



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



Officer-Involved Critical Incident – Cora Baughman 8643 Werger Rd.,
Garrettsville, Ohio

To: Victor V. Viglucci, Portage County Prosecutor
Cc: David Posten, Special Agent Supervisor, Ohio BCI
From: Arvin E. Clar, Special Agent, Ohio BCI
Date: September 15, 2022
Involves: Portage County Sheriff's Deputy [REDACTED]
Case Title: Officer Involved Critical Incident
BCI Case Numbers: Special Investigations (SIU): 2022-1090
Crime Scene (CSU): 2022-1090
BCI Laboratory: 2022-34588

Investigative Request

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, Captain Eric Dreger of the Portage 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 May 14, 2022, at the location identified as 8643 Werger Rd., Garrettsville, Ohio, and resulted in the death of Cora Baughman (Baughman).

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the May 14, 2022, officer-involved shooting in Portage 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

BCI Special Agent (SA) Arvin E. Clar (Clar) was assigned as the lead SIU case agent. SA Clar received assistance in the investigation from SA Jonathan Lieber (Lieber), SA William Conn (Conn) and SA Stacey Fifer. SA Ashley Ornelas (Ornelas) and SA Larry Hootman (Hootman) of the CSU processed the scene of the incident, documenting, preserving and collecting possible evidence.

The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor Dave Posten. 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 the deputy who discharged his weapons
- Neighborhood canvass of the area surrounding the scene
- Recorded interview(s) of the involved subject and others subjects directly involved in the incident
- Interviews of civilian witnesses to the incident
- Interviews of medical personnel
- Interviews of family members or associates of the decedent
- Special agent attendance to post mortem examination (autopsy) of the deceased
- Obtained and reviewed post mortem examination (autopsy) and toxicology reports
- Obtained and reviewed police reports 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 dash cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available body cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available surveillance video which captured any portion of the incident
- Processing of the scene for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting and collecting)



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- 3D scans/model of incident area
- Processing of involved vehicle(s) for potential evidence
- 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
- Reviewed phone/text records obtained via search warrant from wireless service provider
- 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
- Obtained search warrants for the subject's phone and performed an analysis of the data present
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations to include:
 1. Firearm identification testing of involved firearms, casings and bullets
 2. Firearm operability testing
 3. DNA
- Obtained consent to analyze electronic evidence to include:
 1. Cellular phones
- Reviewed data obtained from aforementioned items of electronic evidence
- 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
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officer(s) who discharged their weapons
- Obtained the department's policies and procedures regarding use of force for prosecutorial review
- Enhancement of audio/video recordings through the assistance of the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission
- Reviewed medical records of those injured, obtained through search warrant
- Reviewed EMS records pertaining to their response and the treatment administered

Incident Summary/Overview

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, at approximately 1100 hours, BCI was requested by Portage County Sheriff's Office Captain Eric Dreger to conduct an independent investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding an officer- involved critical incident that occurred at the location identified as 8643 Werger Rd., Garrettsville, Portage County, Ohio 44231.



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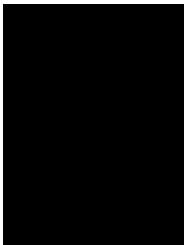
BCI SA Clar and SA Lieber responded to assist. SA Lieber and SA Clar arrived at approximately 1230 hours. Additionally, BCI CSU Special Agents Ornelas and Larry Hootman were requested to process the scene (documenting and collecting pertinent evidence).

The shooting incident involved a subject, Cora Baughman (Baughman), and a Portage County deputy sheriff. Also, a Garrettsville police officer was on scene during the incident but did not fire his weapon.

The incident resulted in the death of Baughman.

The request for assistance came through the BCI Radio Room on the same date.

Decedent



Cora Baughman

Date of Birth: 4/18/1956

Last Known Address: 8657 Werger Rd. (Garrettsville, Ohio)

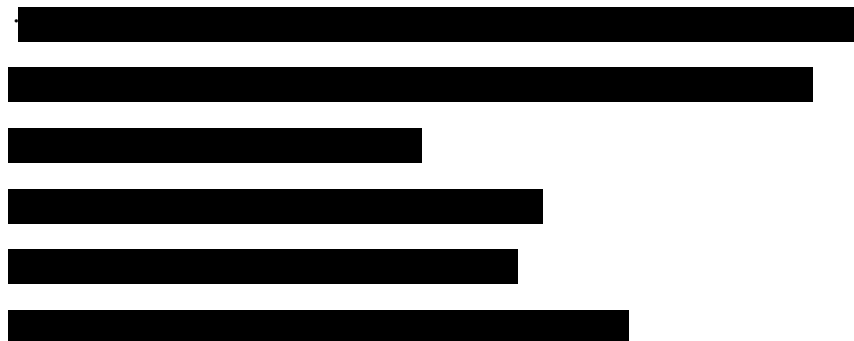
Autopsy Report

The autopsy report for the decedent [Cora Baughman] was obtained from the Portage County Medical Examiner's Office. The actual Autopsy/Post exam was performed by the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office on May 16, 2022.

A review of those documents revealed the following information:

The autopsy was conducted by Assistant Medical Examiner Dr. David Dolinak (Dolinak).

Upon the preliminary post examination, Dr. Dolinak noted the following observations:





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Dissection review of the subject; Dr. Dolinak noted the following:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Wednesday, August 3, 2022, BCI SA Clar received Baughman's medical records from the Portage County Coroner's Office; Portage County Coroner's case number #2022-59.

The records were obtained pursuant to a request by BCI SA Clar, who attended the Autopsy/Post of Baughman at the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office on May 16, 2022.

SA Clar reviewed the medical records and noted the following:

Dr. Dolinak reports in his conclusion portion of the report: "[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]"

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The toxicology report indicated the following:

Baughman's toxicology report showed the following compounds as being identified:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

Physical Evidence

BCI's Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene of the shooting in order to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. SA's Ornelas and Hootman 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.

The scene was photographed as it was found and evidence was collected. The scene was further documented using a FARO Focus S70 laser scanner. The scene was processed with the authority of a search warrant.

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 scene was inspected for items of suspected of evidence and numerous items of suspected items of evidence were located.

Detective Trent Springer (Springer) was in possession of Deputy [REDACTED] s ([REDACTED] duty handgun and two magazines. SA Lieber collected Deputy [REDACTED] s uniform shirt and uniform pants and transferred them to SA Ornelas.

Please refer to IRW-1 for additional details of the Crime Scene.

Firearm Examination

The BCI Lab performed an analysis of the revolver located at the scene and as reported by the witness, being held by the subject, Baughman. The firearm was also found at the scene being a short distance from the subject, Baughman, after the critical incident.



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The following identifications were made by the BCI Lab:

On Friday, June 10, 2022, SA Clar received Ohio BCI Laboratory report for items of evidence submitted on May 19, 2022, for scientific analysis (laboratory case number 22-34588).

