. He carried no extra ammunition magazines during the incident.

Ofc. [REDACTED] said his Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission certificate was valid and current. He said he reviewed the use-of-force policy issued by the VTPD.

Investigators asked Ofc. [REDACTED] to provide details about the incident that occurred on March 21, 2023.

Ofc. [REDACTED] said he heard about the subject, Wild, because VTPD Ofc. Antonel assisted the Liberty Township Police Department (LTPD) with a vehicle pursuit involving Wild on Saturday, March 18, 2023.

Ofc. [REDACTED] also communicated with BTPD Ofc. Ellwood-Bellas on March 20, 2023, about the pursuit that occurred that day involving Wild. Later that day, Ofc. [REDACTED] assisted BTPD officers and went to Wild's father's house to locate Wild. They spoke with Wild's father, and he told the officers that Wild was likely staying on the property located at 1433 State Route 7.

Ofc. [REDACTED] said that Ofc. [REDACTED] reported to work later that evening. Ofc. [REDACTED] saw the call involving the homeowner contacting the BTPD about Wild's location. The BTPD asked for assistance from the VTPD. Ofc. [REDACTED] went to the briefing area with the other officers but was called away for an alarm call. After clearing the alarm call, he returned to the briefing area for a few minutes and the officers drove their cruisers to the area in front of 1433 State Route 7.

█████ said he could not figure out how to open the trunk of his cruiser and the extra rifle magazine in the car was empty. The group of law enforcement officers began walking down the driveway and Ofc. █████ was left behind. Ofc. █████ asked OSHP Trooper Brown and TCSO Sgt. Carr where the group went, and they told him they went down the driveway.

█████ hurried and caught up to the group of officers. All the officers were quiet. As he was some distance away from the cabin, he heard music playing, likely from the truck parked near the cabin. He recalled seeing light coming from the cabin. Ofc. █████ was with the OSHP troopers on the north side of the driveway near the woods and continued to approach the cabin.

█████ said there was prior information that Wild possibly had a “muzzle loader.” Ofc. █████ momentarily took cover behind a tree. He saw the truck was parked in very close proximity to the cabin. Ofc. █████ said an officer (unknown) stepped on a stick and it was “really loud.” A short time later, he heard the officers on the south side of the truck and cabin screaming. He saw officers on the south side of the truck using their rifles to strike the passenger window of the truck while providing verbal commands.

Ofc. █████ said he was on the north side with the OSHP troopers, and they were “still in front of the truck.” He recalled seeing a “pile of bricks” near the truck and cabin. Ofc. █████ saw Wild inside the truck while the officers were trying to

break the window. Ofc. ██████ said Wild was “lurching forward and backwards” with the truck to escape.

█████ stated, “One of the troopers, he was, I would say like, maybe, I don’t know what you want to call it (stood up, held both hands a few inches apart near his right thigh), like this, about this close like, from getting clipped by the front of the plow while it was moving forward and back. I think, I don’t know, it looked like one of the tires might even have lifted on the front of the bricks. He went pretty forward, and he almost hit that one trooper and from what I remember like, seeing him like, everyone was still around the truck and like, there was no like, he, from how he was driving there was just no, I don’t, he didn’t care that there was anyone around him. He was just going. And there wasn’t, I had a good feeling like, a feeling that nothing was going to really stop him. That he was going to, he didn’t care if there was officers right next to the truck, they’re hitting those windows, he’s going forward, he’s going back, he’s going to do anything he can to get out of there as fast as he can.”

█████ continued, “And during this I, that’s when I start hearing like, the gunshots going out.” Ofc. ██████ described hearing the gunshots in “strings of like, two or three.” Ofc. ██████ said he had moved further east along the “path” (driveway) near the brick pile. He believed someone fired near him because his “ears started ringing.” He said Wild “got around the path” and Ofc. ██████ believed “he backed

up more before going forward and hitting that trooper.” Ofc. [REDACTED] said Wild was able to move the truck “further down the road, that path.”

[REDACTED] did not recall how many gunshots were fired but believed two or three people fired. He did not know if officers fired or if Wild fired.

[REDACTED] stated, “He keeps going down the pathway um, I know at one point he keeps going he gets to roughly a little ways past me and I end up, I think I end up taking aim, I made a kind of conscious decision and I was like, ‘Well, I watched him almost hit one of the troopers,’ I, from talking to Trooper Brown and the Trumbull County sheriff, they were, what they were going to do right before we came up to this, I know I forgot this part, but they uh, they were supposed to come down this trail after we tried to apprehend him and they’ll like, block him.”

