



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



2026-2448

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 613 Orange Street,
Conneaut, Ohio 44030 Ashtabula County

Investigative Activity: Interview with Dep. Gyasi Warsing
Involves: Dep. Gyasi Warsing (W)
Activity Date: 07/10/2026
Activity Location: 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio 44047 (Ashtabula
County Sheriff's Office)
Authoring Agent: SA Daniel P. Boerner #135

Narrative:

On Friday, July 10, 2026, at 1150 hrs, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) interviewed Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) Deputy (Dep.) Gyasi Warsing (Dep. Warsing), who was accompanied by his attorney, Dominic Vitantonio, from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (OPBA). The interview took place at 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, Ohio 44047 (Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office). The interview was audio and video recorded.

Dep. Warsing was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the Thursday, June 25, 2026 officer-involved critical incident which occurred in the area of 613 Orange St., Conneaut, Ohio. Reportedly, Dep. Warsing 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.

Dep. Warsing stated his radio call sign on Thursday, June 25, 2026, was 417. He has been employed by the ACSO for about two (2) years. He has been a police officer for a total of three (3) years. During the incident, Dep. Warsing wore his standard tactical uniform for the SRT team with a Sheriff's badge affixed to his duty belt. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He was a passenger in an unmarked black ACSO SRT van. He considered himself to be well-represented as a deputy sheriff during the incident. He stated was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI. Dep. Warsing was not wearing a Body Worn Camera (BWC) during the incident.

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SA Boerner asked Dep. Warsing to describe what happened when he arrived on scene and Dep. Warsing stated the following¹:

Uh, so initially we started in with a marked unit where [REDACTED] and Sergeant Dean were in. Um, and then the van pulled in after them and we had an undercover park on the road. Um, [REDACTED] attempted contact at the front door where her brother answered, and then Deputy Painter and I don't know who else went to the side door where the mother answered.

Um, after that, I don't know what happened with Deputy Painter, as far as I know, she had told him that he wasn't home. Um, but we could hear people moving around. And then the brother told [REDACTED] yes, he is inside, he's in the basement. And then as he was telling him that and we started inside, that's when I approached behind [REDACTED] at the front door.

Dep. Warsing stated that he followed [REDACTED] into the residence and moved towards the basement stairs. Dep. Warsing stated that [REDACTED] stated that he (Butts) was barricading the basement door.

SA Boerner asked Dep. Warsing to describe what happened next and Dep. Warsing stated:

Um, after that we went to barricaded, uh, protocol, which is typically, you know, kind of standoff, 'cause at that point he's barricaded and to our knowledge, we were unaware of another person being in there. Um, and then I had turned one of the cameras, which is typical procedure because you don't know who has access to those cameras. So, it helps, uh, avoid an ambush on their part. Um, so I turned one of the cameras, we went outside where I talked to the brother. I don't know what his name was. Um, it was the only brother on scene when we first arrived. Um, and just went through common questions of does he have any weapons, do you think he's gonna do anything? If we forced entry. And he had said that he has, he always has access to knives, and he believes that he could have a gun. He wouldn't doubt that he had a gun. And if he does that, he would use it on himself.

Dep. Warsing stated that a short time later members of the Conneaut Police Department arrived on scene and began to introduce pepper balls into the basement. Dep. Warsing stated that they learned that a female was barricaded in the basement with Butts. Dep. Warsing stated:

¹ SA Boerner provided Dep. Warsing with images/diagrams to reference during his interview. This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law - a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



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Investigative Report



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Uh, so sometime during that is when we learned that there was a female downstairs, which then I could hear them. Uh, I could hear yelling, a male and a female, which I believe the male was gonna be Brandon Butts, the female. I only know by her first name Heather. Um, she somehow got into contact on public service with one of the Conneaut guys. But you could hear Brandon downstairs yelling at her that this was all her fault. That this was all her fault and continued yelling it at her. And she was yelling back at him, but I couldn't understand what she was yelling.

Dep. Warsing stated, "And I could hear Brandon by the backside of the house yelling. And she was at the bottom, what seemed to be by the doorway, screaming, help me, help me, get me out of here." (00:12:27 mark). Dep. Warsing continued stating that he grabbed the ram, forced the basement door open, and rescued the female. Dep. Warsing stated that the doorway only opened approximately a foot to a foot and a half.

