



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



Investigative Activity: Meeting with Prosecutor
Date of Activity: 07/19/2022
Activity Location: Ohio BCI&I Richfield NE Regional Office – Business – 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, OH 44286, Summit County
Author: SA Eric Lehnhart, #84

Prosecutor Summary / Case Number: 2022-1545

Investigative Request

On Tuesday, July 19, 2022, Chief Robert Gavalier of the Austintown Township Police Department (ATPD) requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting incident. The incident reportedly occurred on July 19, 2022, in the area of 4851 Westchester Drive, Building A, Apartment 1, Austintown, Ohio 44515, and resulted in the death of Imonie Theresa Hackett.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the July 19, 2022, officer-involved shooting in Mahoning County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Every fact and detail is not presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident.

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

Investigative Team

BCI Special Agent (SA) Eric Lehnhart (Lehnhart) was assigned as the lead SIU case agent. SA

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Lehnhart received assistance in the investigation from SA Al Bansky, SA John Tingley and SA Jack Shea. BCI Special Agents Ashley Ornelas and Larry Hootman of the Crime Scene Unit processed the scene of the incident by documenting, preserving and collecting possible evidence. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) David Posten and SAS Jonathan Lieber. Additionally, various personnel from the BCI crime laboratory performed scientific analyses on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

Summary of Process

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation by the investigative team in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interview(s) of one trooper who discharged weapon(s).
- Statement interviews of one trooper who was involved in the incident, at the scene or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information.
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene.
- Interviews of two civilian witnesses to the incident.
- Obtained and reviewed post mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports.
- Obtained and reviewed police report of prior law enforcement contacts with the subject.
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the involved subjects, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records, etc.
- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen).
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) trace on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine ownership history).
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident.
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting and collecting).
- 3D scans/model of incident area.
- Reviewed audio communications on the radio frequencies utilized during the incident.
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident.
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident.
- Review of the department's reports, photographs and investigative materials pertaining to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from any compelled statement.
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 - Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings and bullets
 - Firearm operability testing
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved in the shooting, to include training and disciplinary records (if any).
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers.
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review.
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through search warrant.
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered.

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- Reviewed tips, social media posts and pertinent statements made in the media regarding the incident.

Incident Summary/Overview

The Austintown Township Police Department responded to a call for a welfare check of Imonie Theresa Hackett (Hackett), who resided at 4851 Westchester Drive, Building A, Apartment 1, Austintown, Ohio 44515.

The call for the welfare check was in reference to an earlier encounter between Hackett and another resident of Building A, where Hackett was observed racking "cycling" a semi-automatic weapon in response to a neighborhood dispute.

As members of the ATPD approached Hackett's apartment, they observed Hackett sitting in the threshold of the door, replacing door locks to her apartment, with an empty gun holster on her hip and loose ammunition nearby. Hackett went inside her apartment and closed the door on officers. As officers were backing away from Hackett's apartment, she reappeared in the doorway, brandishing a semi-automatic weapon in her right hand. ATPD chose to back away from Hackett's apartment, set up a perimeter and called negotiators and members of their Critical Response Team (CRT) to the area.

Hackett failed to engage the ATPD and an 18 to 19-hour standoff commenced. Over the following hours, the ATPD-CRT was relieved by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) SWAT and negotiation team. The FBI attempted to communicate with Hackett by using a robot. Again, Hackett failed to engage any reasonable attempt to communicate. At approximately 1500 hours, the FBI's team was relieved by members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Special Response Team (SRT). At approximately 1600 hours, as OSHP Troopers were positioning their robot to try to communicate with Hackett, she appeared at a southside window, opened it and fired two rounds in the direction of FBI and OSHP SRT members who were positioned at the southwest corner of Hackett's apartment. Immediately, OSHP Sniper [REDACTED] fire one round, striking Hackett and knocking her to the ground.

External team members raked a southside bedroom window as a diversion, while other team members breached the apartment door. Once inside, Hackett's 9-year-old son was extracted from the apartment, and other team members immediately began administering aid to Hackett's injuries. Paramedics from Lane Life Trans Medical Service were called into the apartment, where Hackett was prepared and transported to Mercy Health St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital.