Ofc. [REDACTED] said they were going to use their cruisers to block Wild in and they were supposed to drive “down the path” and it was “kind of tight” especially with the plow on the front of Wild’s truck. Ofc. [REDACTED] continued, “I made the conscious decision, I was like, ‘Well, I watched him almost just run over a trooper, just narrowly that he stepped out of the way of getting hit with the end like, the corner of that snowplow.’ Um, I was concerned that from they already fired on him I, for that, for all I knew I wasn’t totally sure if it was friend or foe... I know for a fact it was one of the officers obviously fired from that much gunfire. I didn’t know exactly. Fred also might have been armed, but I did know he almost run over one of

the troopers. I was, even from where I was, there was still risk of he, he could have, I wasn't behind bricks or trees anymore 'cause I started backing out of there to avoid getting hit that, I said, 'Well, he could still turn at me, he could still, we still have the guys coming down the pathway like, a snow plow into like, you know, a Dodge Charger that could easily kill somebody.' He could, even if they're not down the path, he could still run into one of them when they try to stop him out on seven, so I made the conscious decision, I aimed at, around his passenger window to his back window and I fired uh, uh, probably two to three rounds."

██████ believed he fired one to three gunshots through the driver's side window (side) or through the back window. Ofc. ██████ said he recalled the "vehicle was still moving at that point." He added, "But, things go pretty quick." Ofc. ██████ said after he fired, Wild and the truck "very soon after came to a stop." Ofc. ██████ said he did not fire "quickly" and recalled pausing between shots. He attributed that to his training it was "disciplined" how he fired.

2023-0795

VTPD Ofc. ██████'s Personnel File.

██████ was hired as a full-time officer in December 2021. There was no record of any discipline related to the use-of-force noted in his personnel file.

██████'s Training File showed he attended and successfully completed the OPOTA Basic Training class #BAS21-004 at Youngstown State University. Ofc.

█████ then took and passed the OPOTA certification examination and was issued Peace Officer Certificate █████ by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC).

Based on the records received, it is noted that Ofc. █████ was a duly certified and sworn Ohio Peace Officer at the time of the officer-involved critical incident. Ofc. █████ has completed multiple law enforcement training classes in a variety of law enforcement-related topics.

In September 2022, Ofc. █████ qualified with a patrol rifle.

SGT. █████

OSHP Sgt. █████ was interviewed on April 20, 2023. At the time of the interview, he had been a law enforcement officer for 22 ½ years.

Sgt. █████ was on duty at the time of the incident, and he was scheduled to work from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. that night. He drove OSHP cruiser █████, a marked OSHP Dodge Charger with an overhead light bar. He wore his standard OSHP uniform that had a badge and VTPD patches on it. He also wore a jacket with an OSHP badge and patches on it. His pistol was in a holster on his duty belt, and he carried other common law enforcement equipment on his duty belt. He was wearing a body-worn camera during the incident. He was not under the influence of any drugs or alcohol at the time of the incident.

Sgt. [REDACTED] had no physical disabilities at the time of the incident and does not wear corrective lenses.

Sgt. [REDACTED] used a rifle during the incident. It was an Aero Precision, .223 caliber. He carried it right-handed. He carried the rifle with no round in the chamber and a magazine inserted with 28 cartridges. He carried no extra ammunition magazines during the incident.

Sgt. [REDACTED] stated that his Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission certificate was valid and current.

Sgt. [REDACTED] had a prepared written statement. Sgt. [REDACTED] read his written statement aloud. Below are a few sections of Sgt. [REDACTED]'s written statement about why he fired his rifle during the incident:

Sgt. [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] neared the front passenger side of the truck and began giving verbal commands. I observed movement in the driver's seat of the truck a moment later and realized the suspect jumped through the front window of the cabin into the front driver's window of the truck. Deputy [REDACTED] and Sgt. [REDACTED] immediately began striking the front passenger window and ordering the suspect to show his hands. I jumped onto a nearby stack of several pallets to gain elevation and a better vantage point. I heard the truck's engine start a moment after the suspect jumped inside, and I saw the suspect hunched over, as though he was grabbing something. An instant later, the engine roared, and the truck launched forward, accelerating directly at me. A second later, while still rapidly accelerating, the suspect cut the wheels right (south). I was no longer in the suspect's path, but he was now driving toward the road and location where I had seen officers seconds earlier. I believed he was going to strike and/or run over and grievously injure or kill one or both of those officers, and it was then I fired at the suspect, just as he drove past me. I also heard several other officers fire at that time.

