

SAGAMORE HILLS PD



Incident Number

20-14258

Incident / Offense Report

Offense	Method Received O	Time Received 08/28/2014 06:09:00	Time Dispatched 09/02/2014 07:11:17	Time Arrived 08/28/2014 06:09:00	Time Cleared: 08/28/2014 06:09:00
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Report Date / Time		Incident Occurred From		Incident Occurred To	
Date	Time	Date	Time	Date	Time
Saturday 09/06/2014	10:52:00	Thursday 08/28/2014	06:09:00	Friday 09/05/2014	07:30:00

Location of the Incident (Street #, Street, Apt. #, City, State, Zip) Zone
189 BALLANTRAE DR SAGAMORE HILLS OH 44067

Persons Involved:
PATRICIA A BITTEL - OIV
DAVID K FRATTARE - OIV
-
-
-
-

Property:
0
Amount:

Type:

Units: Officers:
1st: **109 VICTORIA MIAVITZ**
2nd: **103 DAN RICE**
3rd:
4th:
5th:

Photos:

Codes:	Descriptions:	OFFENSES
3704	OBSCENE MATERIAL-POSSESS	2907.32

Weapons Used: Trade Marks: Hate Bias

Entry: Location Type:
Single Family Home

Refer to Arrest: **A2049** Incident #: **2014-264** Tow#: Dispatcher: **MUC** Officer in Charge: **RICD** Entry Id: **MIA**

Case Status: **CLOSED** Cleared Date: Cleared By:

Narrative: 20-14258 Page: 1

SHPD received information from ICAC that a resident was possibly involved with child pornography.

Reviewing Supervisor: Bureau Supervisor: **DET. VICTORIA MIAVITZ**
Officer:

SAGAMORE HILLS PD



Incident Number

20-14258

Page # 2

Persons Involved with Incident

Incident #: 2014258 **Relation:** OIV **Arrest #:** **CAD #:** **Date of Contact:** 09/05/2014 **Phone:** 330-468-7738
First Name: PATRICIA **Middle:** A **Last Name:** BITTEL **Til:** **DOB:** 06/22/1965 **SSN:** **Pager:**
Street #: 189 **Street Name:** BALLANTRAE DRIVE **Apt:** **City:** SAGAMORE HILLS **St:** OH **Zip:** 44067 **Cell Phone:** 330-468-7738 **Employee Phone:**
Hgt: 504 **Wgt:** 175 **Hair:** BLN **Eyes:** BLU **Race:** W **Sex:** F **Physical Marks:**

Offenses:

Resident Class: Resident **Suspected of using:** / **Victim Type:**

Incident #: 2014258 **Relation:** OIV **Arrest #:** **CAD #:** **Date of Contact:** 09/05/2014 **Phone:** 440-886-5284
First Name: DAVID **Middle:** K **Last Name:** FRATTARE **Til:** **DOB:** **SSN:** **Pager:**
Street #: 1200 **Street Name:** ONTARIO STREET 9TH **Apt:** **City:** CLEVELAND **St:** OH **Zip:** 44113 **Cell Phone:** 440-886-5284 **Employee Phone:**
Hgt: **Wgt:** **Hair:** **Eyes:** **Race:** W **Sex:** M **Physical Marks:**

Offenses:

Resident Class: Other **Suspected of using:** / **Victim Type:**

DET. VICTORIA MIAVITZ

Officer:

Reviewing Supervisor:

Bureau Supervisor:

SAGAMORE HILLS

Incident Number

20-14258

Page # 3

Vehicles Involved with the Incident

No:	Value:	Plate:	LIC St.:	LIC Yr.:	LIC Type:	VIN #:			
		JIGSAWB	OH		PC	1G1YY32GXX5131532			
Year:	Make:	Model:	Style:	Color:	Ownership Verification:	Tow No:	Date of Event		
1999	CHEV	CVT	CV	RED /					
Recovery Condition:	Recover Date:	Recover Location:			NCIC#	Owner Applied #:			

Damaged Missing:						NCIC Entry:			
Front:	NO	Rear:	NO	Doors :	NO	Deck :	NO		
Interior:	NO	Engine:	NO	Trans :	NO	Dash:	NO		
Vin Plate:	NO	LIC Plate:	NO	Ignition:	NO	Other:		NCIC Remove:	
Misc:									