As reported in IRW-1 Crime Scene report, Item #19, identified as a Charter Arms “Off Duty 38 SPL” revolver having S/N983960, containing three live cartridges with one cartridge under the “hammer.”

The report originated from the DNA section of the laboratory and was authored by Forensic Scientist Stacy L. Viola (Viola).

The items relevant to this report, which had previously been submitted, were as follows:

1. One box containing firearm with cartridges.
2. One manila envelope containing blood stain card from Cora Baughman.

Forensic Scientist Viola reported the following findings:

The DNA Conclusions Swab of trigger/trigger guard Mixture (1 major contributor) Major – consistent with: **Cora Baughman**

The Swab of grip (avoiding stain) Swab of cylinder/buttons Mixture (1 major contributor) Major – consistent with: **Cora Baughman**

Please refer to IRW-13 for additional details.

Firearm Review

On Thursday, July 07, 2022, BCI SA Clar received a "Firearms Trace Summary" report from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).



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The report contained information about the firearm that Baughman possessed during the incident on May 14, 2022.

The report provided details about the Charter Arms, model Off Duty, serial number 983960, firearm; including that it was purchased by William G. Sebastian (Sebastian) on May 27, 1987.

Additionally, an FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) check of the weapon was conducted by the BCI Criminal Intelligence Unit to determine if the weapon was reported as being stolen.

According to the report, [REDACTED]

On August 15, 2022, SA Clar conducted a telephone interview with Sebastian (216-535-8194).

Sebastian informed SA Clar that he [Sebastian] did purchase the firearm as his “back up” weapon for his security position. Sebastian then sold the firearm to his friend, John Malzen, in 1989 or 1990. Sebastian also advised SA Clar that John Malzen is now deceased.

Sebastian was going to attempt to locate possible family members of John Malzen for additional details of the additional ownership of the firearm.

Witnesses

- **Neighborhood Canvass**

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, BCI SA Lieber, SA Clar and Portage County Sheriff's Office Detective Mike Hanna (Hanna) conducted a neighborhood canvass in the area of Werger Road, Windham Township, Ohio.

The purpose for the canvass was to identify and interview potential witnesses to the officer-involved shooting that occurred at 643 Werger Road, Windham Township, Ohio, on Saturday, May 14, 2022.

During the neighborhood canvass, investigators made or attempted contact with the residents at the following addresses:

8653 Werger Road

Timothy Campbell (Campbell) stated that the female that died [Cora Baughman] is his ex-mother-in-law. Campbell said that he thought that Baughman would kill him one day.



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Campbell said that he was in his bedroom when he heard screaming. He looked out his bedroom window and saw two police officers moving quickly up the driveway of the neighboring residence [8643 Werger Road].

Campbell said that he heard the officers yell repeatedly, “Drop the gun, drop the gun, drop the gun.” Campbell then heard gunshots. Campbell said that he could not see Baughman at the time of the shooting.

Campbell stated that from his window, he can't see past the mulch area located near the garage.

Campbell stated that he was in the bathroom at the time he first heard officers yell, “Drop the gun.” He was able to get up, wipe himself and then run to the window; that's when he saw the officers coming up the driveway.

Campbell said that he heard 12 to 15 shots. He did not know if one or both officers fired.

Campbell said that he was the only person home at the time of the shooting.

SA Lieber asked about Campbell's earlier statement that he thought Baughman was going to kill him. Campbell said that Baughman was evil. Campbell said that his ex-wife [Baughman's daughter] committed suicide.

SA Lieber asked about the dispute between Baughman and their neighbor. Campbell said that the neighbors got upset and called the health department on Baughman because there was sewage coming from Baughman's property onto the neighbor's [Rick and Barb Knerem] property.

Barb Knerem (Barb) told Campbell that she informed the health department that there were two dwellings on Baughman's property, when the lot is only designed for one. Campbell stated that his oldest son lives in the cottage on the back of the property.

He said that “Once you fucked with him, you open the gates of hell. You don't fuck with that kid or their way of life.” Campbell said that Barb and Rick are not the easiest neighbors to live next to. He said that they are vindictive.

Campbell said that when his son called him about the complaint to the health department, he told Campbell that Baughman had “just been stewing about it.”

Campbell then asked SA Lieber if Baughman had her .38 (revolver). SA Lieber informed Campbell that he has not walked into the scene yet and that he is not sure. Campbell said that his son informed him that Baughman's gun is up at the trailer “and the clip is not even in it.”



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SA Lieber asked Campbell if he knew the manufacturer or color of the .38 revolver. Campbell said that he did not know. He said that his son, in the past, has mentioned the .38 and had said that Baughman would carry it.

Campbell said he did not personally ever see the .38 but just that his son saw it and talked about it. Campbell said that Rick and Barb called him after the shooting and told him what happened. Campbell said that he learned that Baughman came into the garage and was “beating on the garage door.”

Rick opened the door and told Baughman that he doesn't come to her house and he doesn't want her at his house. Meanwhile, Barb called 911. Baughman started beating on the door again. Rick stepped into the garage and told Baughman that she needed to leave right now. Baughman then pulled out a gun.

SA Lieber asked if he could take a photograph from inside Campbell's master bedroom from the window he was looking out of at the time of the shooting. (The original photographs have been attached to this report.)

8609 Werger Road

Investigators spoke with Ashley Harman (Harman). Harman stated that she doesn't live at 8609 Werger Road, but her parents do live there. Harman was not at the house at the time of the shooting. Harman said that as far as she knows, her parents were sleeping at the time of the shooting.

Harman said that Baughman's boyfriend called her parents and told them that Baughman had been shot. Harman said that there is a history with the neighbors and the people that live next to Baughman [Rick and Barb Knerem].

8609 Werger Road

Investigators spoke to Jamison and Dawn at 1535 hours. Dawn said that they were sleeping at the time of the shooting. Jamison said that Dawn works night shift. At 9:30 AM, Jamison received a call from Baughman's boyfriend [Dogan] saying that Baughman was shot.

Jamison said that when he went outside, everything was already taped off. He said that Baughman is their best friend. Jamison said that Baughman and the neighbor [Rick and Barb Knerem] didn't get along.

Jamison stated that a long time ago, there was some infidelity between Baughman's nephew and Barb.



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Jamison stated that it is constantly back and forth between mowing the lawn, the trees and issues with the health department and the septic system.

Jamison said that recently he spoke with Baughman, and he learned that the Knerem's called the health department and complained about Baughman's septic system.

Apparently, the health department came to the Baughman residence and "It was a big issue with the health department." Jamison said that Baughman was a little disgruntled, but he doesn't know what made her go to the Knerem's house this morning.

Jamison said that the Knerem's have called the police on other neighbors in the past. Dawn said that she doesn't think that Baughman would have hurt anybody.

She said that if Baughman had a gun, she doesn't think that she would have used it. Jamison said that he thought Baughman went to the Knerem's house "for a fear factor to where she's finally at her boiling point. She had enough of those people."