Decedent

Imonie Theresa Hackett was a 31-year-old female who resided at 4851 Westchester Drive, Building A, Apartment 1, Austintown, Ohio 44515, with her son, David Stanford (9 yrs.). Hackett had limited medical history available, but through hospital medical records, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Outside of traffic violations, Hackett had no prior criminal contact with law enforcement.

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Hackett was treated and admitted to Mercy Health St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. She was transferred to Regency Cleveland East Hospital on Monday, August 8, 2022, for continuation of medical management. On Thursday, August 25, 2022, Hackett died. She was transferred to the care of the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office for a post mortem examination.

Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent (Imonie Theresa Hackett) was obtained from the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. A review of those documents revealed the following information:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Physical Evidence

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting in order to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. Multiple agents responded and processed the scene, to include photographing and mapping the area, as well as the search for, documentation and collection of items of possible evidence. Detailed crime scene reports were completed with the below information only summarizing some of the more significant findings.

Scene One: 4853 Westchester Dr., Bld. A, Community Laundry

- Item #1 FN Herstal Special Police Rifle .308, S/N [REDACTED] (Laundry Room)
- Item #2 Cartridge Case - Hornady 308 Win (Laundry Room)
- Item #3 Tactical Light (Lawn Below Laundry Room Window)

Scene Two: 4851 Westchester Dr., Bld. A, Apt. 101

- Item #1 Three Magazines w/ Cartridges (Living Room)
- Item #2 Holster and two Cartridges (Living Room)
- Item #3 Taurus Handgun G3c, S/N: ACJ237115, 1 Cartridge Case in Chamber, 1 Magazine with 10 Cartridges (Living Room)
- Item #4 Cartridge Case - GFL 9mm Luger (Living Room)
- Item #5 Black Cell Phone on Couch (Living Room)

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- Item #6 Black Cell Phone on Windowsill (Living Room)
- Item #7 Silver Cellphone on Clothes on Floor (Living Room)
- Item #8 Taurus Box (Dining Room)
- Item #9 Laptop (Master Bedroom)
- Item #10 Taurus Box (Master Closet)
- Item #11 Ammunition Box and one Cartridge (Living Room)
- Item #12 Prescription Bottles (Apt. 101)

Various items of potential evidence were submitted to the BCI Laboratory for analysis. The actual reports should be consulted as the following synopsis does not include many of the details from the full reports.

- (Item #1) White box containing firearm (serial # [REDACTED] (Matrix #001) – One (1) FN Herstal 308 Winchester bolt action rifle, model Special Police Rifle, serial number [REDACTED] one (1) magazine and five (5) 308 Winchester cartridges.
- (Item #2) Envelope containing cartridge case (Matrix #002) – One (1) 308 Winchester fired cartridge case.
- (Item #3) White box containing firearm (serial #ACJ237115) (Matrix #006) – One (1) Taurus 9mm Luger semi-automatic pistol, model G3c, serial #ACJ237115, one (1) magazine, ten (10) 9mm Luger cartridges and one (1) 9mm Luger fired cartridge case.
- (Item #4) Envelope containing cartridge case (Matrix #007) – One (1) 9mm Luger fired cartridge case.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene (casings and bullets). By comparing evidentiary cartridge casings/projectiles to known standards from each weapon, identifications were able to be made as to which casings/projectiles were fired from each firearm. Of the casings/projectiles recovered, the following identifications were made:

According to Forensic Scientist Dylan Matt, both Item #1 and Item #3 were determined to be “operable” and “source identification,” when compared to Item #2 and Item #4. Source Identification is defined as, “The observations provide extremely strong support.”

Witnesses

Scott Kale

Scott Kale, the resident at 4851 Westchester Drive, Building A, Apartment #102, advised that he and his wife have known of Hackett and her son for some time. Kale could not recall a time where Hackett was not polite and the two often shared hellos in the hallways when passing. However, on the night of Monday, July 18, 2022, Kale and his wife were making their way into their apartment, after being away, when Hackett passed by. Kale advised that Hackett stopped at their door, looked at them and "growled like a dog" at them. Kale quickly opened his door and ushered his wife inside their apartment before looking towards Hackett's apartment. Kale

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stated they have never experienced anything like this from Hackett in the past and considered her a wonderful person to live next to.