Source: Page 5 of file labeled, "Written Statement – OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED]"

I fired two rounds during this incident. I fired both rounds in rapid succession in what I would estimate was less than one second. I fired those rounds in a southwesterly direction through the front driver's window as the suspect drove past me. My target was the suspect's center mass. I would estimate that I was approximately 8-10 feet from the suspect when I fired. My backdrop was an open wooded area. From my elevated position, I did not see any officers or civilians in my backdrop. I believe I used my red dot sights. I fired with the weapon in my right

Source: Pages 6-7 from file labeled, "Written Statement – OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED]"

shoulder. I was standing when I fired, and I was not moving. Though it was dark, I believe my rifle's light was activated. I did not have any cover or concealment at the times I fired.

I was in fear for the lives of the officers standing on the road at the times I fired my weapon. Before encountering the suspect, I was aware that he had an active felony warrant and had just fled from several law enforcement jurisdictions during a pursuit hours earlier. The other officers and I planned to arrest the suspect and take him into custody on the felony warrant and subsequent charges out of the pursuit.

It was clear, however, the suspect had no intention to peacefully surrender. First, he had deliberately parked his pickup truck such that no one could gain access to the cabin but he would be able to quickly get into the truck and flee. And once I reached the cabin with the others, the suspect in fact immediately got into the truck and began to flee despite Sgt. [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED]—both of whom were in uniform and readily identifiable as law enforcement—trying to get inside the truck while repeatedly ordering the suspect to show his hands. Instead of peacefully surrendering and complying with officers' commands, the suspect started the engine and began accelerating. Based on the roaring of the engine, the mud and gravel kicking up behind the truck, and the speed at which the truck was moving, I believed the suspect had the accelerator completely down. At first, I believed he may strike and/or run over me since his truck was rapidly accelerating in my direction. But the suspect cut the wheels right (south) a second later, missing me by mere feet. (After this incident, I saw the tire tracks from the truck were within a few feet of the stack of pallets I had been standing on).

Source: Page 7 from file labeled, "Written Statement – OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED]"

Once the suspect cut the truck south, he was driving toward the road in a southeasterly direction. Moments earlier I recalled seeing two officers positioned on the road in the immediate vicinity where the suspect was now driving. At that time, those officers were fully exposed with

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no cover. I believed that those officers were still in the road and that the suspect was going to strike and/or run over one or both of those officers. I was also aware that Officer [REDACTED] and Sgt. Pedulla were behind me a moment earlier, and I was not certain whether they were out of the path of the suspect's truck. I was especially concerned since the suspect's vehicle was a full-sized pickup; was equipped with a large snowplow attached to the front; and was rapidly accelerating—factors significantly increasing the threat to those officers.

Source: Pages 7-8 from file labeled, "Written Statement – OSHP Sgt. [REDACTED]"

Finally, I also knew that the road was lined with trees on both sides such that a vehicle could only travel using the road. I also believed that Trooper Brown's cruiser was parked at the threshold of the entrance into the wooded area, leaving the suspect no path of escape. I also knew that Trooper Brown planned to remain in his cruiser in case the suspect fled. And because the suspect was rapidly accelerating, and I knew he had several hundred yards until he reached Trooper Brown by which to gain further speed, I feared that the suspect would strike Trooper Brown's cruiser at a high rate of speed resulting in grievous injuries or death, especially given the added force from the snowplow.

At the times I fired at the suspect, I did not believe I had any other reasonable alternative to protect the lives of the officers from the deadly threat presented by the suspect's actions.

Source: Page 8 from file labeled, "Written Statement – OSHP Sgt. ██████████

Sgt. ██████████ was asked if he was certain that he fired first. Sgt. ██████████ said he was "1000 percent" certain that he fired first.

Investigators asked Sgt. ██████████ about the moments that he fired and his point of aim. SA Moran also asked about the time that it took and how the gunshots went through the driver's side. Sgt. ██████████ stated, "Could be the time that it took. I saw my first-round impact if that, if that helps."

When Sgt. ██████████ was asked if he believed his rounds were effective, he stated, "Yes, it's, I could see an immediate reaction, 'cause this is the part where it's like slow motion. When I shot, I could see my first round somewhere around here (pointed to upper middle of chest). I saw his shirt move and his arms and his like,

shoulders lurched forward. And then, you know, I hate to assume, but I think his foot must have slipped off of the gas and onto the brake 'cause it made no sense for it to like slow down.”