No:	Value:	Plate:	LIC St.:	LIC Yr.:	LIC Type:	VIN #:			
		HULKING	OH		PC	3GNTKGE37BG319534			
Year:	Make:	Model:	Style:	Color:	Ownership Verification:	Tow No:	Date of Event		
2011	CHEV	AVA	PK	WHI /					
Recovery Condition:	Recover Date:	Recover Location:			NCIC#	Owner Applied #:			

Damaged Missing:						NCIC Entry:			
Front:	NO	Rear:	NO	Doors :	NO	Deck :	NO		
Interior:	NO	Engine:	NO	Trans :	NO	Dash:	NO		
Vin Plate:	NO	LIC Plate:	NO	Ignition:	NO	Other:		NCIC Remove:	
Misc:									

DET. VICTORIA MIAVITZ

Officer:

Reviewing Supervisor:

Bureau Supervisor:



On August 28th, 2014 I received an email from Dave Frattare, Lead Investigator from ICAC. Dave had a lead regarding a child pornography case and wanted to verify that the address resided in Sagamore Hills. The address was 189 Ballantrae Drive. After I confirmed that it did, Dave said that he would be sending a packet regarding their investigation. On August 29th, 2014 we received the packet via fedex.

On September 1st, 2014 I reviewed the packet with Det. Piekarski and found the name of Steven Bittel. I looked through our records and only had one CAD call at that address back in 2008. I was unsure if this was still a current name and address for that location. After a check of a few places it was confirmed that Steven Bittel resided at that residence.

I contacted Dave and asked how to proceed with this investigation and he said that it was up to us. In the packet was a subpoena from Time Warner that ICAC had already obtained. The subpoena was able to get us who the IP Address came back to as well as the user names. They came back to Steven Bittel at the address of 189 Ballantrae. Included in the packet was an investigative summary of files that were shared with this IP address and a partial video that was downloaded of a juvenile female.

I put together a search warrant and on Thursday evening, September 4th, 2014 I obtained Judge Kim Hoover's signature from Stow Municipal Court.

On Friday, September 5th, 2014 Lt. Piekarski, Sgt. Rice, Det. Piekarski and myself met with the ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) task force. We assembled at SHPD at 0700 hrs. and agreed that we were going to execute the search warrant at 0730 hrs.

At 0730 hrs. we arrived at 189 Ballantrae Drive. This is the residence of Steven Bittel. As we pulled up, Sgt. Rice and USSS Jeff Casey were walking down the driveway. I continued around to the rear of the home to establish a perimeter. We were then notified that Steven was exiting his garage in a white Avalanche. Sgt. Rice met the vehicle and Steven exited. Upon coming around from the back, Lt. Piekarski was with Steven and his wife Patricia.

I went inside to begin searching for items with the ICAC task force and other Sagamore Hills PD officers. We were looking for digital media and taking them in and out of the house into the ICAC van so they could be reviewed. During the search, Steven wished to use the bathroom where he was being escorted by Lt. Piekarski. As I was searching downstairs, I heard over the radio "all units I need you now, he has a weapon". I was unsure of what he said and asked him to repeat his traffic. Lt. Piekarski repeated it again and I immediately ran out to the ICAC van where Sgt. Rice was interviewing Patricia. I notified Det. Piekarski, Dave Frattera and pulled Sgt. Rice away from the interview and notified him. We all went back into the home and at this point, Det. Piekarski was upstairs taking cover behind a wall.

Apparently, Steven was in the upstairs bedroom that had 2 windows on the south side of the house facing Ballantrae Drive. He was in the bathroom of that bedroom which was enclosed and contained 1 window. Steven was very upset and repeatedly kept yelling for his wife. I walked out the front door and peered up at the front bedroom window. It is at this point I made eye contact with Steven and could see him in the bathroom with his red shirt on, holding what appeared to be a pistol. He was inside the bathroom leaning around the corner looking down the hallway where I knew Det. Piekarski was standing. Steven looked at me and stated "I wouldn't stand there or I will shoot you." I then went inside. Patricia was in the walkway of the front door



inside the home. I stayed with her at the walkway until we walked further into the home. As she was getting ready to talk to Steven, Steven became very upset and threatened to kill all the officers and himself. It was at this point that Patricia was escorted from the home into the garage area. Lt. Piekarski stayed with her in the garage. I went back into the home and stood at the base of the steps with Bill Conn from Cleveland PD, Jeff Casey from United States Secret Service (both part of the ICAC task force) and Sgt. Rice.