Jamison said that Baughman was the type of person that if she didn't like you, she would tell you. Dawn said that 15 years ago, when they purchased their house on Werger Road, the realtor told them that they would be moving into a hornet's nest.

Dawn said that the feud between Baughman and the Knerem's has been going on since before they moved onto the street. Jamison said that the Knerem's picked at Baughman.

He gave examples of complaints about the Baughman's dog barking or a stick from a tree that fell into the Knerem's yard. Dawn said that it was petty stuff. Jamison said that it really must have been something to push Baughman over the edge for her to go to the Knerem's house.

He said that Baughman went to the Knerem's and confronted them before, but they just had words in the yard.

Jamison said that if Baughman had a gun and an officer told her to drop it, he's sure that she would have dropped it. He said that Baughman has a concealed carry permit.

Interview with Members of Portage County Health District

On June 23, 2022, BCI SA Clar conducted an interview with members of Portage County Health District (PCHD).

The interview was regarding the officer-involved critical incident that occurred on May 14, 2022, at 8643 Werger Rd., that resulted in the death of Baughman.



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Attending the interview were Mary Helen Smith (Smith), Director of Environmental Health Division, and William Duck (Duck), Registered Sanitarian (Inspector) for PCHD; also attending the interview was Lindsey Cianciolo (Cianciolo), Inspector for PCHD.

Cianciolo informed SA Clar that she [Cianciolo] would be resigning from her position with PCHD effective July 1, 2022. Cianciolo also said she would make herself available for any further assistance she could offer regarding this incident.

Cianciolo said that on April 14, 2022, Richard Knerem (Richard), 8643 Werger Rd., Windham Township, filed a “Portage County Combined General Health District, Nuisance Complaint” reporting the following: “We have concerns on our neighbor’s property located at 8657 Werger Road, Garrettsville, Ohio 44231. And feel that maybe their septic may be flowing into our yard as the area between our yards stays very wet with what appears to be black sewage water at times. We have tied into a pipe that was flowing water freely into our yard and still seems to not have fixed the situation with how wet and possible sewage in the yard. We have also attended our village meeting and requested that they investigate the situation at the property as it appears that there is a small-standing dwelling behind the trailer that is being occupied on a full-time bases by approximately 2 people which may be adding to the situation of the septic. We were told they could not access the property unless emergency services were needed. We are asking if someone could access the situation to make sure that there currently is not a septic issue allowing it to flow onto our property. Appreciate your time.”

Richard also attached photos to the April 14, 2022, “Nuisance Complaint Report.”

Cianciolo then said that she was aware that Richard had contacted the PCHD on March 25, 2021, to report that his neighbor’s septic system was failing and waste water was “running onto his property.”

Cianciolo also said that Richard reported that his neighbor resided in a mobile home, and behind the mobile home was a “cottage” building.

Richard reported that he believed people were residing in the “cottage” building; and, waste water from their properties was running onto his property.

Cianciolo said that on April 20, 2022, she stopped at the property of Baughman, 8657 Werger Rd., Windham Township, to investigate the complaint filed by Richard. Cianciolo said that she was met by Baughman, who said she was leaving but would make arrangements to reschedule an interview.

Cianciolo said Baughman claimed the septic system was “working fine.” Cianciolo said when she first met Baughman, she [Baughman] appeared to be irritated and upset but not hostile.



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Cianicolo said that on May 2, 2022, she did return to interview Baughman and perform a “dye” test on Baughman’s septic system located on her property. Cianicolo said that her observation showed what appeared to be two dwellings on the property.

Cianicolo reported in her case notes, “Homeowner says they are tied into the same septic and that the other building is used for storage.”

Cianicolo then said that she conducted the dye test of the mobile home using a green dye. Cianicolo reported in her case notes that “No evidence of public health nuisance at this time.”

Cianicolo then said she continued to monitor the septic system. Cianicolo did report that the septic tanks are not exposed. Cianicolo also noted that a dye test will be needed to test the other building for possible health issues.

On May 3, 2022, Cianicolo came back to Baughman’s property to check for signs of dye. Cianicolo reported that she, “Did not observe any evidence of public health nuisance.”

On May 5, 2022, Cianicolo returned to Baughman’s property and reported observing “black coloration surfacing in area where trench is purported to be located. Didn’t observe dye.”

Cianicolo said that when she saw the black surface water, the septic system may be showing signs of failing. Smith said that when the surface water and or dye appear to emit a strong odor and are readily viable, that is the issue when it becomes a public health nuisance.

Cianicolo said that Baughman did not believe her septic system was a problem.

On May 6, 2022, Health Inspector Duck went out to Baughman’s property to conduct another visual inspection. Duck said that Baughman was very cordial. Duck said that he walked the area identified as the “leach field” and did not observe any dye on the surface area of the property.

Duck also said that Baughman was “very worried and stressed” that her septic system was going to fail. Duck again tried to calm Baughman by informing her that he did not see a problem and if the septic system did need replacing, there was financial assistance that was available.

Duck said that Baughman was upset and had expressed that she recently had lost her husband.

On May 9, 2022, Duck returned to Baughman’s property. Duck said that he did call Baughman to let her know he was coming out to view the area. Duck said he walked the area with Baughman and did not observe the dye or other surface issues. Duck said that Baughman was still very upset and continued to worry that she “was going to be kicked out of her house.”

Duck again advised Baughman that there were programs to assist people who need replacement of septic systems.



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Duck said Baughman told him [Duck] that she had lost two children and her husband. Baughman also said she takes care of her grandson. Baughman then told Duck that she would do whatever she needs to protect her grandson.

Duck asked Baughman about the dwelling behind the mobile home, where she resides. Baughman told Duck that her grandson “hangs out” and the dwelling is not hooked up. Baughman claimed that she disconnected the lines because they had become frozen.

On May 12, 2022, Cianciolo returned to Baughman’s property. Cianciolo said she walked the septic area and did not notice any odors or sewage surfacing onto the ground.

Cianciolo was met by Baughman and her grandson. Cianciolo inquired about the rear dwelling and was quickly told by the grandson that he sleeps and lives in the mobile home with his grandmother, Cora Baughman.

Baughman said that they use the rear dwelling to do canning. Cianciolo wanted to explore the dwelling but Baughman quickly skipped over the topic.

The grandson did inform Cianciolo there was a bathroom located in the back dwelling.

Cianciolo said she was unable to perform a walkthrough of the dwelling. Cianciolo again informed Baughman there were applications for funding to assist in replacing septic systems.

Cianciolo also said that Baughman always wanted to be present when persons from the department came out for inspections.

A copy of the April 14, 2022, complaint filed by Richard has been placed in this case file.

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.

Portage County Deputy [REDACTED] ([REDACTED])

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. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.



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Deputy ■■■ was accompanied by his attorney, George Gerken, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at 10147 Royalton Rd., North Royalton, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Deputy ■■■ has prior law enforcement experience, as he served as a deputy sheriff with Trumbull County in 2018, prior to gaining employment with Portage County Sheriff's Office in 2021. Deputy ■■■ has not been involved in a prior officer-involved incident, nor has he had any allegations of use of force complaints.