Destiney Bowman

Destiney Bowman advised that on Monday, July 18, 2022, she and her wife (Kattie Bowman) came home around 1700 to 1730 hours, and observed Hackett's apartment door wide open. Around 2100 to 2130 hours, Destiney walked out of her apartment to let a friend in, when she heard "racking of a gun" coming from Hackett's apartment. According to Destiney, she observed Hackett "peaking the door and could see the top of a gun" in Hackett's right hand. Destiney described the weapon as dark-in-color. Destiney went back into her apartment and told her wife to call the police. Destiney further advised, after the police arrived, she heard the police saying twice, "Put the gun down, Imonie."

Officer Interviews

The following paragraphs are extremely abbreviated versions of each officer's account of his or her actions pertaining to this incident and/or discharging their weapon. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview.

Trooper [REDACTED]

Trooper [REDACTED] Unit # [REDACTED] is a 10-year veteran of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, who began his employment in November of 2012. He is currently assigned to the Akron Post and is also a part-time member of the Special Response Team (SRT), as one of several OSHP riflemen/snipers. He is OPOTA certified through the OSHP Academy and is current on all required training and qualifications.

On Tuesday, July 19, 2022, Trooper [REDACTED] while on duty, received an OSHP SRT text with information about a barricaded individual and her son at the Westchester Square Apartments in Austintown Township. After receiving this information, Trooper [REDACTED] responded to the area and was assigned as a part of a sniper/spotter team with Trooper [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]). As the FBI SWAT team was already on scene and had been for several hours, the plan was for OSHP SRT members to relieve the FBI SWAT team of their positions and continue on with the negotiations.

Troopers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] made their way to an adjacent building where the FBI's sniper was already in position, in a small community laundry room. Trooper [REDACTED] volunteered to take the first 30-minute rotation as the sniper "on the scope," between he and Trooper [REDACTED] while Trooper [REDACTED] kept a visual on the other apartment windows. Trooper [REDACTED] concentrated his focus on the window that was described by the FBI as a possible [REDACTED]

as was her son, and they had witnessed her peek out that specific window earlier in the day. The FBI also relayed that they had tried to utilize a robot to establish communications with the female; but, in response, she had fired a weapon inside the apartment.

At 1530 hours, Trooper [REDACTED] and Trooper [REDACTED] traded positions. As OSHP SRT had

taken over the complete operation, both troopers listened, as other OSHP SRT members discussed diversion tactics should a breach of the apartment door be necessary.

At 1600 hours, the two switched positions again and Trooper [REDACTED] assumed the role as sniper. As Trooper Landers (robot operator) was operating OSHP's robot towards the subject's doors to attempt communications, the subject appeared at the southside window, opened it and fired a black handgun at an armored FBI vehicle and OSHP SRT members, who were positioned near the southwest corner of the subject's apartment.

Suddenly, I saw her hand appear from the bottom of the window with a black handgun in it and she rapidly fired at least two shots towards the west end of her building where I knew SRT members were located. I immediately fired one round. In an instant, she disappeared from the window. I was not certain if I had hit her. I ejected the casing and put another round in the chamber. I yelled "Shot Out" and I heard [REDACTED] relay it over the radio. The entire incident of the suspect's hand appearing out the window, her firing and me returning fire, happened within 2-3 seconds.

Trooper [REDACTED] maintained his position, while SRT breached the subject's door and called the young male to safety. As SRT called for the standby medics to enter, Trooper [REDACTED] laid his rifle down and left the laundry room, while other law enforcement officers on scene

[REDACTED] Post where he stood by until BCI personnel arrived. Trooper [REDACTED] stated that he was unfamiliar with the female subject; and once her identity was known to him, he advised that he had no other prior contact with her that he could recall.

Trooper [REDACTED]

Upon Trooper [REDACTED]'s arrival on Westchester Drive, he was assigned a part of the sniper/observer team with Trooper [REDACTED]. The pair made their way to meet up with the FBI sniper team, who were already set up at 4853 Westchester Drive, Building A, in a community laundry room, approximately 38 yards south of Ms. Hackett's apartment.

The pair agreed that Trooper [REDACTED] would be "on scope" for the first 30 minutes, and the pair would then switch to alleviate eye fatigue. It was also agreed that the person on the scope would concentrate on the number three window (Hackett's living room), and the observer would train their attention in the number one and two windows. This was done as the FBI witnessed movement in that window earlier in the day.