I could still hear Steven yelling and he asked what time it was. It was at this time that he yelled 8:46. He continued to say that we won't be here to much longer and this would be over shortly. He asked us if we all had our vests on because he would be coming out shooting. Steven specifically stated that he was going to shoot Det. Piekarski first and then everyone else. It was at this time, due to the seriousness of time, I went and found Lt. Piekarski. I switched positions with him in the garage and sat with Patricia. While outside, approximately 5 minutes later I heard a gun shot. Patricia started to scream and went to go inside. I forcefully pulled Patricia from the steps and escorted her away from the door. At this time, we went outside into the drive where I had Patricia sit in a vehicle. A few minutes later, I was made aware that no one was injured and Sgt. Rice requested the SWAT team. It was at this time I saw ICAC forensic Jeff Rice and informed him of the situation. He immediately began to go to the neighboring houses and evacuate or inform them to stay inside due to the situation. The neighbor came out of her garage and was advised to go inside. I then moved Patricia and myself down to the porch of 209 Ballantrae. After some time had passed, Sgt. Rice and Lt. Yakopovich (Macedonia PD) came over and Steven wanted to talk to Patricia. While that was going on I went back over to the Command Center and notified Lt. Piekarski where everyone was. It was at this time that Summit County Swat was on scene and taking command.

Myself and other SHPD officers stood by and assisted, if needed, the Summit County Swat. After about 5 hours at 1328 hrs. Steven Bittel was no longer a threat to himself or anyone else. Steven was transported by Fire District 27 to Akron City Hospital for a psychiatric evaluation. Sgt. Rice contacted us about 3 hours later and stated the doctor there didn't have a secure location to hold Steven and that he would be released. It was at this time once he was cleared, that Sgt. Rice took Steven into custody.

With the information that was provided from ICAC I was able to charge Steven Bittel with 1 count of Pandering Sexually Oriented Material Involving a Minor ORC 2907.322 a Felony of the 2nd Degree. Ptl. Foschia took this charge to Akron City Hospital where he picked up both Sgt. Rice and Steven. Sgt. Rice served Steven with his charge. He was then taken to Summit County Jail where he will be video arraigned on Monday September 8th, 2014 @ 1100 hrs.

On Saturday, additional charges were filed on Steven for the situation that occurred at his residence involving a firearm. They include: Aggravated Assault F-3, Aggravated Assault F-3, Aggravated Assault F-3, Inducing Panic M-1 and Discharge of a firearm on or near prohibited premises F-3.

Additional charges will be added regarding Child Pornography at a later date. The evidence that was seized will be analyzed by ICAC and a report of its findings are yet to come. This case will remain open as it is an ongoing investigation.

SAGAMORE HILLS



Incident Number

20-14258

Investigative Report

Title / Subject:

By: _____
DET. DAVE PIEKARSKI

Badge# PIED

Date: 09/09/2014 Time: 13:09:1 No. 002 Page #: 1

Reviewing Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

**Investigative Report****Title / Subject:**

09/05/2014

SHPD Officers (Lt. Piekarski, Sgt. Rice, Det. Miavitz and myself) met with ICAC Agents at SHPD at 0700 hrs. Search warrant and responsibilities were discussed before leaving the station.

All officers arrived at the Bittel residence at approximately 0730 hrs. Steve Bittel was served with the warrant by Sgt. Rice as he was leaving the attached garage area of the residence. At this time all officers entered the property and the residence. Bittel's wife Patricia was present in the kitchen area of the residence and she was informed of the search warrant. Steve and Patricia did not seem to be surprised when advised of the search warrant. Several officers did a cursory search of the residence for any other person / persons that might be in the residence. Residence was declared safe.

