



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



2024-3996  
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 780 Taylor Road,  
 Gahanna, Ohio 43230 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Involved Officer  
**Involves:** ██████████, Gahanna Police Department  
**Activity Date:** 01/17/2025  
**Activity Location:** Gahanna Police Department – 460 Rocky Fork Blvd,  
 Gahanna OH 43230  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Kyle Douglass

**Narrative:**

On Friday, January 17, 2025, at 0903 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) and SA James Gore (SA Gore) interviewed Gahanna Police Department (Gahanna PD) ██████████ ██████████ who was accompanied by his attorney, Kate Harshman, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the Gahanna PD station. The interview was audio recorded.

██████████ read, 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.

**Preliminary and Demographic Information:**

<b>Name:</b> ██████████	<b>Rank:</b> ██████████
<b>Badge Number:</b> ██████	<b>Normal Shift:</b> ██████████
<b>Assignment:</b> ██████████	<b>Length at Current Agency:</b> ██████████
<b>In-Car Camera:</b> Operational, But Not Used	<b>Body Worn Camera:</b> Present & Used
<b>Shift Day of Incident:</b> ██████████	<b>Injuries:</b> None

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**Officer's Firearm(s):**

Weapon #1

<b>Make:</b> Glock	<b>Model:</b> 17
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> 9 mm	<b>Serial:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Type:</b> Semi-Auto Handgun	<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 3

Weapon #2

<b>Make:</b> Remington	<b>Model:</b> 870
<b>Caliber/Gauge:</b> 12-gauge	<b>Serial:</b> [REDACTED]
<b>Type:</b> Less-Than-Lethal	<b>Right/Left-Handed Carry:</b> Right-Handed
<b>Discharged During Incident?</b> Yes	<b>Number of Rounds Fired:</b> 1

**Narrative:**

In his written statement to BCI, [REDACTED] wrote:

*"On Thursday, December 19 at approximately 9:19am, I was dispatched to 1016 Turcotte Drive in Gahanna on what was reported as a theft of a package. At approximately 9:23 am, I heard [REDACTED] (who was a two-man car along with [REDACTED]) get dispatched to Springhill Suites hotel located at 665 Taylor Road on the use of a fraudulent credit card by a patron. Dispatch then asked Sergeant Pat Millenbaugh to also respond. A few minutes later, I heard [REDACTED] ask for another unit. [REDACTED] said he would be enroute from the Gahanna Police station. At 9:50, Sgt. Millenbaugh asked if there was a car in the area, due to concerns that the suspect had possibly exited the hotel room through the rear window. I also heard [REDACTED] mark that he was on the south side of the hotel in what sounded like a foot pursuit at approximately the same time. [REDACTED] then quickly marked "44" (officer in trouble) and [REDACTED] who was also on scene, marked "he's got a gun; he's got a gun."*

[REDACTED] continued in his statement, "As soon as I exited my cruiser, [REDACTED] told me to grab the less lethal. I retrieved the shotgun from the trunk and immediately chambered a less lethal round into the chamber. I then started to walk towards the suspect. The suspect was a white (or perhaps Hispanic) heavyset male wearing a black shirt and grey sweatpants. The male was holding a black semiautomatic handgun in his right hand pointed at his head. He was standing facing my direction (pointed to the

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*south) on a residential driveway just to the north of Taylor Road. Upon review of the video, it appears the address of the residence was 780 Taylor Road. There was a row of tall hedges to the east of the suspect that were difficult to see through or over. At that time, there were several officers giving the suspect commands to drop the gun."*

██████████ wrote in his statement about firing his less-than-lethal shotgun, *"I walked up the driveway to the home to see around the hedgerow. I was standing to the left of ██████████ who had his gun drawn. I aimed the less lethal shotgun at the suspect and took what I believed to be a well-aimed shot near his stomach area. I estimate that I was about 40-50 feet away from the suspect, who was north/northeast of my location, when I deployed the less lethal round. The suspect did not have an immediate physical reaction to the shot. I initially thought that I could have missed. The suspect then started to walk/jog to his left at an angle (to the east) parallel to the hedgerow with the gun pointed down. At this point, I had not seen him raise his weapon at anyone. I immediately decided to attempt to shoot him again with the less lethal shotgun to get him to comply in dropping the gun. I "racked" the shotgun to load another round into the chamber. I could not successfully load another round into the chamber. I could tell there was some type of malfunction with the shotgun. I then visually checked the chamber area and noticed there was a hull partially stuck in the chamber, sticking out about an inch or so. I tried to rake it out with my finger but was unsuccessful."*