Sgt. ██████ said he had to account for the “mechanical offset” of the rifle sights and his point of aim was the upper chest near the bottom of the neck. Sgt. ██████ was asked about the moments when the truck was driving toward him and his decision to fire. Sgt. ██████ stated, “I knew they were there and when he was initially coming at me it wouldn’t have been safe for me to fire because I had Trooper Boyle, who was right here (pointed to overhead scan image to the southeast corner of the cabin) and I think Sgt. ██████ was actually over here as well (pointed to gravel area on southeast side of cabin) ‘cause when the truck came up he kind of came behind and was somewhere over here and ██████ was still on the right side on here (pointed to gravel area on south side of cabin). When he (Wild) turned, knowing that the other guys were right there and he was heading towards them I didn’t know one, if they could engage or even if they would ‘cause I can’t get in their heads to know what they were seeing or thinking at the time, but I just knew that if it needed to be done, I had the safest opportunity to do it without injuring any officers.”

OSHP Sgt. ██████’s Personnel File.

Sgt. [REDACTED] was hired by the OSHP as a full-time Trooper in September 2000. There was no record of any discipline related to the use-of-force noted in his personnel file.

Sgt. [REDACTED] attended and successfully completed the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) Basic Training Class BAS99-091 at the MTC Training Centre. Sgt. [REDACTED] also took and passed the OPOTA certification examination and was issued Peace Officer Certificate [REDACTED] by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission. Sgt. [REDACTED] also attended and graduated from the OSHP Academy Class OSP-136 on March 9, 2001.

In August 2022, Sgt. [REDACTED] qualified with his patrol rifle that he used during the incident.

Based on the records received, it is noted that Sgt. [REDACTED] was a duly certified and sworn Ohio Peace Officer at the time of the officer-involved critical incident. Sgt. [REDACTED] has completed multiple law enforcement training classes in a variety of law enforcement-related topics.

**FRED WILD NOTES, TEXT AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATING
TO HIS STATE OF MIND**

Notes

A search of Wild's 2010 Dodge truck uncovered numerous hand-written notes.

A notepad dated March 18, 2023, stated “Warrant out of Lake County=Mentor=Jail Forever”.

“To-go: 1. Need to wash truck 2. Avoid-Liberty Lake County
3. Hide @ Camper”

“APB=for what? All Points Bulletin for Black Truck Mine No crime committed Trespassing @ Lake where-“

Another note page had written “3-18-23” “My excuse Lent truck to someone at bar! LOL ? Video dash cam of me driving?=Maybe”

Notes on a businesses note pad were dated “3-19-23” and stated “How to end the madness?” which was underlined. “1. Finally meet Alanis+talk 2. See how to meet Alanis A. Playing pool @ strip club”

Cell Phone

Wild’s cell phone was examined by the BCI Cyber Crimes Unit. The Apple ID was fwild4650@gmail.com and the phone number was (330) 265-9309.

The Cellebrite Reader was used to examine entries from March 17, 2023, to March 21, 2023.

Some of the messages between Wild and Wheeler are as follows:

March 19, 2023, at 1:25 a.m., Wild texted Wheeler, “This whole mess of my life is unreal. I’m so confused.” At 1:34 a.m., Wild texted Wheeler, “They tried to destroy my life. And they were close over and over. I’m really mad most of the time.”

At 1:58 a.m., Wheeler texted Wild, “You mean how much trouble you’re in if you get caught?”

At 2:00 a.m., Wild texted Wheeler, “It seems my whole life circle jerk was to get Alanis and me together. Fucking crazy.”

2:06 a.m., Wild texted Wheeler, “My life’s a wreck. I hate feeling like this.”

At 11:18 a.m., Wild texted Baumbach, “Hey. Did the police stop there looking for me yesterday? I had a little incident up at the church. Just a minor high speed chase but I got away.”

Wild texted Baumbach, “You should have gone for that ride. Found out the truck only goes 120 mph. So I just hold the pedal to the floor.”

Later at 12:02 p.m., Wild texted Wheeler, “My truck is pretty beat. I won’t be selling it any time soon. Witch sucks because I need a faster car to run from the cop cars”

At 5:12 p.m., Wheeler texted Wild, “Better be sure. They’ll pull you over.”

Wild responded and texted Wheeler, “They can try. Really though I wish they would stop there crap.”

There were multiple “Locations” logged at the incident scene, 1433 State Route 7, Brookfield Township, Ohio 44403 (41.256642, -80.573780) throughout the day.

There were two “Locations” logged from Apple Maps at 2034 hours at Leon’s Sports Bar & Grill, 1111 Niles Cortland Road NE, Warren, Ohio 44484 (41.250627, -80.741091).

On March 20, 2023, the date of the pursuit in Lordstown, Ohio, there were 2,325 entries.