SA Boerner asked Dep. Warsing to describe what happened next and Dep. Warsing stated:

So, um, after that I continued trying to call it to Brandon, which he was responding, but he continued saying that he's not going back to prison. Um, so at that point in my head that the only thing that he was thinking of was either he was either gonna leave in custody with us or he was gonna go to prison. Um, which he continued saying that he had a gun, he had a firearm. I believe he kept saying, he kept saying he had a pistol at first, um, which the door, he couldn't get the door to shut 'cause we forced entry on it. Well, while I was communicating with him, there was some communication back and forth. I know he was hearing me and there was some words back. Um, and I was just telling him, you know, please just do this easy way at this point.

There's no other way other than you coming in custody with us. Um, and he had flash, flashlight and I remember I pulled back onto the door. Um, 'cause he continued saying he had a pistol. And a lot of pistols have, I mean, our pistols have issued lights on him also. Sure. So, um, he flashed a couple more times and I, I just stared past the peak of the door and I told him, I can see you have a mag-light. I know you don't have a a pistol at this point. You know, please just come into custody with us. Um, and he slammed the door. It angered him a lot. Um, and you could hear him rummaging around at some point through all of this, they had said that he had a pull and was trying to tear up the duct work or poke out the blocks to escape another way, which we had officers on all the sides that he could have or attempted to get out of.

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report**



2026-2448

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 613 Orange Street,
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Um, so they continued just saying that he had a pull. Uh, soon after that he kept telling us that he had a gun, um, and that he was gonna blow our brains out. He wasn't going to pretty much, he wasn't gonna come peacefully at that point that he was gonna blow our brains out. He wasn't coming into custody. Um, and at that point he had put the barrel, it was a gray or silver barrel from the end of it. I could tell it was a large bore, which is typically like a muzzle loader. Um, and immediately whenever he put that through, I backed off and called out that he has a firearm, he has a gun. Um, and he had only poked the barrel out of the doorway. The first time he had retreated everybody. We made sure everybody understood that he had a gun. And once that happened, there was no more rotation. It was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and myself. And we were the only ones that remained in the door.

SA Boerner asked Dep. Warsing what happened after he saw Butts with the firearm and Dep. Warsing stated the following:

Um, so he had retreated back into it. And then we called up, uh, we called out to have less lethal ready. We called it LTL, which was less lethal. Um, and [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] got the 40 cal less lethal out, which is like a big rubber ball kind of thing. Um, so she was prepared with that. And I continued talking with Brandon and he was just arguing back with me again that he's pretty much not coming. We weren't his exact words, but it was a coming in custody peacefully, um, that he had a gun and he continued saying that he was gonna blow our brains out. Um, and then soon after that, while we're still talking, he had opened the door with the rifle underneath of his chin (Figure 1, Dep. Warsing demonstrating positioning of firearm, 00:18:12 mark). Um, he walked out onto the front, stepped with it, um, and kept it under his chin and kept saying that, uh, actually I don't, I don't remember what he was saying, but at that point, now we have the gun present and he's up front.



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



2026-2448

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 613 Orange Street,
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(Figure 1, Dep. Warsing demonstrating positioning of firearm, 00:18:12 mark).

So, I had my pistol out, um, on the doorway and we're just telling him not to move. And we called the less lethal to have it ready. Um, while we're still trying to talk him down. [REDACTED] presented it and he immediately retreated. She never fired it the first time. He immediately retreated back into the basement. Um, and it went back to just him yelling and me trying to communicate back with him. Um, so I was pretty much the only one that was communicating with. Because the other, you typically only want one person to avoid confusion communicating, but also you couldn't really hear the other guys with their gas masks on. Um, so I was the only one communicating for the most part with them. Um, and it was, again, he was arguing and I remember whenever he first, the first time he came out was the first really good look I had of him.

He was drenched in sweat, obviously very stressed, um, wearing a Wendy's shirt came out. And that was the first time gun underneath of his chin, pretty tight. Um, and then he retreated whenever he, he came back out a second time. Um, and he had walked up two or three steps. And this time I, I believe it was this time that he made it a little bit farther and we continued telling him not to come any farther with the weapon, don't come any farther. Um, and it wasn't as buried underneath his chin. It kept like kind of floating away, which it was more directed to him the entire time (Figure 2, Dep. Warsing demonstrating

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Investigative Report**



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Officer Involved Critical Incident - 613 Orange Street,
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positioning of firearm, 00:19:34 mark). Um, and then we called up less lethal again. [REDACTED] attempted a shot, I believe it missed, but I remember it bouncing around. He retreated again, continued saying, you fucking bitch, I'm gonna shoot you.



