

Investigative Report



Officer Involved Critical Incident - 350 South Arch Avenue, Alliance, Ohio 44601, Stark County



Investigative Activity: Neighborhood Canvass Conducted

Involves: Twila Wareham (W), Ken Bogs (W), Vivian Roberts (W),

Gregory Bandy (W), Richard Inherst (W), Paula Grim (W),

Peggy Zeppernick (W), William Deyarmon (O), Kristy

Grigsby (O), Bamala Poppino (W), Scott Wilson (W), Susan White (O), Kathy Davis (O), Darrick Doke (O), Mark French

(O), John French (O), Gwen Pittman (O), Dion Freeman (O)

Activity Date: 01/16/2025

Activity Location: 350 South Arch Avenue, Alliance, OH 44601

Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente

Narrative:

On Thursday, January 16, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Nick Valente, Allison Fletcher, Jesse Bynum, and Special Agent Supervisor Chuck Moran conducted a neighborhood canvass in the apartment building located at 350 South Arch Avenue, Alliance, Ohio. The purpose of the canvass was to identify and interview potential witnesses to the officer-involved critical incident that occurred on the fifth-floor common hallway of the building on Thursday, January 16, 2025. During the neighborhood canvass, agents made or attempted contact with the residents at the following addresses:

Unit #209 - Gwen Pittman

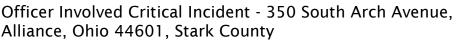
Gwen Pittman (Pittman) lives in apartment 209 and stated that she is related to the victim, Stacy Pride (Pride), and spoke with Pride about her relationship with Mason French (French) in the past. Pittman said that Pride was frequently abused by French and a couple of weeks ago, French "pulled a gun on her" and beat her up. Pittman also stated that Pride went to Dion Freeman's apartment, unit 615, after French fell asleep. Pittman stated that she didn't know if French was living in the apartment, but did notice that recently Pride had not been going downstairs.

Unit #311 - Susan White



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Susan White (White) stated that she lives on the third floor. White stated that between 0745 hours and 0800 hours she heard two gunshots, but did not see any of the incident.

Unit #501:

William Dey Armon (Dey Armon) reported he was in his apartment all day and was unaware that anything unusually had even happened until agents knocked on his door.

Unit #502:

Richard Inherst (Inherst) reported that he heard 2 gunshots followed a couple seconds later by an unknown number of additional gunshots he best described as "many." Inherst then heard the fire alarm going off. Inherst reported that the gunshots all sounded the same, and he thought he may have heard someone say "help me" or something similar around that same time. Inherst never exited his apartment during the incident.

Unit #503:

No Answer

Unit #504:

Paula Grim (Grim) reported she was awoken to the sound of what she believed were 3 or 4 "big bangs." Grim did not open her door, see or otherwise hear anything of value to this investigation until opening her door afterward and seeing a police officer standing in the hallway.

<u>Unit #505:</u>

Peggy Zeppernick (Zeppernick), who is deaf, shared with agents through her interpreter, Carolyn Dugan, that she was alerted to something happening outside of her apartment by her dog. When Zeppernick looked down the hallway, she saw a black man hitting what she then believed to be a second black male with some sort of cane or stick. Zeppernick observed the victim of the assault grab their head after being struck by the aggressor. Zeppernick believed she also saw a third party, a female, at the end of the hallway while the fight between the two men was taking place. Zeppernick then shut her door. When Zeppernick next opened her door, the fire alarm was going off, and she looked down the hallway again and noticed smoke in the hallway. Police were then in the hallway and told her to close her door. Zeppernick then shut her door.



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<u>Unit #506:</u>
No Answer
<u>Unit #507:</u>
No Answer
<u>Unit #508:</u>
No Answer
Unit #509 - John French

John French stated that he was a brother of Mason French. John French stated that he didn't see or hear any of the incident. John French only became aware of the incident when he exited his apartment and saw police outside at 0930 hours. John French explained that he and the subject had a somewhat estranged relationship due to the subject's lifestyle. John French stated that he heard that the subject was coming to the apartment complex, but the subject would not visit with him when he did. When asked about the subject having a gun, John French stated the subject always claimed he had a gun, but John French did not see him with one in the past. John French stated that last thing he knew was the subject was living with his daughter Cornice in Canton, Ohio.