Deputy ■■■ does not recall the number of shots he fired during the incident.

Deputy ■■■ started the interview by explaining his assignment for the day and explaining the equipment and employment history with the sheriff's office.

Deputy ■■■ then said while he was responding, he received additional information that the suspect is in the garage and trying to gain entry into the house. The suspect also reportedly has a weapon. Deputy ■■■ said he received additional assistance ["mutual aid"] from a Garrettsville police officer and was advised that additional units from the PCSO would be responding.

Deputy ■■■ again, said that he activated his overhead lights as he responded to the incident on Werger Rd.

Deputy ■■■ said he was "running lights and sirens," responding to the location, but discontinued the activity when he reached Werger Rd. Deputy ■■■ said that he responded to the call at 8643 Werger Rd. and deactivated his siren when he approached Werger Rd.

Deputy ■■■ said when he arrived at the incident location, 8643 Werger Rd., he was being assisted by Garrettsville Police Sergeant (Sgt.) Keith Whan (Whan).

Deputy ■■■ then said he parked his vehicle at the end of the driveway, meeting Werger Rd.

Deputy ■■■ said he parked his vehicle on one side of the driveway, while Sgt. Whan parked his vehicle on the other side of the driveway. Deputy ■■■ said he can see the house and the attached garage doors. Deputy ■■■ said one garage door, closer to the house, is open.

Deputy ■■■ then said, as he exited his vehicle and began to approach the house and garage, he can see the subject come out of "the darkness" of the garage, holding a black gun in her right hand.

Deputy ■■■ attempted to gain the identity of the female subject to determine if she was the homeowner. Deputy ■■■ then said the female would not respond to him.



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Deputy ■■■ said he drew his gun and began to give the female commands to drop the gun. Deputy ■■■ then said he observed a truck parked in the driveway, as he was seeking to use the vehicle to gain cover. Deputy ■■■ said that he was becoming closer to the subject and continued to give commands to the subject to drop the gun.

Deputy ■■■ said the female did not drop the weapon. Deputy ■■■ said he told the subject, “Drop the gun or you will be shot.” Deputy ■■■ said, after informing the subject that she would be shot, the subject then raised both hands in the air, still holding the gun in her right hand.

Deputy ■■■ instructed the subject to drop the gun again. At this time, the subject “yells no.”

Deputy ■■■ said the subject then said, “I am going to go inside and I’m going to kill them.” The subject then walks back inside of the garage.

Deputy ■■■ observes a large SUV parked in the garage, closest to the door leading into the house. Deputy ■■■ said he was still outside of the garage but could see that the subject was at the front of the SUV, on the driver’s side. Deputy ■■■ said that he continues to give the command to the subject to drop the gun. The subject again said, “No.”

Deputy ■■■ said that the subject pointed the gun at his direction. Deputy ■■■ said that is when he fired his weapon at her.

Deputy ■■■ also said he was in fear for his life, the life of the officer with him and “potentially” the people inside of the house.

Deputy ■■■ said after he shot, he quickly responded to his dispatcher of the shooting incident. Deputy ■■■ also said that he and Sgt. Whan immediately began to administer first aid to the subject.

SA Clar asked Deputy ■■■ how many times did the subject say “no.” Deputy ■■■ replied that he was not certain.

Deputy ■■■ said that when he first arrived on the scene, he could observe people inside of the house through the front bay window.

Deputy ■■■ then said that when the subject pointed the gun at him, he was at the rear of the vehicle on the driver’s side and was closest to the outside; the subject was at the front of the vehicle, inside of the garage.

SA Lieber asked Deputy ■■■ if he has responded to the address on Werger Rd. in the past for any calls of service. Deputy ■■■ could not recall being at the address on any prior occasions or being involved with the subject, Baughman.



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Deputy [REDACTED] said he ceased firing his weapon when he felt there was no longer a threat. Deputy [REDACTED] also said that once the subject fell to the ground, he moved the gun from the immediate area of the subject.

Deputy [REDACTED] also said he viewed the body-cam video of Garrettsville Police Sgt. Whan on one occasion.

Deputy [REDACTED] s Personnel information:

On Friday, May 27, 2022, BCI SA Clar received the personnel file for Deputy [REDACTED] from Portage County Sheriff's Office.

SA Clar reviewed the personnel file and noted the following:

Employment

[REDACTED] was appointed to a full-time Portage County Deputy Sheriff on September 6, 2021. Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy/Commission Records received from PCSO reveal that [REDACTED] obtained the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) on October 4, 2019.

[REDACTED] attended and successfully completed the Peace Basic Training Program at Kent State and graduated on October 4, 2019.

[REDACTED] shows that on December 16, 2017, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kent State University.

Please refer to the attachment for further details.

Firearm Qualification Records

On August 31, 2021, [REDACTED] successfully qualified in firearm proficiency, using a Smith and Wesson 9MM, MP semiautomatic handgun.

Disciplinary Records

The personnel records of [REDACTED] received from PCSO do not indicate any discipline-related issues or complaints involving the use of force.

[REDACTED] s personnel file and training records have been placed in this file for further review.

[REDACTED] s 2021 range qualification file has been attached to this report and placed in this file for future reference.



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Interview of Garrettsville Police Sgt. Keith Whan

On Tuesday, June 7, 2022, BCI SA Clar and SA Lieber interviewed Sgt. Whan of the Garrettsville Police Department; who was accompanied by his attorney, George Gerken, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

The interview was audio recorded.

Sgt. Whan was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 14, 2022, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 8643 Werger Rd., Garrettsville, Ohio.

Reportedly, Sgt. Whan did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. Sgt. Whan stated his radio call sign on May 14, 2022, was #903. He has been employed by the Garrettsville Police Department for about 14 years.

Sgt. Whan wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove a 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe, unit #962, a black and white, marked with POLICE emblems and emergency lights.

Sgt. Whan said that when responding to the incident, both his police vehicle camera and his body-worn camera were functioning.

Sgt. Whan reported that the day of the incident, he was “on station” when the dispatcher requested “back-up” to an incident located on Werger Rd. for a neighborhood dispute.

Sgt. Whan then said that he proceeded to respond to the location and while responding, he [Sgt. Whan] activated his police radio to scan, so that he could hear other sheriff units responding to the incident location.

Sgt. Whan said that he learned from the radio communication that the subject was “banging on the doors and windows” and armed with a weapon.

Sgt. Whan could hear on the radio that Sheriff's Deputy [REDACTED] was responding and he was responding from the Ravenna area.

Sgt. Whan decided to stage at the end of the street, that he identified as Werger Rd, and wait for the other police vehicles.

Sgt. Whan said that upon [REDACTED] arriving, they both proceeded to the location on Werger Rd. Sgt. Whan explained that he believed that when he activated his overhead lights, his body-worn camera and in-car camera became activated.



