



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



2025-2243

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 3013 Mohawk Street,  
Middletown, Ohio 45044 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Officer  
**Involves:** [REDACTED] (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 07/25/2025  
**Activity Location:** Middletown Police Department – Business – One Donham Plaza,  
Middletown, OH 45042  
**Author:** SA Lauren Frazier, #129

**Narrative:**

On June 25, 2025, at approximately 1303 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Kenneth Smith and Lauren Frazier interviewed Middletown Police [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]). The interview took place at the Middletown Police Department. Also present for the interview was Attorney Rob Stokar. The interview was audio recorded.

The following summary of the recorded interview highlights the key points that the author deemed most relevant, although it does not provide a verbatim account. Additionally, this report was placed in a chronology to enhance the reader's understanding of the information obtained during the interview. However, it is important to note that this may not reflect the actual order of the questions posed. Therefore, it is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed.

[REDACTED] was identified as being an officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the officer-involved critical incident that occurred on June 13, 2025, in the City of Middletown, Butler County, Ohio. Officer Flor did not discharge his firearm during this incident. The primary objective of the interview was to gather all pertinent information known or observed. He confirmed that he was providing his statement voluntarily.

[REDACTED] has been employed as a police officer at Middletown Police Department for [REDACTED] years. He stated that he works [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] hours. He was wearing the standard Middletown police uniform. He said that his supervisor that day was Sgt. Jason Wargo. [REDACTED] was wearing a body-worn camera (BWC), which was activated and recording at the time of this incident. [REDACTED] stated that he was a two-man unit that day and was partnered with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was the driver of the cruiser.

On July 13, 2025, [REDACTED] stated that a call came out via his in-car computer, for a run on

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Mohawk Street. The call was for a signal 28, which he described as a female with a gunshot wound. [REDACTED] said that on the way there, Officer Patterson said that she was on scene and that the subject was still in possession of a firearm.

Approximately six minutes later, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived on scene and parked near the west side of the residence. Officer Flor was armed with his department-issued handgun. He said that other officers on scene had rifles out. That's when he decided to grab a pepperball gun from his trunk. [REDACTED] said that numerous officers had lethal cover, so he obtained a less-lethal option. [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] was armed with a rifle.

[REDACTED] said that Sgt. Wargo arrived on scene and spoke with family members in a nearby parking lot. Officers held a perimeter for a short period of time. He said that Officer Kessler started giving announcements to the subject via a cruiser PA system. [REDACTED] said that he could see that the front door was open. He described that there was a screen door that was shut but could still be seen through. At one point, [REDACTED] saw the subject come to the front door in a wheelchair. He said that he saw what he believed to be a firearm in the subject's hand. [REDACTED] described the firearm as a silver handgun. The subject then closed the door and [REDACTED] could not see inside the house.

Sgt. Wargo advised officers that they needed to go inside, to tend to the female victim inside. Officers quickly developed a plan to approach and obtained a shield from a cruiser. Several officers got into a stack formation and began to approach the house. [REDACTED] stated that he was fifth in the stack, with [REDACTED] in front of him. Officer Harris was first, with the shield, with [REDACTED] and Officer Rawlins behind him. Sgt. Wargo was last in line, behind [REDACTED].

Officers began to approach the residence and were going to go to the front door but noticed a wheelchair ramp. Officers decided that the front would not be as accessible and was not a safe approach. Officers learned that the back door was unlocked and began to approach the back yard. Officers arrived on the rear porch and [REDACTED] stated that an officer opened the back door. [REDACTED] was in the back of the line and did not have a visual on what all the officers were doing. He said that Sgt. Wargo began speaking with the subject and gave commands to come out. [REDACTED] heard the subject inside state, "don't come inside or I'll shoot", or something similar.

Sgt. Wargo continued to speak with the subject. At some point, [REDACTED] said that he heard what sounded like the slide racking on a handgun and a round being chambered. At that time, officers announced to each other what they had just heard. Shortly after, [REDACTED] heard a gunshot from inside the residence, believed to be from the subject. He did not see where the round struck. [REDACTED] radioed for Officer Kessler to come to the back. He said that Officer Kessler is a hostage negotiator with specialized training and experience.

Officer Kessler began speaking with the subject. [REDACTED] heard what sounded like a pop can opening. He then heard Officer Harris and [REDACTED] talking back and forth to each other before [REDACTED] went to the other side of the door frame and pointed his rifle inside the house. [REDACTED] heard [REDACTED] give verbal commands just prior to [REDACTED] firing several shots. [REDACTED] said that he couldn't see [REDACTED] directly but could hear the rounds going off in front of him.

Officers in front of [REDACTED] asked if the subject was down before officers made entry into the residence. [REDACTED] verbalized to other officers that he would handle handcuffing the subject, so that officers up front could tend to the victim and clear the residence. [REDACTED] observed the subject on the ground with a gunshot wound to his head. Himself and Officer Rawlins rolled the subject over and placed him in handcuffs.

