



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



2024-1837  
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 223 Durling Dr.,  
Wadsworth, Ohio 44281

**Investigative Activity:** Involved Officer Interview - [REDACTED]  
**Involves:** [REDACTED] (S)  
**Activity Date:** 07/23/2024  
**Activity Location:** BCI - Richfield  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Allison Fletcher #187

**Narrative:**

On July 23, 2024, at 1007 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) and SA Matthew Armstrong interviewed Wadsworth Police Department (WPD) [REDACTED] who was accompanied by his attorney, George Gerken, from the Ohio Patrolman's Benevolent Association. The interview took place at BCI Richfield, located at 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286. The interview was audio and video recorded. The audio recording has been attached to this report. The video recording has been stored in the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item O.

[REDACTED] read, indicated he understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview. All time references made throughout this report correspond to the video recorded interview.

**Preliminary and Demographic Information:**

<b>Name:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Rank:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Badge Number:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Cruiser/Vehicle Number:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Radio Call Sign:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Immediate Supervisor:</b> Sergeant Feke
<b>Radio Channel Utilized:</b> WPD Main Channel	<b>Mobile Data Terminal:</b> Present; Not Used

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<b>Cruiser Description:</b> Black Ford Explorer SUV, marked with Wadsworth Police. It has overhead lights and vehicle numbers on the rear of the cruiser.	<b>Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions:</b> Driver: [REDACTED] Passenger: [REDACTED]
<b>Assignment:</b> Evening of incident - working Blue Tip Parade.	<b>Normal Shift:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>In-Car Camera:</b> Operational & Utilized	<b>Spotlight:</b> Present; Not utilized
<b>Emergency Lights:</b> Present & Utilized	<b>Siren:</b> Present & Utilized
<b>Shift Day of Incident:</b> 1600 hours to 2200 hours	<b>Duty Status:</b> Special Duty Detail
<b>Days Off:</b> [REDACTED]	<b>Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:</b> None
<b>Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:</b> Just over 8 hours.	<b>Consider Self Well Rested?:</b> Yes.
<b>Total Length as Officer:</b> 1 year, 4 months.	<b>Length at Current Agency:</b> 1 year, 4 months.
<b>Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid):</b> None.	<b>Corrective Lenses:</b> Contact Lenses
<b>Uniform Worn:</b> Dark navy-blue pants, dark navy-blue uniform shirt with patches on each shoulder, outer carrier vest with "police on back, name plate and badge.	<b>Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest:</b> Taser, spare magazines, handcuffs, radio, and tourniquet.
<b>Ballistic Vest:</b> External Armor	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Not Present
<b>Other Recording Devices:</b> None.	<b>Partner:</b> Not typically, night of incident he rode in passenger seat of cruiser [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]
<b>Injuries:</b> None	<b>Equipment Damage:</b> None
<b>Training or Areas of Specialty:</b> Additional UOF training at AVON PD and CIT.	<b>OPOTC Certification:</b> Kent State University – Warren Campus
<b>Military Experience/Training:</b> [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	<b>Use-of-Force Training:</b> once per month WPD trains an aspect of UOF – review of policy included.
<b>Prior Shooting Incidents:</b> None	<b>Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints:</b> None

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<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident:</b> None	<b>Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview:</b> None
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**Officer's Firearm(s):**

**Weapon #1**

<b>Make:</b> Spikes Tactical lower, unsure of upper, N-Force weapon mounted light on front.	<b>Model:</b> AR-style patrol rifle
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> .223 caliber	<b>Serial:</b> Unknown
<b>Type:</b> Rifle	<b>Method of Carry:</b> N/A
<b>Magazine Capacity:</b> 30 round capacity – unknown how many rounds in magazine	<b>Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber):</b> Unknown
<b>Extra Magazines:</b> 1	<b>Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines:</b> 30 round capacity – unknown how many rounds
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Primary or Backup Weapon:</b> Backup
<b>Rounds Remaining After Incident:</b> Unknown	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 4-5
<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed	<b>Ownership:</b> Department Owned
<b>Last Qualification Date:</b> Unknown date, qualify yearly at WPD, shoot on a regular basis.	<b>Type of Holster, if any:</b> N/A

**Video Reviewed:**

Prior to the interview, [REDACTED] watched a YouTube video with a combination of [REDACTED] and Officer Cody Seiler's (Seiler) body-camera footage. He estimated he watched the video approximately three times. His recollection of the incident was consistent with what he observed in the videos.

