



**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: Witness Officer Interview
Involves: Officer Colten Cox (W)
Activity Date: 06/01/2026
Activity Location: Bucyrus Police Department – 500 S. Sandusky Ave.,
Bucyrus, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA David Hammond #120

Narrative:

On Monday, June 1, 2026, at 1344 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) David Hammond (SA Hammond) and SAS Charles Moran (SAS Moran) interviewed Officer Colten Cox (Ofc. Cox). The interview took place at the Bucyrus Police Department (Bucyrus PD), 500 S Sandusky Ave., Bucyrus, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded.

Ofc. Cox was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the May 10, 2026 officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 905 E. Warren St., Bucyrus, Ohio. Reportedly, Ofc. Cox 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. Ofc. Cox was not represented by a Union Attorney.

The following is a summary of 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 interview. The information 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. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Ofc. Cox stated his radio call sign on May 10, 2026, was 13. He has been employed by the Bucyrus PD for about three months. He previously worked for the Willard Police Department for approximately two and one half years. He has been a police officer for a total of three years. During the incident, Ofc. Cox wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove a marked Bucyrus Police Cruiser with emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident.

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Ofc. Cox advised that he was working with Officer Conner (Ofc. Conner) at the time of the incident. Ofc. Cox was in the field training process as new employee. He related that he was on patrol when he and Ofc. Conner were dispatched to the area of 916 E. Warren St. for a request for back up. Officer Carver (Ofc. Carver) had requested additional units after responding to a report of a domestic violence incident.

Ofc. Cox went to 905 E. Warren St. with Ofc. Conner and Ofc. Carver to investigate the incident. He related that he had been at the Desmarais residence before to assist with a warrant service for Paul Desmarais. The arrest warrant stemmed from a traffic stop incident, a few weeks before the Officer Involved Critical Incident. A warrant had been issued for Paul Desmarais for the charge of intimidation. Ofc. Cox stated that Desmarais had: *"Threatened to show up on that traffic stop with a firearm. So, at that point, I, I took a little precaution to approaching this residence" (06:16 mark).*

Ofc. Cox stated that he took a position near the front door while Ofc. Carver interviewed [REDACTED]. He described [REDACTED] leaving the front door open so, Ofc. Cox described maintaining security at the door. The Desmarais' children attempted to get their father to come downstairs early in the investigation. Desmarais was described as yelling down to officers from somewhere on the second floor. Ofc. Carver stated that the content of Desmarais' statements made him think of things that Sovereign Citizens would say.

At the 09:40 mark, *"He was, um, speaking upon, like the Constitution, wanting to uphold it. You know, anybody that came against the constitution or him, um, he had a right to uphold it."*

At the 10:07 mark, *"He was refusing to come down and speak."*

Ofc. Cox described [REDACTED], going up the stairs to attempt to get his father to come down. At the 11:49 mark:

"I remember him, you know, walking up the stairs. Well, after he had walked up the stairs, I could see him standing at the top of the staircase speaking with his dad. And while speaking with his dad, he was like, dad, please just go down there and talk to him. Um, so that way they can leave. They just want to, they just wanna ask you a couple questions. I could hear Paul continuing to yell, you know, I'm not talking to him. You know, he continued to say some, say some things about our police department, some opinions, opinions he had of us from prior involvement."

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When I was looking up the stairs, I could see probably just their waist and down. Well, a little bit of like, you know, some like [REDACTED] height. It, I think he was around the same height as his dad. Maybe a little bit shorter, but I could see like most of their, you know, bodies, well, they were standing at the top of the stairs, and Paul had pushed [REDACTED] well, when he pushed [REDACTED] out of the bathroom doorway, um, a little bit of his front, you know, of his persons came out of the doorway. But when that happened, um, I noticed that Paul had some sort of vest. I don't know if it was a plate carrier, if it was just a standard, you know, body armor like I'm wearing right now.

Ofc. Cox described that after seeing Desmarais in the bullet proof vest, there was a heightened sense of danger. Officers worked to remove all the children from the home. During this process, Ofc. Cox had a chance to speak with [REDACTED]. At the 13:42 mark, *"I pulled [REDACTED] to the side, and I said, hey, what does your dad have on. [REDACTED] stated he's wearing a level four body armor and he's got a firearm, uh, and a holster on his hip."*

Ofc. Cox stated that a [REDACTED] had been upstairs at this time. When officers called for him to come out of the house, [REDACTED] complied. Ofc. Cox stated that [REDACTED] confirmed that Desmarais was armed and wearing a bullet proof vest.

Ofc. Cox related that he assisted with moving the children away from the home and preventing [REDACTED] from going back inside. At some point, he started back towards the front door to maintain security in this area. While moving towards the door, he could hear Desmarais coming down the stairs. For safety reasons, Ofc. Carver backed away from the porch and maintained security from distance.

Ofc. Cox spoke about Desmarais' demeanor and mindset during the interview. At the 23:53 mark:

"He wasn't in his right state of mind either. Just by the way, like he started, um, he started responding to me like, almost like somebody responds to a drill sergeant, like, sir, no sir. Like, you know, sir, yes, sir. He started doing that when he was upstairs."

In a follow-up conversation with [REDACTED], Ofc. Cox stated that he told him the following, *"He also had an, uh, a rifle, um, of some sort. And it, I believe [REDACTED] stated it was an M1 grand. Uh, I listed in my report. It was an M1 grand, I believe, um, what [REDACTED] had stated"* (13:42 mark).

At the 28:27 mark:

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"Prior to our arrival, Paul had supposedly pointed a firearm, uh, at [REDACTED] the kids and also himself, um, that had, that happened prior to our arrival, according to [REDACTED] didn't want to tell us that, um, that information didn't come out until [REDACTED] brought it up."

At the 29:07 mark, "I had asked him, I said, you know, where was this information earlier, like on the porch when we got you outta the house? And he had told me that he was just, he felt like he was letting his dad down and he was selling him out almost."

Ofc. Cox was asked if he felt that probable cause existed to arrest Desmarais on the night of the incident, and if so, for what charge. He replied, *"Domestic violence"* (30:57).

Ofc. Cox was asked if he saw or heard any gunshots coming from the home while he was at the scene. At the 36:26 mark:

"Me and Officer Connor, we returned to our cruiser, which was about two houses down. We were staged and we actually began, um, doing our reports. 'Cause we knew it was going to be a long night, and Captain WT had told us that, you know, make sure your reports are done for the morning. So, we had actually went back to our cruiser, um, once we knew that everything was secure and, uh, you know, we weren't needed for anything at this time."

While we were doing our reports, we heard like a quick, like three shots, um, when we were in our cruiser, and that's when me and Officer Connor had looked at each other and we were like, that sounded like gunfire. And, uh, that's when Officer Carver had came over the radio and said shots fired. Um, didn't mention about anybody being injured at this time or anything. So, we were like, okay. Um, that was, that was shots fired. I couldn't give you the exact time. Somewhere late in, probably early morning."

The interview concluded at approximately 1423 hours. A copy of the recording was uploaded to Reference Item G - Witness Officer Interviews > Officer Cox in Axon Justice.



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References:

Reference Item G- Witness Officer Interviews – Officer Cox – Stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

None

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