(Figure 2, Dep. Warsing demonstrating positioning of firearm, 00:19:34 mark).

I'm gonna blow your brains out. Um, still the same stuff that he had been saying through the entirety of the incident. Um, so I tried working with him again, just telling him that he needed to come out. He said that he wanted to talk to his mother. Um, and I said, well, I can't have you talk to your mother if you come out and let us take you into custody. Once everything kind of settles down, we'll let you talk to your mom before you leave. I said, but right now we're too far past the point. And this is, this is all we can do at this point. Um, and then for a second, for some reason he thought one of the officers were John Ball, which he did. Uh, he did not like John Ball for some reason. So, he kept arguing. I kept telling him, no, John Ball's not out here.

It's just us. And he was peeking through the door. This was sometime in between him coming out between the first and the third time. Um, he was peeking out and he could tell that I was the only one talking and I was the only one without a mask that he could hear. So, he kept saying, I only want to talk to you. Um, I, I'd much rather just talk to you. And I said, well, these guys have to stay with me. I

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Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2026-2448

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 613 Orange Street,
Conneaut, Ohio 44030 Ashtabula County

said, we can't, we can't get past that point. I said, but I'll be the only one talking and if you want me to, I'll be the only one to transport you and take you into custody. Just trying to work with him. I've had that work in the past with some people, not in a heightened situation that bad, but where they'll cooperate a little bit more.

Dep. Warsing stated that Butts went through emotional highs and lows during the incident. Dep. Warsing recalled:

Um, and at that point he was a little bit lower. He was talking a little bit easier, and he was peeking through the door talking to me, and then he retreated back and then it went back to elevated where he's just yelling, um, yelling back and forth about it. Um, and I believe it was; it was either the second or the third time while he had the gun buried under his chin. It was a couple, he was a couple steps up and he kept telling me that he wanted suicide by a cop. And he said, um, he said, uh, look at me, look at me in the eyes. And I said, Brandon, I'm looking at you. I'm talking with you right now. And he said, I want you to look at me whenever you shoot me. He's like, you guys are going to shoot me.

Um, and then inside, he was still talking about that he wanted suicide by a cop. I don't remember how many times, but I know he did say for in fact, said that and then told me to look in his eyes whenever we shot him. Um, so after the second time of her attempting it, we talked for a little bit more. I don't remember the full conversation, but I remember he is talking to me. He comes out a third time, um, and that's where he's still talking about asking for his mom to come over. And he still, he still had it under his chin, but it wasn't as the first time he had it, uh, touching the skin and pushing up the other times it was kind, kind of floating underneath of his chin. Um, so then [REDACTED] attempted another shot. And I, I know that one hit him.

Um, that one struck him and it was the same thing as him coming out the second time where he had said, uh, fuck you bitch, I'm gonna shoot you guys. Fuck you bitch. And then he retreated back inside and it was shortly after that, um, he poked the gun back through. I remember I could see his head looking through the, the opening of the door. Um, and he put the gun back through, pointed directly at us, just like the first time. It was almost exactly like the first time. Um, and he pointed it back through that second time. And that's when [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] all fired, um, their rounds and that, and, and that was, that concludes at that point.

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Investigative Report**



2026-2448

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 613 Orange Street,
Conneaut, Ohio 44030 Ashtabula County

SA Boerner asked Dep. Warsing to describe what happened after the shooting took place and Dep. Warsing stated that they checked themselves for injuries. Dep. Warsing recalled attempting to make verbal contact with Butts. Dep. Warsing stated that Detective Wolff flew his drone into the basement and confirmed that Butts was down.

SA Boerner asked Dep. Warsing what he thought was going to happen when he saw the barrel of the firearm the final time and Dep. Warsing explained, "Um, well, with him saying that he's gonna blow our brains out and that he has a gun, I, I felt he was gonna fire a shot off at us." Dep. Warsing continued stating, "*Had fear for every life that was on that door.*"

The interview concluded at approximately 1225 hrs.

