



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



2026-1831

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 905 E. Warren St.,
Bucyrus, OH 44820, Crawford County

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview
Involves: Officer Austin Conner (W)
Activity Date: 06/01/2026
Activity Location: Bucyrus Police Department – 500 S. Sandusky Ave.
Bucyrus, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA David Hammond #120

Narrative:

On Monday, June 01, 2026, at 1428 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) David Hammond (SA Hammond) and SAS Charles Moran (SAS Moran) interviewed Officer Austen Conner (Ofc. Conner). The interview took place at the Bucyrus Police Department, 500 S. Sandusky Ave. Bucyrus, Ohio . The interview was audio recorded.

Ofc. Conner was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 10, 2026, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 905 E. Warren St., Bucyrus, Ohio. Reportedly, Ofc. Conner did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer. He was not represented by union representation during the interview.

The following is a summary of 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. The information was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Ofc. Conner stated his radio call sign on May 10, 2026, was 9. He has been employed by the Bucyrus PD for about three years. He had no additional law enforcement experience. During the incident, Ofc. Conner 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 marked Bucyrus PD unit marked with Bucyrus PD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident.

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Ofc. Conner began the interview by stating that he was accompanied by Officer Colten Cox, whom he was assigned to field train. He described being dispatched to the area of 916 E. Warren St. to assist Officer Taylor Carver (Ofc. Carver) with a possible domestic violence call.

Ofc. Conner described Ofc. Carver speaking with the complainant. Preliminary information indicated that Paul Desmarais (Desmarais) had come to 916 E. Warren St. to [REDACTED] and bring her home. Desmarais and [REDACTED] had a verbal altercation, and he allegedly grabbed [REDACTED] by the hair.

As part of the investigation, Ofc. Conner, Ofc. Cox and Ofc. Carver went to 905 E. Warren Street to interview Desmarais and [REDACTED]. Ofc. Dalton arrived shortly after. He described making contact with [REDACTED] at home.

At the 06:40 mark, Ofc. Conner stated:

[REDACTED] was kind of walking down the steps, that's when I kind of seen, she had a, a scrape on one of her elbows. I can't remember if it was the right or left, but she had a scrape on her elbow."

At the 07:20 mark, Ofc. Conner said:

"...asked her how she got it, and she did, she said she did fall. Okay. Um, and, uh, she said she was drunk and she was out intoxicated, so she was given a reason to why she fell, which at that time I was like, okay, that could make sense. Okay. You know, obviously with, with domestic violence and, and our experience, um, you know, sometimes, you know, people do lie, you know?"

At the 07:54 mark, Ofc. Conner related:

"We're talking to her. She's, she's denying pretty much everything she's denying any hair, pulling, um, any, you know, altercation. I mean, I think she did admit that they were arguing in the kitchen."

Ofc. Conner went into detail about interviewing some of the couple's children, who initially confirmed [REDACTED] story. He then stated that officers attempted to make contact with Desmarais, who was inside the home, on the second floor. Ofc. Conner described yelling upstairs, with the other officers, for Desmarais to come down.

At the 09:16 mark, Ofc. Conner describes Desmarais' response as:

"Paul started, you know. I believe Paul was intoxicated. [REDACTED] was kind of beating around the bush, if I can remember correctly, about how much he has

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been drinking and how intoxicated he is. Yeah, um, but he just kept escalating from there."

Ofc. Conner would later describe Desmarais' demeanor as:

At the 14:58 mark, "A person in crisis. Okay. Um, just completely, uh, he, he had that, that tone in him that, you know, a very intoxicated person that was very irate would have. Just hatred, you know, just full on just, you know, just from the inside, just coming out, you know."

Ofc. Conner described Desmarais saying things like, "get off my property, and he was kind of citing some of those sovereign beliefs."

At the 11:52 mark, Ofc. Conner stated:

"At this point, you know, Paul kept getting more and more irate and, uh, you know, we're, we're starting to get all the kids out of the house because of the comments he's making. And, um, then that's when Officer Cox advises us that he seen Paul push one of the, the male juveniles."

Ofc. Conner advised that during this process, he speaks with Ofc. Cox, who is looking up the stairway with a better vantage point.

At the 12:36 mark, Ofc. Conner related that Ofc. Cox told him:

"He seen something unusual. It looked like a bulletproof vest. And, and to confirm, uh, his, his suspicion, I think he, he asked the juvenile, hey, what was he wearing? You know, and that's when the juvenile told Officer Cox that he was wearing a bulletproof vest and, and I think a helmet and, and he might've had a gun as well."

Ofc. Conner described the process of moving the children out of the home as officers continued to try to gather information and establish dialogue with Desmarais. He described his interaction with the initial caller, Chasity Turner, about the event at 916 E. Warren St.

