



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



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 4206 Northridge Rd,
Alexandria, OH

To: Jenny Wells, Licking County Prosecutor
From: Craig Call, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
Date: October 22, 2024
Involves: Doug Plott, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
BCI Case Numbers: 2024-2620

Investigative Request

On Friday, August 30, 2024, the Licking County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's (BCI) Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and Crime Scene Unit (CSU) in conducting an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer-involved shooting incident. The incident reportedly occurred on August 30, 2024 in the area of 4206 Northridge Road, Alexandria, Ohio and resulted in the death of Doug Plott.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the August 30, 2024 officer-involved shooting in Licking 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.



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Investigative Team

Lead BCI Special Agent:

- SA Craig Call

Assisting Investigative BCI Special Agents:

- SA James Poole
- SA Ryan Scheiderer
- SA David Weiging
- SA Carrie Ryan

BCI Crime Scene Special Agents:

- SA Mathew Austin
- SA Brittany VanBibber
- SAS Josh Durst

BCI Investigative Supervisor:

- Special Agent Supervisor James Mulford

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:

- Written statements of the two officers who discharged their weapons
- Recorded interviews of three officers who were involved in the incident, at the scene, or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Written statements of two additional first responders
- Interviews of family members or associates of the subject
- Review of all available body cameras and other video footage of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- 3D scans
- 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



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- 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
- Review of Licking County Coroner's Office report and findings
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings, and bullets
 2. Firearm operability testing
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records for involved officers
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons

Incident Summary/Overview

On Friday, August 30, 2024, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by the Licking County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) to respond to 4206 Northridge Road, Alexandria, Ohio, to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (shooting). BCI was informed the LCSO and Johnstown Police Department (JPD) were dispatched to the above address in reference to a domestic violence call for service involving weapons (knives and potentially a gun). Diane Bell (Bell) was identified as the potential victim and her brother, Doug Plott (Plott), was identified as the other involved subject.

There were three initial responding officers. LCSO [REDACTED] and JPD [REDACTED] were identified as officers discharging their firearms during the incident with LCSO Deputy Nicholas Dewitt (Deputy Dewitt) being witness to the incident.

The above officers reportedly forced entry into the house and encountered Plott near the entrance with two large butcher knives. Plott had also reportedly set the house on fire at this time. Plott reportedly ran further into the house and was in process of attacking Bell with at least one knife when [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] fired their weapons, striking him in the head. Bell sustained minor injuries as a result of the incident and Plott ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

Subsequent Investigation

BCI was provided with the body worn cameras (BWC) for [REDACTED] Deputy Dewitt, and [REDACTED]

The footage shows Deputy Dewitt as the first responding officer with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arriving shortly afterwards. The officers were continually updated with information from LCSO dispatch indicating Bell was inside the house barricaded in a bedroom with Plott somewhere unaccounted for armed with a knife and



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possibly a gun. The officers appear to visually clear the exterior of the house without encountering anyone.

Dispatch eventually informs the officers, Bell said she can hear the smoke alarms within the house being set off. A short time later, Deputy Dewitt confirms he can smell smoke and hear the smoke alarms inside going off.

The three officers make entry into a utility room area, where [REDACTED] can be observed looking through a glass panel of an interior door and announcing he can observe someone inside starting a fire. [REDACTED] announces to the other officers he will be forcing entry and proceeds to kick the above-mentioned door in. Plott can be observed immediately inside the door with two large butcher style knives carried in a tip down orientation.



All of the above officer's yell various commands at Plott to which Plott responds by yelling "kill me." After a short period of time, Plott retreats out of view and a loud repeated banging noise can be heard. *A video recovered from an interior security camera shows this to be Plott repeatedly kicking the closed door of the room Bell was barricaded in.*

[REDACTED] can be observed running to the sound of the above noise and kicking in an interior door. As she enters the room Plott, still armed with at least one knife, can be observed in an altercation with Bell.