<u>Unit #510:</u>

Greg Bandy (Bandy) reported that he called 911 after hearing "a bunch of shooting." Bandy did not open his door and intentionally stayed away from the door after hearing the shots. Bandy later observed police cars arriving outside the front door to the building, but otherwise did not see or hear anything relevant to this investigation.

<u>Unit #511:</u>
No Answer
<u>Unit #512:</u>
No Answer
Unit #513

Vivian Roberts (Roberts) reported that she heard unknown arguing earlier in the morning coming from the hallway and later heard "shots or fireworks or whatever." Roberts did not know what was said during the argument or how many shots she heard.



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Unit #514:

Kenneth Boggs (Boggs) reported that he was asleep and awoke to the sound of at least 4 "pops" but otherwise did not hear or see anything relative to the incident. Upon hearing the pop sounds, he rolled off his couch and remained on the floor for some time. He did not look out or open his door until sometime later when an officer knocked on his door and told him to stay inside. When he eventually exited his room, he observed small yellow placards in the hallway near his door but otherwise did not see anything of interest.

<u>Unit #515:</u>

No Answer

Unit #516:

Twila Wareham (Wareham) lives in the apartment directly across from Pride. The officer involved shooting occurred directly in front of Wareham's front door. Wareham heard yelling and screaming coming from the hallway in front of her apartment. Upon hearing the commotion, Wareham momentarily looked through the peephole but could not make out who was outside or what was happening. Wareham then backed away from her door and called 911 to report hearing the yelling coming from outside her door. Wareham next heard the sound of an unknown number of gunshots and took cover in her bathroom. Wareham did not exit her apartment, look through the peephole again, or otherwise see or hear anything relative to the incident after that point.

<u>Unit #615 - Dion Freem</u>an

No answer

Unit #714 - Scott Wilson

Scott Wilson (Wilson) lives in apartment 714 and stated that he woke up at approximately 0735 hours and began to watch the news, when he thought he heard a gunshot. Wilson stated he then heard two more gunshots, causing him to walk down the stairs. When Wilson arrived on the fifth floor, he looked through the window in the door and observed her (Pride) bleeding from her head, but did not appear to be deceased. Wilson said he (French) was trying to pull her (Pride) inside with her arms. Wilson further explained he heard Pride say something about being shot and French replied, "Yeah, I shot you twice". Wilson stated he ran up the stairs and to an elevator where he told the police that French had a qun.



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Unit #716 - Darrick Doke

Darrick Doke (Doke) lives in apartment 716 and stated that he heard gunshots and the fire alarm, so he walked down the stairs until he got to the fifth floor where he saw a police officer who told him to return to his apartment.

<u>Unknown Unit - Bamala Poppino</u>

Bamala Poppino (Poppino) was interviewed by agents in the main lobby of the apartment building. It was unclear which apartment number Poppino resided in. However, she stated she was a resident of the building and heard the shooting incident. Poppino did not observe the shooting incident and was inside her apartment during the incident. Poppino heard someone yell "put the gun down" and then heard approximately four gunshots in rapid succession. Poppino believed multiple guns were involved in the incident and the multiple gunshots she heard were from different guns.

Unknown Unit - Kathy Davis

Kathy Davis (Davis) stated that she lives on the third floor but was friends with Pride. Davis stated that she did not see any of the incident. Davis stated that she did not know the involved male but knew that he had brothers that lived in the building and that they were waiting in the library.

Other location - Mark French

Mark French stated that he doesn't live in the apartment complex but was a brother of Mason French. Mark French stated that his brother Mason French and Pride were involved in a relationship and did not know of any relationship issues.

Agents also spoke with property manager Kristy Grigsby (Grigsby). Grigsby reviewed the buildings' surveillance cameras and reported she could not find any video of the subject entering the building on the morning of the officer-involved shooting. There were no surveillance cameras located in the building that would have captured the officer-involved shooting.

Some of the interviews conducted were video recorded. The video recorded interviews have been saved on evidence.com as Reference Item A. Other interviews were audio recorded, and the audio recordings of those interviews are included in evidence.com as Reference Item A.

References:



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A - Canvass BWC Video and Audio Recordings

Attachments:

None