SHPD officers paired with the ICAC agents and began the search. A short while into the search (15 - 45 minutes) I left the residence to retrieve equipment located in my unit (# 612). When approaching # 612 I heard radio traffic but was unable to ascertain exactly what that traffic was. I asked Det. Miavitz what the Lt. had just said and she replied that the Lt. said that Bittel was now in possession of a weapon. I immediately put my ballistic vest on and ran back to the house. Upon entering the front door I observed Lt. Piekarski on the second floor with his weapon out and aimed at the master bedroom door. I ran up the stairs and took a position behind a wall on the second floor affording me a view of the area. Lt. Piekarski was conversing with Steve Bittel who was now in the bathroom of the master bedroom. Bittel was quite agitated yelling to the Lt. that he wanted his wife brought to him immediately.

I advised the Lt. to leave so that he could take command of the situation and call for a squad and SWAT. I covered the Lt. as he made his way to the stairs. Bittel observed officer (Det. Miavitz) moving around in the front yard and Bittel advised her that he would shoot her. At this time the bedroom door was still open and at different times Bittel advised officers (Sgt. Rice and Agent Casey) that if he saw their heads again he would shoot them. Bittel repeatedly stated that this would be over soon. Bittel kept crying / yelling that his life was over and that it was going to end here. Every now and then Bittel would show parts of himself and the weapon by leaning out of the bathroom checking my position in the hallway. Bittel threw a small pillow at the bedroom door and it closed a little. Bittel then entered the bedroom area and kicked the door shut. I now had no visual on Bittel. Bittel continued ramping up his anger up and self pity so I would change the subject and get him to talk about something else, thus ramping his anger down. Bittel then asked me if I had my vest on. When I answered yes Bittel announced that I would need it because if I didn't get his wife to him in thirty seconds he was he was going to "blow your fucking head off " and "shoot as many other officers as I can". At this time I absolutely believed that Bittel was going to come out of the bedroom shooting. I felt that this was going to be a "suicide by cop" situation and that unfortunately myself and other officers could very probably be killed / injured in the process. I attempted talking to Bittel again and he shouted "15 seconds!". At this time I prepared and composed myself for whatever was about to happen. At the 30 second mark a gunshot was fired and I thought that Bittel had shot me through the closed door. After checking myself and determining that I had not been shot I began to cautiously make my way down the hallway to check on the well being of Bittel. At this time Bittel began yelling and asking if I had "heard that". He then yelled "that's what a .45 sounds like when it's fired in a house!" I continued my conversation with him once again trying to calm him down.

It was then discovered that Bittel had phone access in the bedroom. There were long periods of silence as Bittel was talking on the phone to various people including his wife. I could here conversations taking place with Bittel talking in a calm voice, then yelling and then crying. When possible I would again have

By: DET. DAVE PIEKARSKI**Badge#** PIED**Date:****Time:**No. 003 **Page #:** 1**Reviewing Supervisor:** _____**Date:** _____

SAGAMORE HILLS



Incident Number

20-14258

Investigative Report

Title / Subject:

conversation with Bittel and kept asking him to open the door and drop the firearm on the floor. I advised Bittel that I would then enter the bedroom and escort him out of the house and that he would be transported to the hospital. Bittel refused the request repeatedly. Approximately two and a half hours into this stand off Summit County SWAT arrived on scene and relieved me from my position. I exited the residence and joined my fellow officers waiting for the situation to be resolved as a negotiator was now speaking with Bittel via telephone while the SWAT team was in position upstairs.

Once resolved we again entered the residence and continued our search. ICAC agents removed some property from the residence while I worked the crime scene. Once finished all officers left the scene. I returned to SHPD and logged evidence from the crime scene into our evidence locker.

By: DET. DAVE PIEKARSKI

Badge# PIED

Date:

Time:

No. 003 Page #: 2

Reviewing Supervisor: _____

Date: _____



On 2/18/2016 Patricia Bittel came to SHPD to retrieve items per a court order. The items that were released to Patricia were:

1. Ipad Mini, serial number F7QM30BXP84
2. Sony digital media player, serial number 7271930
3. Coby Snap Cam, model number CAM3005 (no serial number)
4. HTC ADR6350 mobile phone, serial number HT18BMA00459
5. Miscellaneous notes

These items were released by myself and signed for by Patricia Bittel at 0735 hours.