



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: Officer Ryun Rawlins (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 1220 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Kenneth Smith and Lauren Frazier interviewed Middletown Police Officer Ryun Rawlins (Officer Rawlins). 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 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.

Officer Rawlins 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 Rawlins 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.

Officer Rawlins has been employed as a police officer at Middletown Police Department for approximately five 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. Officer Rawlins was wearing a body-worn camera (BWC), which was activated and recording at the time of this incident.

On July 13, 2025, he said that he received a call via his in-car computer. He said that the call came out as a signal 28, which he described as shots fired. Officer Rawlins arrived on Mohawk Street and said that Officer Kessler advised him via radio not to park in front of the house

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because the subject still had a gun in his hand. Officer Rawlins said himself and Officer Swanger pulled up at the same time and parked in the road on the south side of the house.

Officer Rawlins said he exited his patrol cruiser and him and [REDACTED] both grabbed their department approved rifles and used [REDACTED] vehicle for cover. Officer Rawlins observed the house to have a screen door, and an inner door. He said that the inner door was open, and the screen door was closed. Officer Rawlins said that he could see through the screen door. Officer Rawlins said he saw the subject come to and from the front door in a wheelchair and said he could see a gun in his hand through the screen door. He described the gun as a silver-colored handgun.

Officer Rawlins stated that officers made a perimeter around the subject's residence. Once Sgt. Wargo arrived on scene, Officer Rawlins said that Sgt. Wargo spoke to family. Sgt. Wargo tried to have family get the subject on the phone and come outside. Shortly after, Sgt. Wargo came over to the south side of the house where the majority of officers were. Officer Rawlins said that Sgt. Wargo told officers that they needed to approach the house, due to it being a hostage situation with an injured female inside.

Officers developed a plan to move up towards the house. Officer Rawlins placed his rifle in his cruiser and switched to his department issued handgun. Officer Rawlins said that the officers got into a stack formation with a shield, before they started approaching the front of the house. Officer Rawlins said that the front of the house had a metal wheelchair ramp with a hard 90 degree turn back towards the house. As officers were approaching, they decided that the front of the house was not safe to approach. Officers learned that the back door may be open, so officers approached the back yard.

Officer Rawlins said that [REDACTED] was assisting Officer Harris, by telling him where to put the shield, as they approached the back door. As soon as officers got onto the back porch, officers announced that they were with Middletown Police. The subject inside the house stated, "if you come in here, I will shoot you. Just go away, go away." Officer Rawlins said that Sgt. Wargo tried to negotiate with the subject inside. Officers requested Officer Kessler respond, since he has experience with police-related negotiations. As Officer Kessler was speaking with the subject, Officer Rawlins said that the subject fired one shot at officers. He did not see where the shot went.

Officer Rawlins said that Officer Kessler was still trying to negotiate with the subject, telling him to drop the gun and come outside, so that officers could help the female inside. The subject refused and told the officers that he would shoot them if they came inside. Officer Harris told [REDACTED] that the subject was in the fridge and a few seconds later, Officer Rawlins heard what sounded like a can of pop open. Officer Rawlins said that [REDACTED] moved from the left side of the door to the right side. He said that [REDACTED] was armed with his department approved rifle and began giving verbal commands for the subject to drop the gun before [REDACTED] fired several shots towards the subject. Officer Rawlins said that he heard and saw [REDACTED] fire.

Officer Rawlins said that he was third in the stack of officers and still on the right side of the door, behind Harris, when [REDACTED] fired. Officer Harris asked if the subject was down, before officers entered the back of the residence. Officer Rawlins said that himself and [REDACTED]

█ immediately attended to the subject and placed him in handcuffs. Officer Rawlins said that he lifted the back of the subject's shirt and could see what appeared to be two gunshot wounds on his back, one in the middle and one by his shoulder blade.

At that time, medics were coming in the front door, while other officers were inside clearing the residence. The medics began assessing the subject, but Officer Rawlins was unsure what, if any, medical aid was provided. Officer Rawlins said that he did a secondary search of the house, before he left the residence. Officer Rawlins left the scene and drove █ to the Middletown Police Department. At this time, Officer Rawlins learned that █ had also fired. SA Frazier asked if he could see the subject with the gun at the back door prior to █ firing. Officer Rawlins stated, "No, I never saw the subject."