██████████ described firing his duty weapon during the incident, *"While trying to repair the shotgun, the first volley of shots from officers occurred. I did not see what the suspect did to initiate these shots and I am not sure which officers fired. When the first shots started, I dropped the shotgun and transitioned to my duty weapon. The suspect then fell to the ground initially on his back, and he then turned onto his left side and was facing us (with his head pointed to the south). The suspect while on the ground raised the gun with his right hand and pointed it towards us. I fired a total of three (3) rounds. I could hear other officers also fire. After I fired my last round, I brought my gun to a chest ready. The suspect was not moving at that point and was still laying on his left side facing officers. The suspect was no longer holding the gun, but it was sitting under his right arm. I thought I heard someone say to wait for a shield before approaching the suspect. I waited in my position until Sgt. Hendon positioned himself in front of me carrying the shield. Sgt. Hendon started to walk towards the suspect, and I walked just behind him to his left and pointed my weapon towards the suspect while we approached. As we got close to the suspect, I holstered my weapon and took the suspect's handgun with my right hand and moved it behind me a few feet so he would no longer have access to the weapon."*

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██████████ explained his decision to fire his duty weapon, *"At the time I fired, officers had previously aired that the suspect had a gun. When I arrived, the suspect was standing with the gun to his head and not complying with the directions of officers to put down his weapon. I deployed a less lethal "bean bag" round at the suspect's center mass. I could not tell whether the round hit him or not, but he gave no reaction other than to turn away from officers. Though I wanted to fire again, the shotgun jammed. When I heard gunshots while attempting to fix the shotgun, I saw the suspect fall to the ground and quickly moving onto his left side facing me. From the ground, he pointed his weapon west in the direction of several officers including myself. I fired three (3) rounds from a standing position using both hands. I acquired my red dot sight on my third and final shot. I did not fire from cover. I fired to the east towards the suspect's center of mass/head area. At the time I fired, I estimate that the suspect was 40-50 feet from me. My backdrop was the ground behind the suspect (as he was laying on the ground on his side) and the empty yard beyond. I did not see anyone in my backdrop. At the time I fired, I did not believe I had any other reasonable choice other than to fire to protect my own life and the lives of my fellow officers from death or imminent bodily harm."*

██████████ was asked several follow-up questions about the incident. ██████████ recalled when he first saw the subject, Alex Russell (Russell), he had his gun pointed at his own head and officers were giving verbal commands to Russell to drop the gun. ██████████ believed his less-lethal shot may have missed based on Russell's reaction to the shot. ██████████ explained he was looking down, trying to fix his less-lethal shotgun malfunction when he heard the first volley of gunshots, and did not see or know what initiated those shots. ██████████ confirmed he saw Russell point his gun in the direction of ██████████ and other Gahanna PD officers. ██████████ reported he yelled, "Stop stop stop" after he had fired his duty weapon at Russell. ██████████ believed in the moment that he had had yelled "stop" was because he thought Russell was no longer moving and the gun was possibly no longer in Russell's hand, and ██████████ perceived Russell to be less of a threat. ██████████ believed Russell was given ample time and opportunity to comply with Gahanna PD officers' numerous commands. While he was rendering first aid to Russell, ██████████ observed injuries to both of Russell's arms and his upper right thigh. ██████████ explained the use of a less-than-lethal shotgun was only appropriate to counter a deadly weapon because ██████████ had lethal cover from other officers when he deployed the bean bag round. ██████████ also discussed the reaction time to how quickly Russell could transition from pointing the gun at himself to aiming the gun as police officers.

The interview concluded at approximately 0944 hours.

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The interview was audio recorded. The audio recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

**References:**

No references

**Attachments:**

1. [REDACTED] - Signed Statement+CIN+Maps
2. 2025-01-17 [REDACTED] Interview Audio (1 of 2)
3. 2025-01-17 [REDACTED] Interview Audio (2 of 2)

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**STATEMENT OF OFFICER [REDACTED]**

This statement is regarding my involvement in an officer involved shooting that occurred on Thursday, December 19, 2024, between the hours of 9:20am and 10:00am. I am voluntarily giving this statement as part of the criminal investigation into this matter conducted by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

I was hired as a part time police officer by the City of Gahanna on [REDACTED]. I was hired as a full-time police officer on [REDACTED]. I do not have any other law enforcement experience. I do not have any military experience. At the time of this incident, I was assigned to our [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as a [REDACTED]. My regular duty hours are [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] off. On Thursday, December 19, 2024, I was on my regular assignment assigned to District [REDACTED] in marked Cruiser [REDACTED]. I was alone and did not have a partner. I do not have any discipline in my file for use of force outside of the established City policy.