At the 11:04 mark, Ofc. Conner stated:

"You know what happened, you know, okay. Um, and, and that's when she told me, yeah, he came over here, started yelling and blah, blah, blah. And that, you know, I was like, did you see him pull [REDACTED] hair? And she's like, yes."

Ofc. Conner related that the children were then asked to go to 916 E. Warren St. because of the growing safety concerns. He described [REDACTED] unwillingness to leave the

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area and that she had to be restrained. They then took up defensive positions around the home and called for a Special Response Team.

Ofc. Conner stated that he had been at 905 E. Warren St., a couple of weeks prior to this event. He assisted Ofc. Graves with trying to serve an arrest warrant on Desmarais for intimidation. The warrant stemmed from a traffic stop of [REDACTED] for riding a motorized toy in the street. Desmarais was allegedly angry over the traffic stop and threatened officers.

At the 14:58 mark, Ofc. Conner related, *"This guy had threatened officers like a couple weeks ago or so, um, bringing a gun to a traffic stop or, or something like that."*

Ofc. Conner stated that he continued to assist at the scene, by gathering information about the incident. He had an opportunity to speak with [REDACTED]

At the 20:20 mark, Ofc. Conner reported that:

"One of the boys told me yes. He, he pushed me. He had a bulletproof vest on. He had a gun, and he actually hit me with the gun, and he showed me a little [cut] on his ring finger. I can't remember which hand it was, but there was a kind of like a cut."

Ofc. Conner stated that he then coordinated information gathering with the hostage negotiator and [REDACTED]. The discussions included information about Desmarais and the layout of the home. During this process, Ofc. Conner stated that [REDACTED] provided additional information about the events leading up to the incident. At the 22:03 mark:

"[REDACTED] had said that her and Paul got into a verbal argument where, um, Paul had slapped her across the face. Um, that is when [REDACTED] said that she threw like a beer can or something at him. Um, and that's when he had a firearm and he pointed it at [REDACTED] and a few of the kids. Um, so that happened prior to our arrival while we were at the house, um, at 905 E. Warren. Okay. So, [REDACTED] filling us in on that, and I'm, I'm kind of like, are you kidding me?"

Ofc. Conner reported that discussions with [REDACTED] and the hostage negotiator provided further insight into the motivations of the event. At the 23:06 mark:

"She had told, she had told the negotiator and, and myself that Paul had been planning this since about 2020. And I was like, well, you know, like, what do you mean like, planning this? She, he, she said that, you know, he's pretty much, he's crazy. He's a big conspiracy theorist. Uh, he thinks the government's out to

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get him, and he's been planning, planning a barricaded situation for quite a while.

You know, like getting, um, you know, say, you know, a lot of ammunition, guns, helmet, bulletproof vests, gas mask. She even stated that he had a shield, a bulletproof shield that no bullets are gonna be able to pass through at least anything that we have."

Ofc. Conner related that he and Ofc. Cox remained at the scene, in a perimeter security role. He described sitting in his patrol car, when he heard gunfire. At the 26:28 mark,

"We parked down the road probably on the 800, maybe 700 block of East Warren. Um, and, you know, we blacked out and parked in the driveway. Um, I had my windows rolled down. I, I, I had heard, um, I don't know what team it was, um, but I had seen a team approach the house. I think they were, you know, trying to gas the house to use less lethal.

Um, at that point, that's when I heard a series of shots. Okay. And, and when I heard, I mean, I tell you, I, it, it sounded like a fully automatic rifle. It sounded about four shots or so. It was like bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, like really quick. Okay. I mean, unless this guy had a crazy trigger finger or something. That's what I, I thought I heard a full logging machine gun. Okay. When I, but, and I, that's when I heard over the radio, um, officer Carver, you know, saying shots fired. Okay. Um, and it definitely had to have been to the, the rear of the house and, and my perspective of it, because I didn't see anything."

Ofc. Conner was asked if he believed that Officers had probable cause to arrest Desmarais. At the 31:13 mark:

"Absolutely. Yeah. Yeah, absolutely. I think we had him for domestic violence when, uh, like clear cut domestic violence. Like when Officer Cox had seen Paul push his son. Yeah. And that, that's where we're really going off of [that]. Because we were still investigating the initial domestic between, um, Paul and [REDACTED] right. And then Officer Cox and that, and then it was like, yeah, we are, this guys under arrest for domestic violence at this point. Yeah."

The interview concluded at approximately 1502 hours. The recording was uploaded to Axon Justice as Reference Item G - Witness Officer Interview > Ofc. Conner.



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References:

Reference Item G – Witness Officer Interview > Officer Conner – stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

None

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