The interview concluded at 1241 hours. Officer Rawlins prepared a typed statement, which was provided to investigators. The statement was signed and dated at the conclusion of the interview. Officer Rawlins typed statement, and a copy of the audio recorded interview are attached to this report.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-07-25 Officer Ryun Rawlins Interview

Attachment # 02: Middletown Police Officer Ryun Rawlins Signed Statement

STATEMENT OF OFFICER RYUN RAWLINS, BADGE NO. 627

This statement is in regard to an incident that occurred on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at approximately 4:43 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 Patrol Officer, 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 single-officer unit and my call number was L5. At the time this incident occurred, I was wearing my regular duty police uniform. The uniform included an outer ballistic vest, badge and nameplate. I was wearing a body worn camera (BWC) which recorded the event. I was carrying a department approved Glock 17, semi-automatic 9mm pistol, loaded with department approved ammunition. I also was qualified and carried a Daniel Defense MK18. I most recently qualified with my weapons in May 2025 and am current with all required qualifications. I was not carrying a secondary weapon. My corrected vision is good, and I was wearing 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 had not worked any overtime or extra details within the 48 hours prior to my shift on the day of the incident. I had approximately 7 hours of sleep the night before my assigned shift.

Immediately prior to being dispatched to the incident that resulted in the officer involved shooting, I was dispatched to a routine call for service involving a threat of suicide. 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 was dispatched by radio and immediately responded utilizing lights and sirens, arriving at the location approximately 6-7 minutes after the call was aired. As I responded, Officer Patterson and Officer Kessler aired on the radio there was a male inside the residence with a gun threatening officers. As I arrived on scene, I parked my marked patrol vehicle near the south side of 3013 Mohawk St. I observed the suspect at the front of the residence. He was in a wheelchair, behind a screen door, and I could see he was brandishing a handgun and threatening to shoot officers if they entered the residence.

As other officers were arriving on scene, we formed up into a "stack" formation and approached the rear patio of the structure. The stack contained about 6-7 officers and I was positioned as the 3rd person in the stack. The front officer carried a ballistic shield. I observed 3013 Mohawk St. to be a yellow single-story residence. I do not recall having previously responded to calls for service to this location in my capacity as a Middletown Police Officer. I also do not recall having had previous contact with the suspect or the female victim involved in this incident.

After positioning ourselves on the rear patio of the residence, [REDACTED] (second in the stack) announced our presence as "Middletown Police" and he and Officer Kessler began verbally engaging the suspect in an attempt to de-escalate the situation. The suspect continued to refuse to surrender and was yelling and threatening to shoot officers if they did not leave the rear porch. 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 because I heard what I believed to be a pop can open just inside the residence. The rear door was opened inward and into a wall. I could not see into the room and did not know where the victim was inside the residence. 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, and towards the rear door of the residence where officers were positioned. I was positioned immediately outside the door to the rear of the residence and had minimal cover and concealment from rounds fired through the wall. I was not able to see the suspect from my position but could hear his movements.

After the suspect fired upon officers, officers continued to negotiate with the suspect for his surrender, advising him they needed to render aid to the gunshot victim inside. [REDACTED] who moved to a position on the opposite side of the open doorway, appeared to gain a position which allowed him to see into the interior of the residence. [REDACTED] then fired several rounds into the residence striking the suspect and neutralizing the threat.

After [REDACTED] fired his weapon, I immediately made entry through the rear door with other officers in order to clear the residence, secure any persons inside, and render aid to the victims. Upon entry, I observed the suspect on the floor inside the rear of the residence. I assisted with securing the suspect in handcuffs and assisted other officers with clearing the residence. I remained inside the residence and medics who were at the scene, entered and pronounced the female victim and the male suspect. After exiting the residence, I remained at scene until I was relieved by a supervisor and I drove [REDACTED] back to the police station.

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

 627

Officer Ryun Rawlins, Badge No. 627

7/25/25 1241

Date