[REDACTED] apartment were moving. Trooper [REDACTED] advised that he moved his focus toward the number three window to observe the apartment blinds open, the window slide open and a handgun appear. Trooper [REDACTED] continued to advise that he witnessed what he believed were two shots fired from the observed window toward an armored FBI vehicle and members of the OSHP SRT team who were positioned in that area.

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██████████ ██████████ ██████████
apartment and stated, "Shot out," which Trooper ██████████ transmitted to the other team ██████████
that he didn't observe any additional movement at the window.

Trooper ██████████ and Trooper ██████████ remained at their post until they received word that the OSHP breach team had made entry and secured the apartment.

Dispatch-Related Information

Austintown Township Police Dispatching records indicate that on Thursday, July 7, 2022, Hackett called the Austintown Township Police asking for officers to respond but would not advise the dispatcher as to what her complaint was. Eventually, Hackett began pounding on her neighbor's door, yelling for them to call the police. At the conclusion of the 15 minute call, Hackett stated to officers that someone had hacked her cellular telephone and she was leaving her apartment for the evening.

On Friday, July 8, 2022, Hackett appeared on station at the Austintown Township Police Department to speak to officers about the previous night's call. According to officers, Hackett stated that individuals from Chicago were in town following her around. These same individuals, according to Hackett, were responsible for hacking her cellular telephone. However, she was not able to provide any credible follow-up information on who these individuals were.

On Monday, July 18, 2022, at 2109 hours, Hackett's neighbor called 911 to report that Hackett is sitting in her doorway waving a gun around. The caller also advised that anytime a person enters the building, Hackett would "cock her gun back." The call continued with the caller stating that Hackett had been talking crazy for a few days and had made it known to her neighbors that they were to leave her alone or her [Hackett] "master plan would come to check."

Over the next several hours, Hackett would call in to the police department asking for help, but when officers tried to contact her, she would advise them that she was going to start shooting.

Video Recordings

This incident was not captured on video. OSHP breach and perimeter teams were wearing body-worn cameras that captured video after the fact. Additionally, no external property video was identified.

Conclusion

Unusually strange behavior that began on Thursday, July 7, 2022, and Friday, July 8, 2022, caused Imonie Theresa Hackett's neighbors to call the Austintown Township Police Department on Monday, July 18, 2022, claiming that Hackett was again brandishing a weapon as her neighbors and their friends walked through the building.

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Officers were dispatched to Hackett's apartment to conduct a welfare check on her and her son, David. They encountered Hackett sitting in the threshold of her apartment door, appearing to change the locks on the door. Bullet cartridges and an empty holster were near by. Hackett refused to engage in conversation with officers; stood up, walked into her apartment and closed the door. Moments later, she reopened the door with a black handgun in her right hand.

Officers called to Hackett to drop the weapon as they retreated to a position of cover. Hackett would reenter her apartment and refuse to exit or engage officers in any meaningful way. Over the next 18 to 19 hours, Hackett ignored the attempts of multiple law enforcement agencies to communicate with her. Instead, Hackett was observed live streaming on Facebook, asking those who followed her, "Why is everyone acting so weird?" Several of those online at the time, plead with Hackett to seek the help she needed.

On Tuesday, July 19, 2022, at approximately 1306 hours, Hackett fired one bullet inside her apartment. At 1615 hours, Hackett appeared in a southside window, opened it and fired two bullets in the direction of federal and state law enforcement officials that were staged near the corner of her apartment. Immediately, OSHP Trooper [REDACTED] fired one bullet, ultimately striking Hackett in her left jaw, knocking her to the floor.

OSHP Special Weapons and Tactics Troopers forcibly breached Hackett's apartment door, rushing Hackett's son to safety and administering medical aid to her. At the call of OSHP, Lane Life Trans paramedics responded and assumed advanced life support care of Hackett.

Medical records also show that Mercy Health Youngstown Hospital physicians assumed medical treatment of Hackett, and she remained at Mercy Health Youngstown Hospital in a sedated state for approximately seven weeks. On August 8, 2022, Hackett was transferred to Regency Cleveland East Hospital for continuation of long-term care. She remained at Regency Cleveland East Hospital until her death on Thursday, August 25, 2022.

Contact Information

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved shooting incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived. Any questions regarding the content or context of the information contained in this document can be directed to the attention of Special Agent Eric Lehnhart. SA Lehnhart can be reached via email at Eric.Lehnhart@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone at (419) 408-8042.