A copy of the images/diagrams utilized by Dep. Warsing during his interview were uploaded to Matrix and attached to this report.

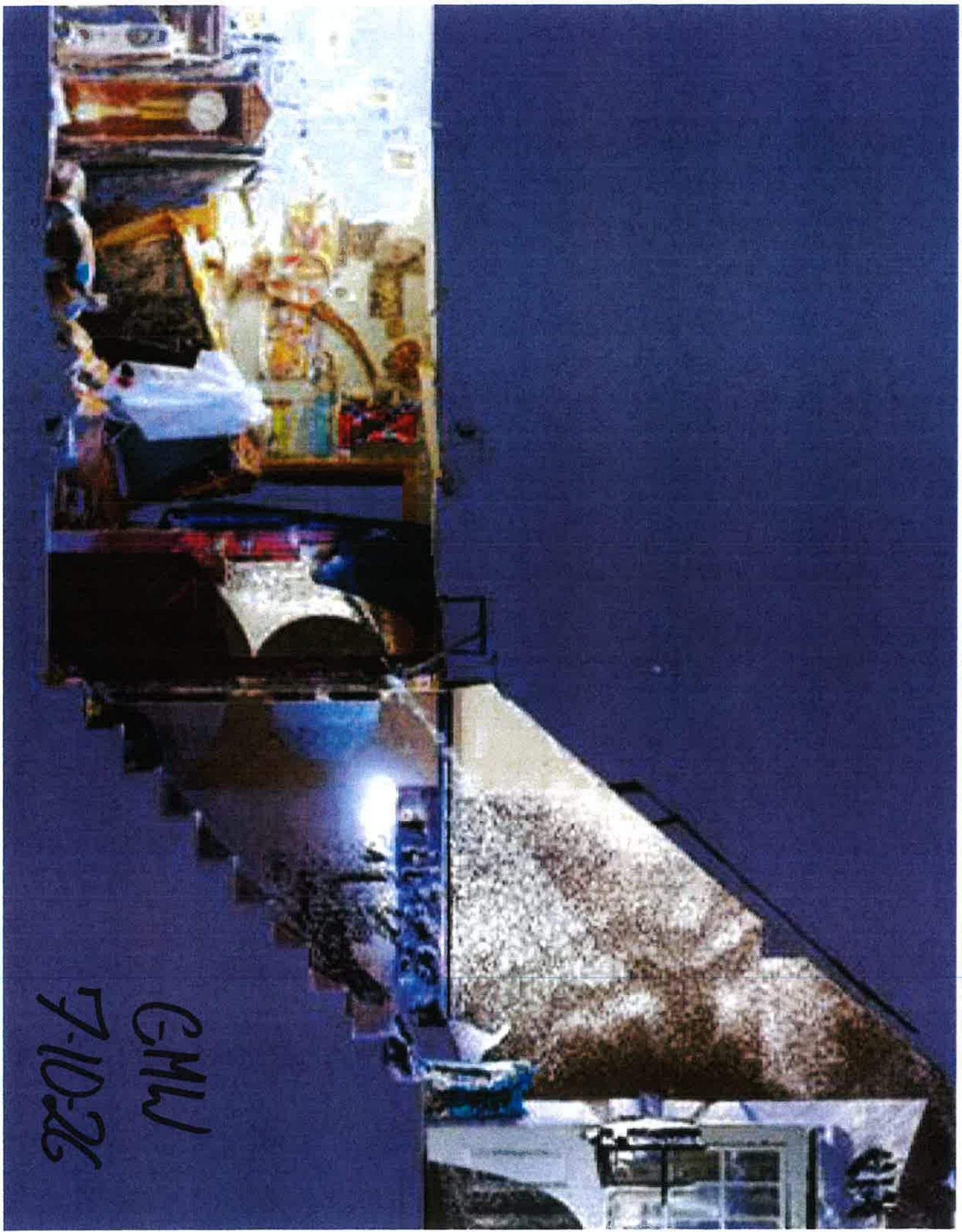
The interview was audio/video recorded. The recording was uploaded to Axon Justice as Reference Item J - ACSO Deputy Interviews > Witness Deputies. Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

- Reference Item J - ACSO Deputy Interviews > Witness Deputies

Attachments:

1. 2026-07-10 Witness Officer Diagram - Dep. Warsing



GMU

7-10-26



GMU

7-10-20