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Sgt. Whan said on both units arriving on the location, 8643 Werger Rd., they positioned their vehicles so that the road was blocked to oncoming traffic. Sgt. Whan then said that at the end of the driveway by the street [Werger Rd.], he did observe “an older female” come out of the garage of the location.

Sgt. Whan also said that one garage door was open, while the other garage door was closed. The garage door that was opened was identified as being closest to the house. The female came walking out of the garage and was observed walking out to the garage from the driver’s side of a parked SUV, closest to the entrance of the house.

Sgt. Whan then heard [REDACTED] give commands to the female to drop the weapon. Sgt. Whan said, due to his position, he could not see the female subject’s hand.

Sgt. Whan said he unholstered his weapon and observed [REDACTED] having his weapon in his hands. Sgt. Whan said, as they got closer to the subject, he could see the female subject having a black revolver in her hand.

Sgt. Whan said he took cover to the rear side of a parked pickup truck, as well as [REDACTED] utilizing the vehicle for cover. Sgt. Whan said he gave one command to the subject to drop her gun. Sgt. Whan said that [REDACTED] continued to give commands to the female to drop her gun.

Sgt. Whan explained that the female was inside of the garage with a black revolver. Sgt. Whan then said that [REDACTED] went into the garage and approached the subject from the driver’s side of a parked SUV inside of the garage.

Sgt. Whan took a “tactical” position from the rear passenger side of the parked SUV. Sgt. Whan explained that [REDACTED] gave a command to the subject to drop the gun. [REDACTED] was inside of the garage by the rear of the parked SUV vehicles.

The subject was in the front of the vehicle’s driver’s side. Sgt. Whan said he heard [REDACTED] give the command to the female to drop the gun. Sgt. Whan said he heard the female say, “No.”

Sgt. Whan then said he heard a “volley” of shots. Sgt. Whan then radioed to dispatch that shots were fired and start a squad.

Sgt. Whan said he observed a blood-stained black revolver on the ground, laying by the front of the vehicle. Sgt. Whan assisted [REDACTED] in securing the subject, who was laying on the garage floor on the driver’s front side of the parked SUV.

Sgt. Whan responded back to his vehicle and retrieved his medical supply bag to begin first aid on the subject. Sgt. Whan said the other officers arrived on scene and began to assist in administering first aid until the EMS squad arrived.



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Sgt. Whan does recall that upon arriving on the scene on Werger, he did observe two people inside of the house. SA Lieber asked Sgt. Whan if he [Sgt. Whan] heard any other responses from the female subject besides the word "no."

Sgt. Whan replied that he did not hear any other communication from the female subject. Sgt. Whan also said he does not know the female subject.

Sgt. Whan said that he did watch his body-cam video on one occasion. Sgt. Whan also said he has observed the edited video given to the media.

Subject Interviews (Richard & Barbara Knerem)

On May 17, 2022, BCI SA Clar and SA Conn conducted a recorded interview with Richard Knerem (Richard) and Barbara Knerem (Barbara).

The interview occurred at Richard and Barbara's home, located at 8643 Werger Rd., Garrettsville, Ohio.

The interview began at 1755 hours. Richard is an electrician and Barbara is a registered nurse. Richard and Barbara said they have resided at the address (8643 Werger Rd.) for approximately 25 years. Richard began by saying about "nine something" in the morning, he was in his office that is located in the back area of the house. Richard then said that the "Ring" doorbell went off.

Richard also said that when he got up in the morning on Saturday, he opened the left side garage door to allow airflow through the house.

Richard said he got up to investigate the doorbell; at which time, he opened the door and he saw "my neighbor standing there." Barbara interjected and said that the incident with the doorbell occurred around 0930 hours.

Barbara then said that the neighbor they were referring to was known to them as Cora Baughman.

Barbara and Richard described the subject as an "older lady, heavy set with gray hair." Richard then said he told Barbara that the subject was in the garage. Barbara told Richard to call 911.

Richard said that he confronted the subject in the garage and told her to leave. Richard said he used his cell phone (330-861-3132) and told the police that his neighbor is in his garage and needs the police to have her "removed from my garage."

Barbara said that Richard became very frustrated with the police dispatcher and said that he wanted the police to come to his home and remove the lady from his garage. Richard said the



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lady remained in their garage; and, when he got off the phone with the police dispatcher, he opened the door to the garage again.

Richard said, when he opened the door again, he saw the subject standing with a gun pointed at him. Richard then said, when he opened the door for the second time and saw the subject with the gun pointed at him, he told the subject to remove herself from his property.

Richard said that when he demanded the subject to leave his garage and his property, the subject replied, "We need to talk." Richard, again, said that he told the subject to vacate his garage and property. Richard said that he took his cell phone and took the below photo of the female in his garage pointing the gun at him. (Refer to IR-4 for additional detail.)

Richard backed into the kitchen, from the garage, after being confronted by the subject and closed and locked the door to the garage.

Richard again called 911 and spoke with another dispatcher and advised that the subject has a gun and is still on his property. The dispatcher said the officers are on their way. Richard again stated that he was very frustrated with the police and the dispatchers.

Richard and Barbara said that after they spoke with the dispatcher, the subject had come up the steps and began to shake and push on the door leading from the garage to the kitchen.

Barbara said when the subject began to shake and push on the door, they [Richard and Barbara] went to the back bedroom at the opposite end of the house to seek cover.

Barbara said they were both "scared we were going to get shot." Richard said that he had a weapon in the garage by the door leading into the kitchen but did not attempt to gain access to the weapon.

Richard said that he observed the police come to his house. He also said he observed the officers come up to the house with their guns drawn. Richard said, "That's all I seen." Richard said, where they were located in the bedroom of the house, they could only have limited vision of the officers' involvement.

Barbara and Richard both heard the police give the subject commands. Barbara said she heard the police say, "Put your hands up and drop your weapon." Barbara also said the police were screaming and gave the subject commands more than once.

Barbara became very emotional and said that the officers began firing. Barbara said it was a "horrible experience."



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Richard thought the officers fired 15 shots. Barbara said they could not see anything but could hear the incident and the shooting.

Richard and Barbara only heard the commands of the officers and the shots being fired. Barbara or Richard claimed not to have heard any words uttered by the subject. Barbara said that after the incident, one of the officers told them to stay in the house.

Video Recordings

SA Clar received a copy of Garrettsville Police Sgt. Whan's body-worn camera (BWC) video from the PCSO. Sgt. Whan was on the scene at the time of the incident but did not fire his weapon. (Please refer to IR-11 for additional details.)

Also obtained were video copies of the activity obtained from the “Ring” doorbell of the May 14, incident minutes prior to the officer-involved critical incident that occurred in the garage of 8643 Werger Rd. (Please refer to IR-4 for additional details.)