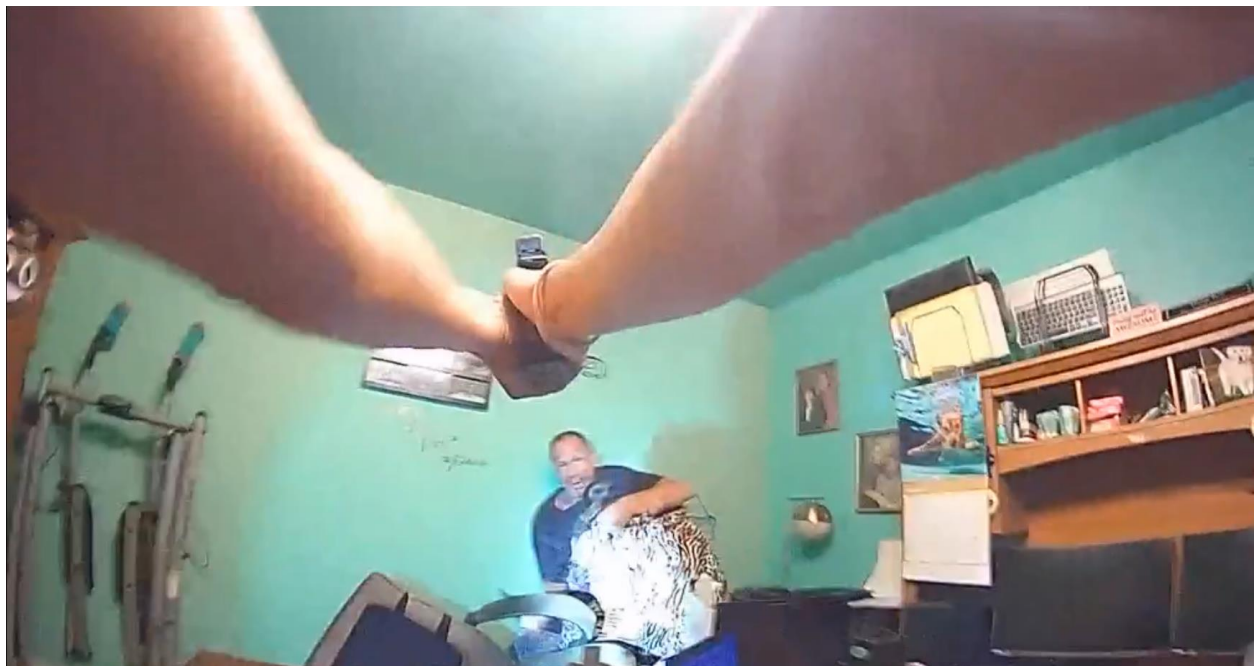
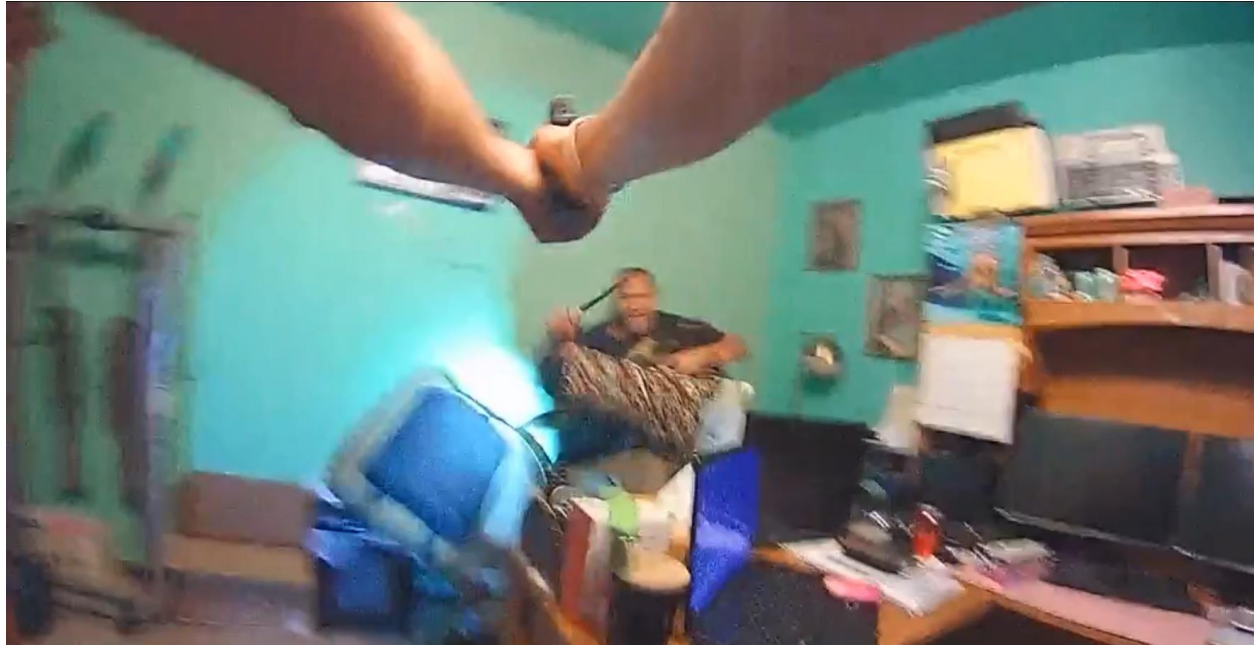
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█ initially gives Plott commands to drop the knife, however, does fire one shot at Plott. █ can be observed firing two shots in the direction



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of Plott as he entered the room directly behind [REDACTED] Plott appears to be shot in the head area and is unresponsive for the remainder of the footage.