[REDACTED] said that medics were already outside and approaching the scene to assess the subject. [REDACTED] assisted with getting [REDACTED] away from the scene. He walked him out the front and put him in a car. Once [REDACTED] got back to the Middletown Police Department, he learned that [REDACTED] had also fired.

The interview concluded at 1317 hours. [REDACTED] prepared a typed statement, which was provided to investigators. The statement was signed and dated at the conclusion of the interview. [REDACTED] typed statement, and a copy of the audio recorded interview are attached to this report.

**References:**

No references.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2025-07-25 [REDACTED] Interview

Attachment # 02: Middletown Police [REDACTED] Signed Statement

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement is in regard to an incident that occurred on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at approximately 4:42 p.m. I am making this statement voluntarily as part of the investigation concerning this matter.

My date of hire as a police officer with the Middletown Division of Police was [REDACTED]. My regular assignment with Middletown PD is as a [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] off. My regular duty hours are from [REDACTED], and on July 13, 2025, I was working my regular hours. On the day of the incident, I was working as a two-officer unit with [REDACTED] and my call number was [REDACTED]. At the time this incident occurred, I was wearing my regular duty police uniform. The uniform included a ballistic vest, badge and nameplate. I was wearing a body worn camera (BWC) which recorded the event. I was carrying a department approved Glock 45, semi-automatic 9mm pistol, loaded with department approved ammunition. I most recently qualified with my weapon in April 2025 and am current with all required qualifications. I was not carrying a backup firearm but was carrying a "pepperball" gun and I had qualified with the gun in January 2025. My uncorrected vision and hearing are good, and I was not wearing glasses or contacts. I am in good health, and I do not take any medications that would impair my ability to perform my duties. I had not consumed alcohol in the 24 hours prior to my shift. I worked 1.5 hours of overtime on the shift the prior day. I had approximately 9 hours of sleep the night before my assigned shift.

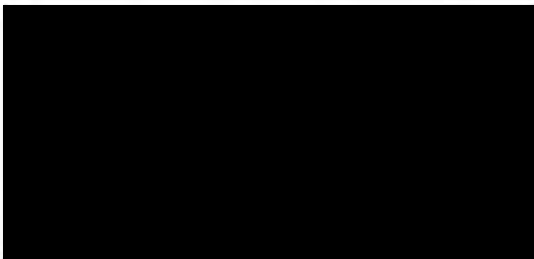
Immediately prior to the incident that resulted in the officer involved shooting, I was clearing from a routine traffic stop and preparing to respond to a separate disturbance. At approximately 4:43 p.m. radio aired a "Signal 28," meaning a shooting had occurred, at 3013 Mohawk St. The call indicated a female had been shot. I immediately responded utilizing lights and sirens and arrived at the location approximately 6 minutes after the call was aired. While enroute to the scene, I heard Officer Patterson air on the radio that the male suspect had a firearm and Officer Kessler aired the female inside the residence had been shot. I have not previously responded to calls for service to this location in my capacity as a Middletown Police Officer. I also do not recall having had any previous contact with the suspect or the female victim involved in this incident.

As I arrived on scene, I parked my marked patrol vehicle on the street near the residence approached on foot from the west and then proceeded to the rear door of the residence. I assumed a position that was 5<sup>th</sup> in line in a "stack" formation outside the rear door of the residence. From my position I could hear the suspect on the inside of the back door, but I could not see into the interior of the residence. The formation of officers was close enough to engage the suspect inside the residence, and I was aware the suspect was positioned directly inside the residence near the rear door where officers were located. I knew this because I heard what I believed to be a pop or beer can open inside the residence. [REDACTED] and Officer Kessler verbally engaged the suspect, identified officers as Middletown Police, and gave the suspect commands to surrender his firearm and comply with police. The suspect responded by advising officers not to enter the residence or he would shoot. I then heard a shot being fired from inside the residence, from the suspect, towards our position. I was positioned with the other officers on the rear patio area when the suspect fired a single round. The wall was made of sheet rock and siding and officers had

minimal cover and concealment at our position. Even after the suspect had fired his weapon, officers continued to order the suspect to drop his weapon and to allow police to enter and render aid to the victim that had been shot in the chest. I observed [REDACTED] move into a position on the opposite side of the doorway, which was opened to the interior of the residence, where it appeared his rifle was pointed into the interior of the residence. [REDACTED] who was in a position closer to the rear door of the residence, then fired several rounds towards the interior of the residence where the shot had been fired and where I perceived the suspect to be positioned.

I did not fire my weapon because I could not see the suspect from my position in the stack and I could not see into the interior of the structure. After [REDACTED] fired his weapon, all officers in the stack quickly made entry through the rear door in order to clear the residence, secure any persons inside, and render aid to the victim(s). Upon entry, I observed the suspect lying on the floor. I assisted in handcuffing the suspect. I exited the residence with other officers as medics entered and did not have an opportunity to render aid. After exiting the residence, I remained at scene until I was relieved by a supervisor.

This concludes my statement, and I am prepared to answer additional clarifying questions.



07/25/25 13:20

Date