The address of 8643 Werger Rd. was shown to be owned and occupied by Richard and Barbara Knerem. On May 26, 2022, SA Clar presented copies of Garrettsville Police Sgt. Whan's BWC and video footage of the May 14, activity captured on the “Ring” doorbell from the front entrance of 8643 Werger Rd. to Forensic Video Analyst Dustin Oddo (Oddo).

At the time of the incident, May 14, the PCSO received a 911 call from Richard Knerem of 8643 Werger Rd., at 0915 hours, reporting that a female was attempting to gain access at their front door into their house.

Richard then called the PCSO again at 0920 hours and informed the dispatcher the female was in their garage and she is “pointing a gun” at Richard.

Deputy [REDACTED] # [REDACTED] of the PCSO responded and was also assisted by Garrettsville Sgt. Whan. Upon both officers responding and arriving at 8643 Werger Rd., they both exited their vehicles and proceeded to walk down the driveway to approach the house and attached garage. (As reported, Sgt. Whan is the only officer wearing a BWC.)

SA Clar requested Analyst Oddo to review and amplify 90 seconds of Garrettsville Police Sgt. Whan's BWC video.

The entire recorded activity is 52:02 minutes in duration. The activity reviewed consisted of the two officers' confrontation with the subject, Baughman.



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Analyst Oddo prepared a BCI timeline presentation that is shown to be a four-minute video presentation consisting of the subject, Baughman, on the front porch of 8643 Werger Rd., that is captured on “Door Bell” recorded video.

The second part of the four-minute presentation consists of the BWC video of Garrettsville Sgt. Whan and Deputy [REDACTED]'s interactions with the subject, Baughman.

The review of the BWC video begins at video mark #2.10 and shows Sgt. Whan and Deputy [REDACTED] proceeding down the driveway of 8643 Werger Rd. A dark-colored pickup truck is parked in front of the first garage door that is open and closest to the house.

As the officers begin to walk down the driveway of 8643 Werger Rd., Sgt. Whan's BWC records the following activity that is shown in the BCI timeline presentation of the time entries: 2.09.21- Officers exit their vehicles and begin to walk down the driveway. The garage door closest to the house is shown to be open. Deputy [REDACTED] is heard giving the command, “stop,” and then asking, “which house?”

- 2.22.02-Deputy [REDACTED] gives the command to the subject, “Come out here.”
- 2.23.00-Deputy [REDACTED] gives the command for the subject to show her hands.
- 2.23.06-The subject, Baughman, can be observed standing in the opening of the garage.
- 2.26.26-Deputy [REDACTED] gives the command to drop the gun now.
- 2.29.13-Deputy [REDACTED] gives commands to drop the gun and can be observed on the video with his weapon drawn and raised to eye level as he approaches the garage.
- 2.31-Deputy [REDACTED] gives commands to drop it and orders the subject to show her hands.
- 2.35.15-The subject can be observed in the garage.
- 2.39-Deputy [REDACTED] gives the command to drop the weapon. Deputy [REDACTED] can be seen responding quickly to the garage with his weapon pointed towards the open garage. Deputy [REDACTED] continues to give commands to drop the gun.
- 2.43.17-The subject can be seen standing in front of the open garage door.
- 2.46.13-Deputy [REDACTED] continues to give commands to the subject to drop the weapon. Deputy [REDACTED] takes cover at the rear of the parked pickup truck, located in front of the open garage door.
- 2.48.27-Deputy [REDACTED] gives commands to the subject ordering her to drop the gun or she will be shot.



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- 2.50.07-Sgt. Whan gives commands to the subject to drop the gun.
- 2.52.21-The subject can be heard uttering words (unintelligible).
- 2.53.05-Deputy [REDACTED] gives commands for the subject to show her hands.
- 2.55.21-The subject retreats back into the garage.
- 2.56.06-Deputy [REDACTED] again gives commands, “Ma’am drop it.”
- 3.01.06-On a split-screen view of the “Door Bell” camera and the BWC of Sgt. Whan, both officers can be seen quickly approaching the area. Deputy [REDACTED] can be heard yelling out commands for the subject to drop the gun.
- 3.02.16-Deputy [REDACTED] gives commands to drop the gun. The subject can be heard saying, “No.”
- 3.3.17-Deputy [REDACTED] gives commands, “Drop that,” then 14 shots are fired (sound distortion is heard in the final shot).
- 3.10.18-Deputy [REDACTED] says, “Shots fired, shots fired.”
- 3.17.15-Sgt. Whan can be heard informing the dispatcher that shots have been fired and to dispatch a squad.
- 3.20.18-Sgt. Whan can be heard asking Deputy [REDACTED] “Does he have the gun?”
- 3.45.00-Deputy [REDACTED] also requests a squad for the subject.

During the course of the actual shooting incident, Sgt. Whan is staged behind the rear portion of the parked SUV vehicle in the garage. No visual activity of Deputy [REDACTED] can be observed.

The remaining BWC video shows officers administering first aid to the subject until emergency vehicles arrived on scene.

911 Dispatcher and Communications/Dispatch-Related Information

On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, BCI SA Clar received requested records and recordings from Portage County Sheriff's Office. SA Clar had previously requested all dispatch records and communications and any other dispatch/communications-related information for the following date and time period: May 14, 2022, at 0910 hours, until May 14, 2022, at 1000 hours.

On May 30, 2022, copies of the “911” calls made by Richard Knerem to the Portage County 911 Emergency Center were received for the incident that occurred on May 14. As a result of that request, the following items were received, reviewed and found to be most relevant to this investigation:

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Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) Records:

Officer Identification Deputy [REDACTED] Unit # [REDACTED] (Primary)

Garrettsville Police Sgt. Whan, Unit #903

Deputy Wilson, Unit #112

Deputy Minardi, Unit #123

9:13:17 AM Call Created (Dispatcher Skotschir) Incident #2022-00001218 Call location: 8643
Werger Rd. (Windham Twp.)

9:13:50 AM Agency Context Added “Neighbor Dispute Status: In Progress, Priority 2” “Added
Police Dispatch Position PCS02”

9:14:48 AM Call Updated “Caller Phone Changed to (330) 861-3132”

9:15:15 AM Name: Knerem, Richard Contact Phone: Changed from (330) 861-3132 to (330)
861-3132

9:15:19 AM “pr and neighbor do not get along, she is now at the pr’s garage”

9:15:31 AM “Pounding on the door”

9:16:01 AM “cora b? is the neighbor”

9:17:05 AM “pr is advising to get someone out there before he has to remove her himself and we
would need a squad.”

