



**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: Neighborhood Canvass Interview
Involves: Melvin Swerlein (W)
Activity Date: 05/11/2026
Activity Location: 915 E. Warren St., Bucyrus, OH 44820
Authoring Agent: SA Douglas A. Burke #162

Narrative:

On Monday, May 11, 2026, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Douglas Burke (Burke) responded to 905 E. Warren St., Bucyrus, OH 44820 at the request of Bucyrus Police Department (BPD) Chief Jon Dorsey (Dorsey), due to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which involved a male subject, Paul Desmarais (Paul). SA Burke arrived on scene and was briefed on the circumstances surrounding the initial investigation by SA Joe Goudy (Goudy). SA Burke was assigned to assist in neighborhood canvass interviews with the assistance of SA Darien Spann (Spann).

At 1418 hours, SA Burke and SA Spann went to 915 E. Warren St. Bucyrus, OH and spoke with Melvin Swerlein (Melvin), a neighbor of Paul. The purpose of this interview with Melvin was to obtain any relevant information about Paul from the time lived as neighbors. The interview with Melvin was audio recorded.

This report only summarizes 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 audio recording. Further, this report 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 or responses. It is suggested that the reader refer to the audio recording in its entirety.

SA Burke and SA Spann introduced themselves to Melvin and explained the reason for wanting to speak with Melvin. Melvin acknowledged this and said he would talk with SA Burke and SA Spann.

Melvin stated that the Desmarais family have lived at the residence for a few years and have six (6) or seven (7) children living there. SA Burke asked Melvin if he was familiar with Paul and Melvin said he was. However, he did not see Paul other than, ***"getting in and out of his vehicle or through the yard fence when I'm (Melvin) walking the dog." When I do greet him (Paul), uh, it usually smells like alcohol*** (4:30). Melvin stated that when he did encounter Paul, Melvin said, ***"It's aggressive"*** (4:47). For 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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example, if Melvin was outside and Paul's wife and kids were outside, they would engage in a neighborly conversation and that would upset Paul greatly to the point, Paul would make Paul's wife and children go inside the house. Melvin added, ***"Paul really did not like her talking to me at all"*** (4:44). SA Burke asked Melvin when he said his encounters with Paul were "aggressive," did that mean that Paul's tone of voice or was he physically aggressive. Melvin stated that Paul's tone of voice was aggressive in nature.

Through this investigation, it was learned that Paul's wife's name was [REDACTED]

Melvin explained to SA Burke and SA Spann that Paul was, ***"controlling and his (Paul's) voice was almost militant"*** (5:10). According to Melvin, when Paul would make [REDACTED] and the children come inside from being outside, Paul would not say,

"'Hey, why don't you guys come in?' Paul would say, 'I need you guys in here now', in that type of tone or whatever. He (Paul) was aggressive and very direct. My son called Paul, Fallujah Paul" (5:20).

In the brief passings with Paul, Melvin said Paul would also talk about the guns and the number of guns he had. SA Burke asked Melvin if Paul ever talked specifically as to the type of guns he had. Melvin said Paul did not, due to when Paul mentioned his gun collection, Melvin would move away from the conversation.

SA Burke asked Melvin if he knew [REDACTED] or even [REDACTED] name. Melvin said he never knew her name, Melvin would just say "Hi" in passing when the family was on the front porch as Melvin was walking his dog. Furthermore, with Paul's demeanor, when Melvin saw everyone outside other than Paul, interactions with the family would be brief due to Paul's demeanor. SA Burke asked Melvin if Paul had ever been aggressive with Melvin and Melvin said no, other than getting the Desmarais family away from Melvin when they had been talking in passing.

SA Burke asked Melvin if he had heard or observed anything last evening (Sunday, May 10, 2026). Melvin said he did not until around 11:00p.m. because that was when the whole front of Melvin's house had been lit up with overhead lights from police cruisers. Shortly after law enforcement arrived, Melvin said that he overheard, ***"Come out with your hands up, you're under arrest, Sheriff's department"*** (7:19). Melvin said the local police department had been out there too.

Around 3:00a.m., Melvin said that the bigger teams and the Special Weapon and Tactical Teams (SWAT) came in. Furthermore, Melvin said this was when windows started to break, flashbangs were being deployed, and he observed drones being

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flown. Melvin said he never heard Paul reply to any commands for Paul to come out of his house.

SA Burke asked Melvin, prior to 11:00p.m., did he hear any commotion or see anything taking place at the Desmarais house. Melvin said, ***"I did not see or hear any commotion, no yelling or screaming throughout the day,"*** (8:28) at the Desmarais house up until 11:00p.m. when law enforcement arrived. SA Burke asked Melvin if he heard any gunfire throughout the night. Melvin stated he believed he heard gunfire. However, with the number of flashbangs going off, Melvin did not know how much gunfire had been going off.

Melvin did say, some of the rounds sounded ***"Shallow like a rifle and the flash bangs are pretty big like a bass drum type percussion"*** (9:05). Melvin stated, ***"There was just always something a little bit off and Paul would speak explanatory and aggressive manner especially with neighbors"*** (11:13). ***"Paul always smelled like alcohol"*** (11:55).

Melvin did not have any other relevant information and the interview concluded at approximately 1432 hours.

The interview was audio recorded and placed into Axon Justice as a part of Reference Item A-Neighborhood Canvass Interviews > Sub Folder > Interview of Melvin Swerlein.

References:

Reference Item A – Neighborhood Canvass Interviews folder > Interview with Melvin Swerlein subfolder

Attachments:

None

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