**Narrative:**

After obtaining the preliminary and demographic information, [REDACTED] provided the following information related to the incident on June 18, 2024:

[REDACTED] stated on that date he was assigned to work a parade detail from 1600 hours to 2200 hours. At approximately 2100 hours officers met in the basement

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of the WPD. An "all tones" went out over the WPD main radio channel requiring all available units to respond to 223 Durling Drive for a "significant call of distress" [19:56]. Dispatch advised there was a suicidal male with a gun at that address.

Officers of the WPD made their way to their vehicles in the parking lot of the police station. [REDACTED] got into the passenger seat of car [REDACTED] that was being driven by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] responded to the location with their emergency lights and siren activated. While en route, [REDACTED] was formulating a plan of how he was going to respond to the incident in his head. [REDACTED] had not had any prior encounters with the residence or the subject.

When [REDACTED] arrived on scene, they parked on Broad Street, which ran perpendicular to Durling Drive. [REDACTED] recalled seeing Officer Cody Seiler (Seiler) and [REDACTED] exiting their cruisers.

[REDACTED] exited the vehicle with a patrol rifle and a "go-bag," which included one extra rifle magazine and medical supplies.

[REDACTED] Seiler, and [REDACTED] began approaching 223 Durling Drive on foot. They ran on the east side of the roadway of Durling Drive. Officers observed two females in the front yard of 213 Durling Drive. [REDACTED] said that he believed one of the females was the wife of the subject. The woman pointed down the side of the house and said, "yup that's him."

[REDACTED] observed a white male, wearing a green shirt, and holding something black, standing in the back yard of 223 Durling Drive. He believed the black object was a handgun. After seeing the officers, the subject moved behind the residence.

[REDACTED] approached the left side of 223 Durling. [REDACTED] ran across the front yard and approached the right side. [REDACTED] explained he was unsure of the subject's exact location after the subject "dipped out of [their] line of sight" [29:37]. He also was unsure if the subject was going to run with the firearm or if he was going to "pop out on the right side" [29:37].

[REDACTED] motioned for [REDACTED] to respond towards his location. Shortly after, [REDACTED] observed an attached garage. [REDACTED] was concerned about crossfire, and further explained,

So, if I were to continue down that right side and then get a line of sight into the backyard where the subject was believed to still be, and [REDACTED] and

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Officer Seiler were over here on the left, we would have had what is called crossfire...if there was to be a discharge of the firearms for any reason" [30:58].

██████████ observed a ladder leaning against the garage. He decided to climb the ladder to mitigate any crossfire and to gain an elevated position.

While climbing the ladder, ██████████ heard ██████████ call "99 traffic," which meant emergency traffic only on the radio. Once on the roof, ██████████ heard ██████████ speaking to the subject. He said the situation appeared to be calm.

██████████ was looking at the back of the subject and was unable to see his right hand. However, he heard ██████████ tell the subject to "put the gun down." The subject responded by stating "if you're not putting your gun down, I'm not putting my gun down" [32:13]. ██████████ said that at that time he was in fear for his safety, and the safety of the other officers. He was also concerned for the safety of residents, because their locations were unknown. ██████████ estimated he was approximately 30 feet away from the subject.

It then became quiet for a few seconds. ██████████ then said, "sir, no, no, no, drop it" [32:45]. ██████████ observed the subject shift in his chair, raise his right elbow, and began to turn towards ██████████

██████████ heard two gunshots. ██████████ then fired his patrol rifle at the subject's upper torso. ██████████ believed he fired 4-5 rounds that struck the upper torso of the subject.

██████████ called "cease fire" after the subject fell to the ground. ██████████ maintained cover on the subject. ██████████ approached the subject and checked him for weapons. ██████████ observed a black handgun lying on the ground near the subject.

██████████ assisted other officers on scene in providing first-aid. Emergency medical services (EMS) arrived shortly after.

██████████ was unsure who was responsible for the two gunshots he initially heard.

██████████ believed his actions were consistent with his training and experience.

██████████ consented to BCI Agents obtaining and reviewing any future written reports completed by him. ██████████ also consented to BCI Agents reviewing body-camera footage in its entirety, including any conversations had with a supervisor.

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**References:**

Reference Item O - WPD Officer Interviews

**Attachments:**

1. 2024-07-23 Interview Involved [REDACTED]
2. 2024-07-23 Criminal Investigation Notification - [REDACTED]

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### Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

[Redacted]

7/23/24 1005 am  
Date / Time

[Redacted]

*SA Matthew Armstrong #146*  
SA Matthew Armstrong  
BCI Agent (Printed)

*SA Matthew Armstrong #146*  
BCI Agent (Signature)