9:18:16 AM “Unit [REDACTED] Enroute”

9:20:14 AM Call Update: “Call Source Changed from Telephone to 911”

9:20:23 AM “PR CALLED BACK AND ADV NEIGHBOR IS IN HIS GARAGE POINTING A
GUN AT HIM”

9:20:45 AM “NEIGHBOR IS CORA”

“Added Police Dispatch Position PCS02”

9:14:48 AM Call Updated “Caller Phone Changed to (330) 861-3132”

9:15:15 AM Name: Knerem, Richard Contact Phone: Changed from (330) 861-3132 to (330)
861-3132



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9:15:19 AM “pr and neighbor do not get along, she is now at the pr’s garage”

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9:18:16 AM “Unit [REDACTED] Enroute”

9:20:14 AM Call Update: “Call Source Changed from Telephone to 911”

9:20:23 AM “PR CALLED BACK AND ADV NEIGHBOR IS IN HIS GARAGE POINTING A GUN AT HIM”

9:20:45 AM “NEIGHBOR IS CORA”

9:28:18 AM “PR ADV HE HAS FILED A COMPLAINT WITH THE COUNTY DUE TO CORA DUMPING HER SEWAGE INTO HIS YARD”

9:29:19 AM 903 is staging at Stanley and Werger

9:30:09 AM “GARAGE DOOR IS OPEN”

9:30:25 AM “NOW PULLING ON DOOR”

9:31:11 AM “PR HUNG UP”

9:31:36 AM “PR ADV CORA TRYING TO BREAK WINDOW AND POUllING ON DOOR HANDLE”

9:31:43 AM “PULLING*”

9:32:34 AM “Unit [REDACTED] At Scene”

9:32:37 AM “Unit 903 At Scene”

9:32:21 AM “[REDACTED] SHE HAS 40 IN HAND GIVCING HER COMMANDS”

9:33:58 AM “SHOT FIRED SUBJECT DOWN”

9:34:05 AM “112-MAKE NOTIFICATION”



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Review of 911 Recording(s):

On May 30, 2022, SA Clar received copies of two 911 recordings that occurred at the Portage County Emergency 911 Center on May 14, 2022, involving the incident that occurred at 8643 Werger Rd., Windham Twp.

The copies of the 911 recordings were obtained and forwarded to BCI by Portage County Sheriff's Detective Springer.

The prepared 911 recordings are separated as Part 1 & 2. The received recordings are not timestamped or shown to be chronologically dated electronically.

Part #1

Richard Knerem states that he has called the sheriff's department and no one has answered. Richard Knerem gives his address as 8643 Werger Rd. and request the police to respond.

Richard Knerem said that his neighbor, that they do not "get along," is currently in his garage knocking at the door.

Richard Knerem said that he wants her removed so that no one gets hurt.

Richard Knerem again reports that he was not able to contact the sheriff's department.

The dispatcher gives Richard Knerem the number "330 296 5100 ext. 9." Richard Knerem asked the dispatcher if he [Richard Knerem] should go out and "get rid of her."

The dispatcher advises Richard Knerem that she will send "one of her guys out."

Richard Knerem replies by informing the dispatcher, "They better hurry up."

The dispatcher asked if he [Richard Knerem] knows the subject's name. Richard Knerem responds saying her first name is "Cora" and her last name starts with a "B."

Richard Knerem continues to explain that the subject resides in the trailer next to his house.

The dispatcher asked Richard Knerem if the subject is still trying to gain entry. Richard Knerem responds by saying, "Yes."

Part #2

Richard Knerem informs the 911 dispatcher that he had just called in a short time earlier. Richard Knerem says, "My neighbor has a gun and she is in my garage, pointing it at me." Richard Knerem goes on to state, "I have the right to go shoot her."



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The dispatcher responds by saying, “No.”

Richard Knerem then said to the dispatcher that the subject is threatening him. The dispatcher confirms that officers are en route.

Richard Knerem again said to the dispatcher that the subject has a gun and is pointing it at him.

Richard Knerem again confirms that the neighbor’s first name is “Cora.”

Richard Knerem again confirms that the subject is in his garage and that he retreated from the garage and is in his home and has locked the door.

Richard Knerem explains that if he confronted the subject in the garage again, then she may have to be placed in a “body bag.”

The dispatcher informs Richard Knerem that he could be in, get into trouble for that behavior.

Richard Knerem proceeds to explain that the subject has a gun and is in his garage.

The dispatcher again confirms that officers are en route. At recorded mark 2:41, three knocks can be heard.

Richard Knerem explains that the subject is knocking on the door.

Richard Knerem appears to be frustrated and then informs the dispatcher that he is going to call his “buddy” to come over.

Richard Knerem said that his buddy can come over with his guns and get the subject from the other side.

Richard Knerem said he was going to terminate the conversation with the dispatcher.

The dispatcher advised Richard Knerem to stay on the line.

The dispatcher informs Richard Knerem to stay away from the door.

The dispatcher informs Richard Knerem that Garrettsville Police are also responding and they are very close.

Richard Knerem said he has a picture of the subject pointing the gun at him. Richard Knerem again told the dispatcher that he has informed the subject, who is in the garage, that she needs to remove herself from the garage and get off his property.

Richard Knerem then said that the subject told him that “we need to talk.” Richard Knerem also said that he told the subject, while in the garage, that he does not come on her property.



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The dispatcher asked Richard Knerem if he has had “issues” with the subject in the past. Richard Knerem said, “We did, we don’t talk to her at all.”

Richard Knerem goes on to explain that the septic waste from the subject’s home has been dumping into his yard.

Richard Knerem goes on to say that he has filed a complaint with the county. The dispatcher asked Richard Knerem when was the complaint filed with the county; Richard Knerem believes it was three weeks ago.

At recorded mark 9:19, Richard Knerem said that the subject is knocking at the door again. Richard Knerem again asks when will the police arrive.

The dispatcher explains that the officer is awaiting assistance. Richard Knerem informs his wife, who is in the house with him, that the officer is awaiting assistance.

Richard Knerem then said to the dispatcher that he gives permission to the officers to enter his garage and speak with the subject.

At recorded mark 10:50, Richard Knerem said that the subject is trying to gain access through the door and the door handle is moving.

Richard Knerem is afraid the subject is going to break the window to try to gain entry.

The recorded 911 conversation is terminated at recorded mark 11:29.

Portage County Sheriff's Investigative Reports

In early June of 2022, Portage County Sheriff's Detective Trent Springer forwarded copies of confidential investigative reports prepared by members of the Portage County Sheriff's Department (PCSD); who were involved in the officer-involved critical incident that occurred on May 14, 2022, involving the subject, Baughman.

The following reports were received:

Copy of Portage County Sheriff's Department Case Report #2022-00015468, dated May 14, 2022, titled, “Neighbor Dispute,” from 8643 Werger Rd., Windham, OH.

·PCSD Confidential Investigative Report, authored by Wilson #106:

Wilson reports that he arrived after the incident occurred involving Deputy [REDACTED] and his confrontation with the subject, Baughman. Wilson also reports his actions with assisting in the managing of the crime scene.



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Wilson also reports that while on scene, he had the opportunity to briefly speak with a neighbor, identified as Aaron Baughman. Aaron Baughman later informs Wilson that the subject, Cora Baughman, is his grandmother.

Aaron Baughman informs Wilson that “I heard the deputy yelling, drop the gun and then I heard shooting.”