I was dressed in the uniform of the day, which consisted of dark blue uniform pants, a dark blue collared shirt with black external carrier vest that reads "Gahanna POLICE" on the back in white letters. The external carrier also identifies me as a police officer on the front right pocket area. There is also an embroidered badge patch affixed to the upper left chest area of the vest carrier. I was wearing my body worn camera mounted inside the center of my external carrier. I was armed with a department issued Glock 17 9mm with standard department-issued ammunition. My handgun has a Trijicon RMR red dot affixed to the slide with iron sights as a backup and a Streamlight TLR9 affixed to the frame. During the incident in question, I also used a department-issued pump model Remington 870 shotgun<sup>1</sup> with bright orange buttstock and forend with beanbag

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<sup>1</sup> At the beginning of my shift when loading the shotgun, I showed the less lethal rounds to Officer McConkey #164 per policy. As I was checking the shotgun before loading, I noticed that a less lethal round had been left in the shotgun from a previous shift. I showed Officer McConkey the round that had been left in the magazine tube. I removed the less lethal round from the magazine tube. I then made sure the safety was off and slid the forend forward and pulled

rounds as less lethal force. I also had a rifle in the trunk of my cruiser that I did not use during this incident. I was current on my range qualifications for my gun, red dot, and light. I had been trained on the use of the shotgun with bean bag rounds as less lethal force.

I am right hand dominate. I was in good health at the time of this incident. I had not worked any special duty for twenty-four (24) hour time period prior to the incident. I had plenty of sleep prior to my shift. I was not under any unusual stress. I do not wear hearing aids but have minor loss of hearing in both ears consistent with my age and number of years in law enforcement. This hearing loss does not affect my ability to do my job. I do not wear contacts or glasses nor do I have problems with my sight. I was not taking medication or drugs, whether prescribed or not, that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a police officer. I have no disability that would in any way affect my ability to carry out my responsibilities and duties as a police officer. I had not consumed alcohol for at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start of my shift.

On Thursday, December 19 at approximately 9:19am, I was dispatched to 1016 Turcotte Drive in Gahanna on what was reported as a theft of a package. At approximately 9:23 am, I heard Officer [REDACTED] who was a two-man car along with Officer [REDACTED] get dispatched to Springhill Suites hotel located at 665 Taylor Road on the use of a fraudulent credit card by a patron. Dispatch then asked Sergeant Pat Millenbaugh to also respond. A few minutes later, I heard Officer [REDACTED] ask for another unit. Officer [REDACTED] said he would be enroute from the Gahanna Police station. At 9:50, Sgt. Millenbaugh asked if there was a car in the area, due to concerns that the suspect had possibly exited the hotel room through the rear window. I also heard [REDACTED]

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the trigger. I then put the four rounds that Officer McConkey had visually verified were in fact less lethal rounds into the magazine tube. This less lethal shotgun was loaded with 4 rounds of department issued "bean bag" rounds. The less lethal shotgun was placed in Condition 2, otherwise known as cruiser carry. The less lethal shotgun was placed in the trunk area as per policy for my shift.

mark that he was on the south side of the hotel in what sounded like a foot pursuit at approximately the same time. [REDACTED] then quickly marked "44" (officer in trouble) and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who was also on scene, marked "he's got a gun; he's got a gun."

I told the resident at Turcotte Drive that I had to leave but would come back later. As I was driving, I heard the officers give descriptions of the suspect and continue to say that he was holding a gun. The suspect was described as a Hispanic large male wearing a black shirt and grey pants. Sgt. Millenbaugh continued to give updates of the suspect location who was continuing on foot. As I was turning onto Taylor Road from Morrison Road, I heard Sgt. Millenbaugh state that the male suspect was holding the gun to his head. As I was arriving to the scene, I saw several officers on my left, looking to their left with their guns drawn.