Just after midnight, there was a “Web History” entry titled, “Lake County Clerk of Courts eServices/CourtView Justice Solutions.”

Other “Search Items” and “Web History” entries titled, “of course you are alanis” (likely Alanis Morrissette).

At 2:06 a.m., there were text messages from Wheeler to Wild asking him if he made it home safely.

Other messages Wild sent were to “Bugs” (Baumbach) about wanting to shoot coyotes. Wild texted a photo to “Bugs” with a message stating, “I just love leaving A’s behind for Alanis!!”

At 12:29 p.m., Wild texted a photo to Wheeler of a beer can in a drawer. He also texted, “I’m like the perfect office bitch. I know how to stalk the drawers.”

Between 2:41 and 2:54 p.m. there were multiple “Locations” entries. This was during the time that Wild led the Lordstown Police Department and other law enforcement agencies on a lengthy vehicle pursuit.

At 2:55 p.m., there were multiple “Searched Items” and “Web History” entries of “how to shut off i phone s.”

AUTOPSY

Wild’s autopsy was conducted by Forensic Pathologist and Deputy Coroner Dr. George Sterbenz of the Trumbull County Coroner’s Office.

Dr. Sterbenz identified five gunshot wounds on the body of Wild. In addition to photographs and the collection of clothing and biological material, Dr. Sterbenz recovered six different metal fragments from the clothing and body of Wild.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dr. Sterbenz stated in the Summary & Opinion portion of the written autopsy report that ‘ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED],

The autopsy also noted that the postmortem drug screen “[REDACTED]
[REDACTED],

Finally, Dr. Sterbenz stated “[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]”

FORENSIC TESTING

Forensic testing was conducted by the BCI Laboratory.

All the involved officer’s weapons were submitted. A total of twelve cartridge casings were recovered at the scene and all twelve were submitted for testing and comparison.

A bullet from the Chevy pick-up truck bullet jacket fragments and metal fragments from the clothing and body of Fred Wild were all submitted as well.

Forensic testing revealed that all the officer’s weapons were operable. The twelve cartridge casings were matched to the following officers as follows: three cartridge casings were identified as having been fired from Vienna Township Officer

██████████'s weapon, five cartridge casings were identified as having been fired from Officer Vienna Township Officer ██████████'s weapon, one cartridge casing was identified as having been fired from Brookfield Township Sgt. ██████████'s weapon and three cartridge casings were identified as having been fired from Ohio State Highway Patrol Sgt. ██████████'s weapon. No cartridge casing was matched to Trumbull County Sheriff's Deputy ██████████'s weapon despite ██████████ stating that he believed he fired one round.

The fired bullet was recovered, and all the bullet jacket fragments, and metal fragments were compared. The BCI analyst could not make a match to any of the firearms due to either unsuitability of the items or inconclusive findings.

SUMMARY

The events leading up the shooting of Fred Wild map out a clear pattern of an individual who was not going to be arrested and returned to jail and who would flee from officers by engaging in outrageous, extreme, and dangerous driving.

On two separate dates in the days before March 21, 2023, Wild had led officers from different jurisdictions on high-speed chases.

On March 20, 2023, he stole a pick-up truck and was trespassing and hiding in a cabin on an acquaintance's property. Law enforcement officers were notified by the cabin's owner and the officers developed a plan to approach and arrest Wild.

The cabin was in an extremely wooded area of the property with no outside lights. As the officers approached, they began to fan out to surround the cabin. Wild had purposely parked the stolen truck so that the truck blocked the door into the cabin yet immediately next to a window in the cabin in a manner that would allow him to climb out of the cabin window and directly into the driver's seat of the truck.

As officers approached the cabin Wild became aware of their presence and put into action his plan to exit the cabin through the window and directly into the driver's seat of the stolen truck.

As Wild exited the cabin officers activated their weapon-mounted flashlights and provided multiple verbal commands to Wild. The officers were clearly identifiable as law enforcement officers.

Wild jumped through the cabin window and into the driver's side window of the stolen truck. Wild ignored every verbal command of the officers, refusing to even remotely comply with their orders to show his hand and instead started the truck, revved the engine, and accelerated forward, leaving spinning tire tracks and running over multiple small trees with the snowplow attached to the front of the truck.

Sgt. [REDACTED], Sgt. [REDACTED], and Trooper Boyle were all near the front of the truck as Wild drove forward.

Officer [REDACTED] and Deputy [REDACTED] were positioned close to the truck on the passenger side. Officer [REDACTED], Officer Ellwood-Bellas, and Sgt. Grimm were positioned in front of the truck, but were some distance away.

