



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



2025-1666
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 909 Garden Ave., Middletown,
OH 45044 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Michael Baker (S)
Date of Activity: 06/13/2025
Activity Location: Middletown Police Department – Business – One Donham Plaza,
Middletown, OH 45042

Narrative:

On June 13, 2025 at approximately 1107 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Richard Ward and Lauren Frazier interviewed Middletown Police Officer/Detective Stephen Crank. The interview took place at the Middletown Police Department. Also present for the interview was Sergeant Jamie Wilcox, requested by Crank. The interview was audio recorded. Crank chose not to be represented by a union attorney and did not provide a written statement. Wilcox is the Middletown Police narcotics supervisor and was the affiant on the search warrants reference this incident.

The following summary of the recorded interview highlights the key points 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.

Detective Crank has been employed by the Middletown Police Department for nine years and and a detective assigned to narcotics investigations for over four years. On May 27, 2025, multiple search warrants were executed as a result ongoing narcotics investigation. After a pre-raid briefing that was conducted in the morning hours of the 27th, officers broke off to their respective locations. Crank executed a search warrant at another location prior to 909 Garden Ave., and once completed, the team prepared for the warrant execution at the Garden Avenue address.

Detective Hoyle, Grindstaff, Detective Singleton and himself drove to 909 Garden Ave., in one vehicle while [REDACTED] followed. Detective Crank parked his Chevy Tahoe east of the residence and [REDACTED] in a marked patrol vehicle parked behind him. Crank wore his outer body armor with police marking front and back with his Middletown Police badge displayed. Detectives approached the front door, which Crank described was not ideal. The front of 909 Garden Ave. had a windows on both sides; a glass front door and a security exterior door.

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Crank's responsibility was the ram and Detective Hoyle was responsible for the Halogen tool. Once the Halogen was set by Hoyle, the security door "caved in" on the frame and the security door was pulled out. When Hoyle went to reset the Halogen tool, the inner door opened and Crank pulled Hoyle away from the door's opening. Because Hoyle was in front of him, Crank could not see the Baker in the doorway. [REDACTED], who is to Crank's right and slightly lower possibly on a lower step, discharged his firearm into the residence, which Crank observed and felt. [REDACTED] then entered the residence and Cranks followed behind. Once inside, Crank "shoulder checked" the bedroom to his right he observed Mary Dunn in the kitchen area while still announcing "search warrant." Crank observed the silver revolver on the floor as he proceeded through the interior of the residence. Crank was unaware if Baker discharged the firearm he reportedly possessed.

Detective Crank described Dunn as calm initially and did not observe any injuries to her, but observed a blood pool around her right ankle. Crank looked back and noticed Detectives Grindstaff and Hoyle were with Baker and Detective Singleton was entering the residence. Crank received a tourniquet from Hoyle and applied to Dunn who began screaming in pain. Crank retrieved a medic bag for additional first aid. Grindstaff informed Crank he was to begin CPR on Baker, but the medic arrived and assumed life saving efforts.

Once the medics arrived, Crank and others exited the residence while Detectives Hoyle and Grindstaff provided scene security. Crank stated SWAT, who was part of the days operation, but not present when the shooting took place arrived to secure the perimeter.

SA Ward asked Crank once BCI had concluded their search reference the shooting did he and/or others continue the narcotics search and he replied, "yes." According to Crank, narcotics were located in the Bakers' bedroom. SA Ward asked if Baker was the subject of the investigation and Sergeant Wilcox stated Alfred Watkins was the primary focus and Baker was a "peripheral player." According to Wilcox, Watkins, who frequented 909 Garden Ave. for short periods, sold narcotics during these short visits in March of 2025. Wilcox informed investigators a pole camera was in place which covered the front of 909 Garden Ave., which will be provided to BCI.

When asked, Detective Crank stated the actions of the officers were proper and within policy.

Agent Ward concluded the audio recorded interview with Detective Crank at 1127 hours. Attached below is the audio recorded interview with Crank.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-06-13 Detective Steve Crank Audio Interview

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