The incident concludes with [REDACTED] leading Bell from the house and Plott being drug outside by [REDACTED] and Sgt. Snodgrass.

Additional video footage

In the days following the incident, Bell informed BCI she had motion activated interior cameras in certain rooms in the house. 57 videos were recovered with the typical video clip ranging between 4 and 10 seconds. The shooting incident is not captured on the videos however, Plott can be observed walking quickly through the house with two large knives making utterances about wanting to die and screaming at Bell to kill him before he kills her. One particular video shows Plott repeatedly kicking and slamming into the door of the room Bell was barricaded before the door ultimately coming open.





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Licking County Coroner's Report

As a part of the investigation, BCI was provided with the Licking County Coroner's Office report of the autopsy performed on Plott. The report indicates the autopsy was performed on September 1, 2024, by Chief Forensic Pathologist Jeff Lee, DO. [REDACTED]

The report lists the following findings in reference to the gunshot wounds:

[REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Physical Evidence and Laboratory Reports

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.

The BCI Firearms Section performed an analysis of the officers' firearms, as well as the firearm-related evidence collected from the scene and Plott's body during the autopsy (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:

SA Call is still awaiting the above referenced report and findings and will provide to the Licking County Prosecutor upon its receipt.

Investigative Interviews

The following information comprises extremely abbreviated versions of the statements made by the witness and/or participants of this incident deemed by the author to be of most relevance to the overall understanding of the incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview, including those not synopsized below.



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] provided a written witness statement in reference to her involvement in the above incident and also met with BCI to answer any clarifying questions. Below is a short excerpt from [REDACTED]'s statement regarding the shooting and events immediately surrounding:

"When the door flew open, I observed Mr. Plott, holding Ms. Bell from behind. He had a knife in each hand. I yelled more than once for him to drop the knives. Mr. Plott did not comply. I then fired one (1) shot into Mr. Plott's head. Another officer, who I now know was [REDACTED] appeared beside me. I heard him fire a shot at Mr. Plott. "

In reference to firing her firearm, during the incident, [REDACTED] wrote the following:

"I used lethal force in this incident by discharging my firearm because I do not believe that there was any less lethal force that I could have used that would have been as effective in stopping the immediate and direct threat that Mr. Plott posed to Ms. Bell, myself and [REDACTED] by Mr. Plott holding Ms. Bell from behind with two (2) knives pointed at her. My action in firing my firearm, as described above, was consistent with my training and experience as a law enforcement officer."

Deputy Nicholas Dewitt

Deputy Dewitt provided BCI with a written statement of his involvement in the incident. In reference to Deputy Robinette firing and the events immediately surrounding, Deputy Dewitt wrote the following:

"I then heard Mr. Plott call out, "Now we're both going to die." After he said this, I heard a loud bang that sounded like a door being kicked in. This occurred in the Southwest side of the home. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] entered the home and I followed after. I went through the threshold and saw a large fire burning in the living room. Smoke had filled the top of the room and everything was turning black. Since I had lost sight of Mr. Plott and I knew [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in front of me, I began looking down the halls to ensure Mr. Plott was not going to run up on us from the darkness.

I then heard a female screaming followed by a lot of yelling and two (2) gunshots from within a room. I moved into the room to see [REDACTED] standing with his gun pointed towards the Southwest corner of the room. [REDACTED] was off to his left. In the corner was Mr. Plott and Ms. Bell, he was lying on her and there was blood coming out of his head."

Deputy Dewitt confirmed he did not fire his weapon during the incident.



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JPD [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] provided a written witness statement in reference to his involvement in the above incident and also met with BCI to answer any clarifying questions. Below is a short excerpt from [REDACTED] statement regarding the shooting and events immediately surrounding:

“As all three of us ran inside, the smoke and fire were overwhelming. Screaming could be heard from a bedroom down the hallway. [REDACTED] ran towards the screams and kicked open a bedroom door. As I entered the room, Plot was holding Diane from behind her back with an arm around her neck. I could see a large knife in Plot's hand and watched as he fought with Diane. [REDACTED] was screaming for him to drop the knife. He was not complying. Upon the belief that Diane's life was in imminent danger, I fired my weapon at Plot, after which he ceased moving and fell to the ground with Diane.”

Summary

All persons known to have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed (or attempted), and all known pertinent records and evidence have been obtained and reviewed. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance into any newly identified witnesses or information relative to this criminal investigation. BCI's investigation into this Officer-Involved Critical Incident is concluded unless such new information/witnesses is/are identified through grand jury or other means.

Agents remain available for consultation and/or to perform any additional investigation, analysis, processing and/or other assistance/involvement you might deem to be necessary.

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 Craig Call. SA Call can be reached via email at timothy.call@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone, at 614-270-1066.