As soon as I exited my cruiser, [REDACTED] told me to grab the less lethal. I retrieved the shotgun from the trunk and immediately chambered a less lethal round into the chamber. I then started to walk towards the suspect. The suspect was a white (or perhaps Hispanic) heavysset male wearing a black shirt and grey sweatpants. The male was holding a black semiautomatic handgun in his right hand pointed at his head. He was standing facing my direction (pointed to the south) on a residential driveway just to the north of Taylor Road. Upon review of the video, it appears the address of the residence was 780 Taylor Road. There was a row of tall hedges to the east of the suspect that were difficult to see through or over. At that time, there were several officers giving the suspect commands to drop the gun

I walked up the driveway to the home to see around the hedgerow. I was standing to the left of [REDACTED] who had his gun drawn. I aimed the less lethal shotgun at the suspect and took what I believed to be a well-aimed shot near his stomach area. I estimate that I was about 40-

50 feet away from the suspect, who was north/northeast of my location, when I deployed the less lethal round.

The suspect did not have an immediate physical reaction to the shot. I initially thought that I could have missed. The suspect then started to walk/jog to his left at an angle (to the east) parallel to the hedgerow with the gun pointed down. At this point, I had not seen him raise his weapon at anyone. I immediately decided to attempt to shoot him again with the less lethal shotgun to get him to comply in dropping the gun. I "racked" the shotgun to load another round into the chamber. I could not successfully load another round into the chamber. I could tell there was some type of malfunction with the shotgun. I then visually checked the chamber area and noticed there was a hull partially stuck in the chamber, sticking out about an inch or so. I tried to rake it out with my finger but was unsuccessful.

While trying to repair the shotgun, the first volley of shots from officers occurred. I did not see what the suspect did to initiate these shots and I am not sure which officers fired. When the first shots started, I dropped the shotgun and transitioned to my duty weapon. The suspect then fell to the ground initially on his back, and he then turned onto his left side and was facing us (with his head pointed to the south). The suspect while on the ground raised the gun with his right hand and pointed it towards us. I fired a total of three (3) rounds. I could hear other officers also fire.

After I fired my last round, I brought my gun to a chest ready. The suspect was not moving at that point and was still laying on his left side facing officers. The suspect was no longer holding the gun, but it was sitting under his right arm. I thought I heard someone say to wait for a shield before approaching the suspect. I waited in my position until Sgt. Hendon positioned himself in front of me carrying the shield. Sgt. Hendon started to walk towards the suspect, and I walked just behind him to his left and pointed my weapon towards the suspect while we approached. As we

got close to the suspect, I holstered my weapon and took the suspect's handgun with my right hand and moved it behind me a few feet so he would no longer have access to the weapon.

As a group, several officers started to perform aid to the suspect. I started to perform chest compressions as other officers put tourniquets on the suspect's upper arms and [REDACTED] put a tourniquet on the suspect's upper right leg. I continued to perform chest compressions for several minutes and was eventually relieved by another officer. Officers continued to aid the suspect until medics from Mifflin Township arrived. Once they arrived, they took over care for the suspect. I did assist the medics in lifting the suspect from the ground to the gurney.

I remained in the immediate area for several minutes. Before leaving the area, I found a single rifle casing in the driveway that appeared to have been run over by the medic. I also found at least one silver casing that matches our issued duty ammo and pointed out its location to Detective Eckert. I then left the scene and drove to the Gahanna Police station. Once at the Gahanna Police station I was asked to stay in one of the Sergeant's offices to await Lodge Counsel.

At the time I fired, officers had previously aired that the suspect had a gun. When I arrived, the suspect was standing with the gun to his head and not complying with the directions of officers to put down his weapon. I deployed a less lethal "bean bag" round at the suspect's center mass. I could not tell whether the round hit him or not, but he gave no reaction other than to turn away from officers. Though I wanted to fire again, the shotgun jammed. When I heard gunshots while attempting to fix the shotgun, I saw the suspect fall to the ground and quickly moving onto his left side facing me. From the ground, he pointed his weapon west in the direction of several officers including myself. I fired three (3) rounds from a standing position using both hands. I acquired my red dot sight on my third and final shot. I did not fire from cover. I fired to the east towards the suspect's center of mass/head area. At the time I fired, I estimate that the suspect was 40-50 feet

from me. My backdrop was the ground behind the suspect (as he was laying on the ground on his side) and the empty yard beyond. I did not see anyone in my backdrop.

At the time I fired, I did not believe I had any other reasonable choice other than to fire to protect my own life and the lives of my fellow officers from death or imminent bodily harm.

I now know that the suspect's name was Alex Russell. I do not recall any prior interactions with the suspect.

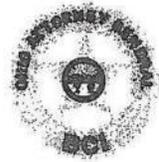
I have now reviewed body worn camera video of the incident. Those videos did not materially alter my recollection of events.

This statement consists of six (6) pages.





Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation



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] \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Interviewee

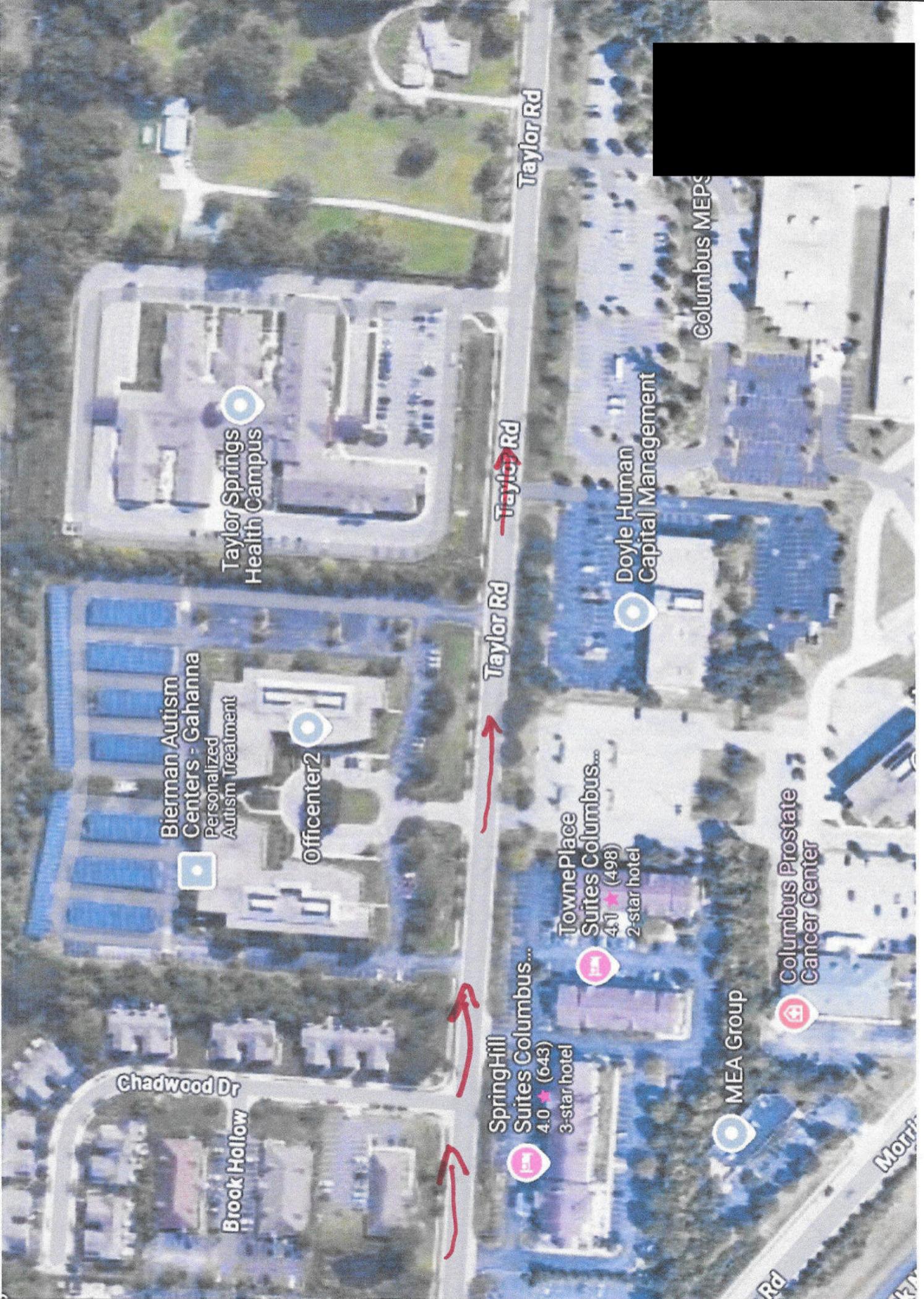
1/17/25    9:05a  
Date / Time

[Redacted] \_\_\_\_\_

Kyle Douglass  
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]  
BCI Agent (Signature)

[Signature]



Taylor Rd

Taylor Springs Health Campus

Bierman Autism Centers - Gahanna Personalized Autism Treatment

Officercenter2

Taylor Rd

Doyle Human Capital Management

Columbus MEPS

TownePlace Suites Columbus... 41 (498) 2-star hotel

Columbus Prostate Cancer Center

SpringHill Suites Columbus... 4.0 (643) 3-star hotel

MEA Group

Chadwood Dr

Brook Hollow

Morri Rd