Sgt. [REDACTED], Sgt. [REDACTED], Deputy [REDACTED], Officer [REDACTED], and Officer [REDACTED] fired their rifles¹ at Wild and the truck. Wild eventually stopped the truck a short distance down the driveway. The officers checked Wild, and he was clearly deceased.

BCI agents interviewed Wild's son, Baumbach, Wild's girlfriend, Wheeler, Wild's employer, Proverbs, and Wild's friend, Adkins. They all provided details about Wild's mental health and recent behavior.

Wild had active warrants for his arrest at the time of the incident. BCI agents learned that Wild had multiple encounters with law enforcement, many of them resulting in vehicle pursuits. In addition to the pursuit on March 20, 2023, it was discovered that Wild was involved in a pursuit with the LTPD on March 18, 2023. BCI agents collected multiple evidence items from the scene, the truck, and the autopsy. The BCI Lab tested the rifles used by the officers, the fired cartridge case, and projectiles recovered.

The BCI Lab was able to confirm which fired cartridge cases were fired from

¹ Deputy [REDACTED] stated to investigators that he fired his weapon but a cartridge casing matching his weapon was not located.

specific rifles. The BCI Lab was unable to confirm which projectiles were fired from specific rifles.

BCI agents collected multiple BWC videos, ICC videos, and home surveillance videos relevant to the incident. The videos were analyzed by OOCIC and reviewed by BCI SA Moran. The videos showed the officers providing multiple verbal commands to Wild. They showed Wild jumping through the cabin window into the truck, starting the truck, and revving the engine. The videos showed Wild accelerating the truck forward and Sgt. [REDACTED], Sgt. [REDACTED] and Trooper Boyle were near the front of the truck.

The videos showed 13 gunshots fired by multiple officers and Wild stopped the truck. The videos showed the officers checking Wild and that he was clearly deceased. SA Moran calculated the timing of the incident and from the moment when the first verbal command was provided by the officers to the last gunshot fired was about 20.7 seconds. The moment when Wild started to drive the truck forward to the last gunshot fired was about 5.93 seconds.

BCI agents interviewed all the officers involved with the incident. The officers all expressed some level of fear for their safety and the safety of other officers as Wild drove the truck forward with the snowplow attached as some of the officers, were in front of the truck as the incident unfolded. The officers indicated

that this was one of the primary reasons that they fired their rifles at Wild and the truck.

Wild clearly had mental health issues. Wild had a history of fleeing from the police.

Finally, and most importantly, Wild's actions clearly created an immediate threat of safety to at least three officers at the scene and every officer at the scene that fired a weapon expressed that they did so because they were fearful Wild was going to strike either them or their fellow officers.

LAW

The Supreme Court has instructed courts to use the following factors to determine whether an officer used unreasonably excessive force: (1) "the severity of the crime at issue[;]" (2) "whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others[;]" and (3) whether the suspect was "actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight." *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396, 109 S.Ct. 1865, 104 L.Ed.2d 443 (1989) (citing *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1, 8-9, 105 S.Ct. 1694, 85 L.Ed.2d 1 (1985)).

The reasonableness of the officers' use of force is assessed under the "totality of the circumstances." *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1, 8-9 (1985).

The evaluation of excessive force claims is done under an "objective reasonableness" standard, judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the

scene. *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386, 396-97, 109 S.Ct. 1865, 104 L.Ed.2d 443 (1989); see also *Pauly v. White*, 874 F.3d 1197 (10th Cir. 2017).

In conducting that analysis, the Court “focuses not on the officers’ particular motivations, nor on the arrestee’s perception of the intrusion, but on whether the officers’ actions were ‘objectively reasonable’ in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them.” *Fisher v. City of Las Cruces*, 584 F.3d 888, 894 (10th Cir. 2009) (internal citation omitted).

In this case all three Graham factors are overwhelmingly present.

First Graham factor

With respect to the first Graham factor Wild had arrest warrants from two counties, had committed at least three felonies² in the three days leading up to the shooting and was committing a fourth felony, and maybe more, when he was shot. Evidence, including videos and testimony from the previous two Failure to Comply situations clearly show Wild’s disregard for the safety of himself and his complete lack of respect for law enforcement. Even his own comments from his text messages show that he was travelling at 120 mph during one of the prior pursuits.

The first Graham factor is satisfied by Wild’s driving and his attitude as evidenced by the messages recovered on his phone.