Aaron Baughman also informs Wilson, “I am confused because my grandmother has a CCW permit but her gun is inside so she couldn't have had a gun.” Wilson also reports that he received information from Deputy Burris, informing him [Wilson] that Richard Knerem, owner of the home located at 8643 Werger Rd., had made a statement that he would delete the video of the subject, Baughman, from his Ring doorbell.

Wilson then reported that he confronted Richard about the threat of deleting his video. Richard informs Wilson that “I didn't mean it.” Richard then informs Wilson, “I've been a smartass all my life.”

·Confidential Investigatory Record (dated 5/14/2022) authored by Detective M. Hanna #161:

Hanna reports that once arriving on scene, he is instructed to transport Deputy ██████ # ██████ from the scene back to the Portage County Sheriff's Office.

Hanna then reports, prior to returning to the sheriff's department, he observed blood stains on Deputy ██████'s uniform. Hanna obtained photos of Deputy ██████ and his uniform at the scene. Hanna also reports that, once arriving to the sheriff's department, he obtains a buccal swab of the blood stain that appeared on Deputy ██████'s wrist.

All items were then entered as evidence by Hanna.

·PCSD Case Report Narrative authored by Minardi #132:

Minardi responded to the scene and arrived on scene at 0932 hours. Minardi reports that he assisted with administering first aid to the subject, Baughman.

Minardi does report, “Once in the garage I saw a female on the ground laying on her back. Deputy ██████ was on his knees over her right shoulder, applying pressure to a bullet wound, and a black in color revolver laying approximately 8 feet to the left of female.”

·PCSD Case Report Narrative, dated 5/14/2022, and authored by Burris #132:

Burris responded to the incident with Sgt. Wilson. Burris then reports that once arriving on scene, he begins to take photographs of the scene and contents. Burris also reported that he maintained a secure perimeter around the scene, using crime scene tape.



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Burris also reported that he advised the owner of the home, Richard Knerem, not to delete any information from his phone or other recording devices. Burris informs Richard Knerem, “I informed the P/R that the video had evidentiary value. This is when the P/R stated that he would ‘just delete it.’ He then started to do something on his cell phone. I believe that the P/R was potentially trying to delete the video, so I grabbed the cell phone from his hand and requested Sgt. Wilson to come inside.”

·PCSO Confidential Report Authored by Sgt. S. Boughner (Boughner) #113:

Boughner responded to the incident on May 14, 2022. Boughner began to prepare a search warrant for the scene and area of 8643 Werger Rd. Boughner also learned that the original call stemmed from a neighbor dispute.

Persons involved were the homeowners of 8643 Werger Rd., Richard and Barbara Knerem. Also involved was the deceased subject, Cora Baughman.

Boughner also reported that on May 16, 2022, Detective Springer was able to retrieve video footage from the doorbell camera, located at the Knerem home, of the actions of the deceased subject, Cora Baughman.

Boughner prepared a summary of the activity that occurred involving the officer-involved critical incident and Cora Baughman. Boughner also reported that Sheriff Zuchowski obtained a written statement from Aaron Baughman, the grandson of Cora Baughman, the deceased subject.

In the statement obtained by Sheriff Zuchowski, Aaron Baughman reported that he heard, "put down the gun." Aaron Baughman did not see anyone else at the time. Aaron Baughman confirmed that he heard about eight shots. Aaron Baughman said that there has been ongoing harassment towards Aaron Baughman and his family in the past and it has been ongoing for years.

Sgt. Boughner writes in his report the following:

5/18/2022 Conclusion of Investigation “On Saturday, May 14th, 2022 at 0913 hours, Richard Knerem Jr. reported an incident that was occurring at his residence, 8643 Werger Rd., Windham Township. Knerem advised that his neighbor, Cora Baughman, was attempting to get into the residential portion of the structure on his property, and that she already made entry into the garage portion of the structure. Prior to Law Enforcement personnel arriving on scene, Knerem advised that Baughman was armed with a firearm, and he feared she was going to cause him and his wife, Barbara Knerem, physical harm.



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Deputy A. [REDACTED] # [REDACTED] and Sgt. K. Whan (GPD) #903 arrived on scene at 0932 hours, shots were fired by Deputy [REDACTED] and Baughman was struck. Lifesaving efforts were conducted by them Law Enforcement personnel prior to the arrival of medical personnel, and were continued by them upon arrival.

Baughman ultimately succumbed to her injuries at University Hospital Portage Medical Center, and was pronounced deceased by UHPMC Doctor Purpura at approximately 1043 hours.”

Boughner further reported: “In conclusion, Cora Baughman was not a welcome guest within the Knerem residence. Baughman made entry to the Knerem residence through the garage while armed, and brandished the weapon at Richard Knerem, causing both Richard and Barbara Knerem to fear for their lives.

Due to Baughman’s actions, it appears as if she intended to cause serious physical harm to one, or both of the occupants at the time of the incident. At this time, Baughman will be listed as the suspect in the Aggravated Burglary of the Knerem residence located at 8643 Werger Rd. in Windham Township. No charges will be filed, as the sole suspect is deceased.”

Conclusion

On Saturday, May 14, 2022, at 0913 hours, Richard Knerem Jr. reported an incident via a 911 emergency communication to the Portage County Sheriff’s Department; reporting that occurring at his residence, 8643 Werger Rd., Windham Township, a female was in his garage with a gun.

Richard Knerem additionally reports the female was his neighbor, Cora Baughman, and was attempting to gain entry into his [Richard Knerem’s] residence through the access door from the garage to his house (kitchen).

Richard Knerem had also informed the dispatcher that she [Baughman] already made entry into the garage portion of the structure and had attempted to gain access into the house through the front door.

Prior to law enforcement personnel arriving on scene, Richard Knerem advised that Baughman was armed with a firearm and he feared she was going to cause him and his wife, Barbara Knerem, physical harm.

Dispatch had advised the officers responding of the fluid situation.

Portage County Deputy A. [REDACTED] # [REDACTED] and Garrettsville Police Sgt. K. Whan (GPD) #903 arrived on scene at 0932 hours.



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Interviews, as well as recordings from Sgt. Whan's BWC, reveal both officers, Deputy [REDACTED] and Sgt. Whan, giving repeated commands for the subject to drop the weapon.

The subject can be heard yelling the word, "No," after Deputy [REDACTED] commanded her to drop the weapon. Shots are fired by Deputy [REDACTED] and the subject (Cora Baughman) was struck. Lifesaving efforts were conducted by law enforcement personnel prior to the arrival of medical personnel and were continued by them upon arrival. The subject's weapon was recovered and found to contain live rounds of ammunition.

As reported by Sgt. Boughner in his internal report, "Baughman ultimately succumbed to her injuries at University Hospital Portage Medical Center, and was pronounced deceased by UHPMC Doctor Purpura at approximately 1043 hours."

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 Arvin E. Clar. SA Clar can be reached via email at Arvin.Clar@OhioAGO.gov or by telephone at 330-573-5808.