

Statement of Yellow Springs Police Department March 18, 2024

As you are aware, on March 14, 2024, the Yellow Springs Police Department responded to a report of an assault at 611 S High Street.

A single officer on duty that evening was dispatched to that call along with the Miami Township Fire and Rescue Department.

While in route, the dispatch center relayed additional information to the responding unit that the victim, had possibly suffered a gunshot wound. This information prompted the lone officer on duty to make a request for all additional units to respond to his location, also known as signal 99.

When the officer arrived, the victim was found with a gunshot wound. The residence and all surrounding areas were "cleared" by responding officers and an investigation was initiated.

Due to the severity of the crime, and the substantial resources required to properly investigate this type of offense, I determined that the Bureau of Criminal Investigations would be requested to handle the case.

In the hours that followed, BCI and the Yellow Springs Police Department engaged actively in speaking with residents and possible witnesses. Numerous interviews were conducted, and extensive investigative efforts were performed. BCI Investigators and Yellow Springs Police Department personnel worked over twenty straight hours on scene collecting evidence. These initial steps in the investigation took substantial time and resources but were crucial in establishing how to proceed

The incident on March 14, 2024, appeared as an isolated event and it was determined at that time that no further threat to public safety existed. An initial statement was released to the public, explaining the escalated police response, and informing residents that an on-going investigation existed. This is standard practice among Law Enforcement agencies and also came at the direction of BCI to ensure ample time was given to properly investigate.

Investigators must balance several factors when releasing details of an on-going investigation to the public. The first is always public safety and, as mentioned above, evidence at the time of the initial public statement did not indicate a greater risk to public safety. The second is the integrity of the investigation itself.

On March 16 and 17, 2024, BCI investigators along with Yellow Springs Police Department were in the process of establishing an investigative timeline to proceed and drafting a statement to further update the public.

On March 17, 2024, at approximately 6:15 PM, the Yellow Springs Police Department received a 9-1-1 call reference an individual now known as Jackson I. Bleything approach the front door of a residence on W. South College Street. Jackson attempted to contact the residents by ringing the doorbell of the home

Currently, Jackson is being held at the Greene County Jail on charges of Attempted Felonious Assault a third-degree felony, tampering with evidence a third-degree felony, and possessing criminal tools a fifth-degree felony.

The State of Ohio is requesting a \$1 million dollar bond in this case. In addition to the charges of attempted felonious assault, tampering with evidence and possession of criminal tools, the defendant is

the person of interest in the fatal shooting of an elderly female in Yellow Springs on March 14, 2024. Ohio BCI and the Yellow Springs Police Department are working collaboratively in the homicide case and the present case.

The Prosecutors office believes a sufficient bond is necessary to protect public safety.

The Yellow Springs Police Department and BCI responded swiftly and efficiently to the additional report on March 17, 2024. Identifying similarities in the two incidents almost immediately. After enough evidence was established to definitely identify Jackson I. Bleything as a suspect in the homicide on March 14, 2024, it was determined that a public alert would be disseminated, out of an abundance of caution, to ensure public safety until Bleything could be taken into custody. While this public notification was deemed necessary, it is also important to note that evidence in this case indicates that Bleything is the person of interest in both incidents and no greater threat to the public at large exists.