² Failure to Comply with the Order or Singal of a Police Officer in both Liberty and Lordstown in violation of section 2921.331 of the Ohio Revised Code and Grand Theft of a Motor Vehicle in violation of section 2913.02 of the Revised Code

Second Graham factor

The second Graham factor is, “whether the suspect posed an immediate threat to the safety of officers or others[,] is the most important factor in determining the objective reasonableness of an officer's use of force.” Pauly, 874 F.3d at 1215-16

“Deadly force is justified under the Fourth Amendment if a reasonable officer in Defendants’ position would have had probable cause to believe that there was a threat of serious physical harm to themselves or to others.” *Sevier v. City of Lawrence*, 60 F.3d 695, 699 (10th Cir. 1995).

The Ohio Supreme Court has reiterated the common law privilege to use force in the discharge of a police officer’s official duties. In *State v. White*, (2015), 142 Ohio St. 3d 277, 29 N.E.2d 939, the Court quoted the Supreme Court of Iowa in *State v. Smith*, (1905), 127 Iowa 534, 103 N.W. 944: “An officer, in the performance of his duty as such, stands on an entirely different footing from an individual. He is a minister of justice and entitled to the peculiar protection of the law. Without submission to his authority there is no security, and anarchy reigns supreme. He must of necessity, be the aggressor, and the law affords him special protection.”

The United States Supreme Court has stated, “[w]here the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a threat of serious physical harm to the officer or others, it is not constitutionally unreasonable to prevent escape by using deadly force.” *Tennessee v. Garner* 471 U.S. 1 at 11, 105 S.Ct. 1694, 85 L.ed.2d 1 (1985).

Further, the United States Court has stated, “the ‘reasonableness’ of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight...The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgements-in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving-about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.” *Graham v. Connor*, (1989), 490 U.S. 386 at 396-397, 109 S.Ct. 1865, 104 L.Ed.2d 443.

In this case Wild was located after midnight hiding in a small cabin in a heavily wooded area. Officers approached in the dark because Wild had twice fled and eluded officers in the days leading up to March 21, 2023.

Additionally, there was concern that Wild might have access to some type of weapon in the cabin.

As the nine officers approached the cabin in almost total darkness Wild heard their approach and immediately leaped out the cabin window and directly into the driver’s side window of the stolen pick-up truck which he had carefully placed inches away from the cabin window to make such an escape.

Numerous officers yelled at Wild to show his hands and two of the officers began pounding on the passenger side window of the truck to stop Wild. Flashlights illuminated the inside of the truck, yet despite all the loud and continuous commands

of the officers Wild chose to start the pick-up truck and immediately floor the accelerator.

The pick-up truck left continuous track marks from the gravel immediately beside the cabin into the grass where the vehicle ultimately stopped after Wild was shot.

At least 3 of the officers were in front of the truck and within just a few feet of being struck by the truck and the attached snowplow. The force and speed with which Wild accelerated from the cabin is obvious from not only the tire tracks but the small trees he obliterated with the snowplow and truck.

A review of all the evidence including the body worn cameras clearly and unequivocally shows that at least four (4) officers were at various points directly in front of the path of the pickup truck.

Trooper Scott Boyle was directly in front of the truck as Wild entered into the driver's seat. Boyle was inches from the vehicle at the corner of the cabin and the front of the vehicle when Wild accelerated from the cabin.

Sgt. [REDACTED] was directly in front of the vehicle on a small pile of rocks/bricks when Wild accelerated and sped away. Directly behind Sgt. [REDACTED] was Officer [REDACTED] who was also clearly in the direct path of where the pickup truck was pointing when Wild entered.

Although Wild quickly turned the wheel to the right as he sped away from the cabin, this maneuver simply put the truck and snowplow on a path dangerously close to Sgt. [REDACTED].

The second factor under Graham is satisfied by Wild's actions in becoming an immediate threat to the safety of at least 3 officers in a matter of seconds.

Third Graham factor

Finally, under the Graham analysis, the Court considers whether there is any indication that the suspect was actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest at the time the officers decided to use deadly force. Graham, 490 U.S. at 396, 109 S.Ct. 1865.

Without doubt the Defendant was actively resisting and attempting to evade arrest at the time the officers used deadly force.

Wild had led two different law enforcement agencies on not one, but two different high-speed chases in the days before March 21. He bragged about his truck travelling 120 mph and how the police could not catch him.

As evidenced by his own hand-written notes and his text messages, he was developing and creating lies to escape criminal liability for his actions, he lamented the fact that he would need a faster vehicle to elude the police and even texted that the police would not catch him.

At the cabin he deliberately parked the stolen pick-up truck in a position where

he could open the cabin window and climb directly into the open window on the driver's side of the pickup truck.

A simple review of the video clearly shows that the officers were all dressed in clearly marked law enforcement uniforms, repeatedly yelled at Wild that they were police officers and even attempted to break into the passenger side door window to effectuate the arrest of Wild.

Instead of complying with the officers, Wild acted in conformance with his previous behavior over the preceding three days and his stated intent of not being arrested and his desire to flee from the police.

Although not the same the facts in a case decided by the United States Supreme Court offers guidance for law enforcement facing a similar situation.

In *Plumhoff v. Rickard*, 572 U.S. 765, 134 S.Ct.2012, 188 L.Ed 2d 1056 (2104), officers pulled over a driver for a headlight violation near midnight and observed that he seemed nervous. Rather than produce his driver's license at the officer's request, the driver sped away and, during the police chase, the driver exceeded speeds of 100 miles per hour and passed more than two dozen vehicles.

The driver, while exiting the freeway, hit one of the police cruisers, which caused him to spin into another police cruiser. The driver attempted to reverse and accelerate his vehicle, but his car was stuck to the bumper of a police cruiser.

Two officers approached him with weapons drawn and one officer pounded on the passenger side window. The driver then “made contact” with another police cruiser and the wheels of the vehicle were spinning and it was rocking back and forth, although it was still stuck. One officer then fired three shots into the vehicle, and, at that point, the driver was able to pull away, causing an officer to step out of the way of his vehicle. As the driver sped away, the officers fired 12 shots into his car, causing the driver to crash into a building.

The United States Supreme Court found that the shooting was reasonable, reasoning “[u]nder the circumstances at the moment when the shots were fired, all that a reasonable police officer could have concluded was that [the driver] was intent on resuming his flight and that, if he was allowed to do so, he would once again pose a deadly threat for others on the road. [The driver's] conduct even after the shots were fired—as noted, he managed to drive away despite the efforts of the police to block his path—underscores the point.” *Id.* at 776–77 (emphasis added). The Court further stated that the number of shots fired was reasonable because “if police officers are justified in firing at a suspect in order to end a severe threat to public safety, the officers need not stop shooting until the threat has ended.” *Id.* at 777.

Regarding the “reasonableness of lethal force as a response to vehicular flight, ... this is an area in which the result depends very much on the facts of each case.” *Plumhoff*, 572 U.S. at 777. The Court must “view the facts as an officer would have

encountered them on the night in question, not as an ex post facto critic dissecting every potential variance under a magnifying glass.” *Monzon v. City of Murrieta*, 978 F.3d 1150, 1157 (9th Cir. 2020).

Without any doubt, Wild was attempting to elude officers in a motor vehicle for the third time in three days. His preplanned escape in the stolen pickup truck, his refusal to even acknowledge the presence of law enforcement, along with his revving and throwing the vehicle into drive with three officers directly in the path of his flight clearly completely fill all three of the Graham factors.

CONCLUSION

The particular facts in this case, Wild's written and text intentions to continue to avoid arrest, his parking of the pickup that prevented anyone from entering the cabin and providing him easy access through a window into the open driver's side window of the stolen truck and his repeated prior high speed chases in the days leading up to his death all make the decision as to whether any officer should be charged an easy one.

Because this office finds that there can be no other conclusion other than the fact that the officers use of force was reasonable there will be no presentment of this matter to a grand jury and this investigation will be closed with no action against any of the officers involved.

This office is aware that there is civil litigation regarding this matter. To not unnecessarily publicize this matter, the Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office will have no further statements regarding this matter.

This office gives special thanks to Dave Yost's Ohio Attorney General's Office and Special Agents Arvin Clar, Nicholas Valente, SA Matthew Armstrong, Jonathan Lieber, John P. Tingley, Charles Moran, Joseph Goudy, Forensic Scientist Dylan Matt, Ohio State Highway Patrol Troopers, Brian Depizzo, Steven Tucci, Milan Milosevic and Deputy Coroner and Forensic Pathologist Dr. George Sterbenz for their thorough investigation and work in this matter.

Prosecutor Watkins acknowledges and thanks the assistance of First Assistant Christopher Becker in leading the prosecutor's office role in the investigation and preparation of this report. His leadership combined with his interviews with investigators and thorough review of the evidence was invaluable to this office.

A copy of this report was sent by mail/e-mail to Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost's BCI Office, Trumbull County Sheriff Paul Monroe, the Brookfield Police Department, Vienna Police Department, Lordstown Police Department, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney's Office deems the BCI report a public record including the majority of various exhibits and documents not subject to public record exemption.



DENNIS WATKINS
Trumbull County Prosecuting Attorney