



**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 Ryan Kessler (W)
Date of Activity: 07/25/2025
Activity Location: Middletown Police Department – Business – One Donham Plaza,
Middletown, OH 45042
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On Friday, July 25, 2025, at approximately 1200 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Douglas Eveslage conducted an interview with Middletown Police Officer Ryan Kessler. Officer Kessler was accompanied by his attorney, Robb Stokar, of Front Line Advisors, LLC. The interview was held in the administrative conference room of the Middletown Police Department and was audio-recorded.

Officer Kessler was identified as being a police officer who witnessed or had some level of involvement in the July 13, 2025, officer-involved critical incident that occurred in the city of Middletown. Officer Kessler confirmed that he did not discharge his weapon during the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information known or observed by Officer Kessler.

Officer Kessler confirmed that he prepared a typed statement prior to the interview. He reviewed the statement and confirmed it was his and signed it. He read his statement into the record, stating, in relevant part:

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 male claiming he was being followed. 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 3-4 minutes after the call was aired. As I arrived on scene and exited the vehicle, I began to approach the residence. I observed Officer Patterson retreating from the driveway of 3013 Mohawk St. and stating the suspect had a firearm.

I initially parked my marked patrol vehicle directly in front of 3011 Mohawk St. However, as other officers were arriving on scene, I moved my patrol vehicle into the front yard of 3011 Mohawk St. to allow for additional vehicles on the roadway and to gain a better visual of the front of 3013 Mohawk St. I observed 3013 Mohawk St. to be a yellow single-story residence. I recall having previously responded to calls for service to this location in my capacity as a Middletown Police Officer. I also recall having had previous contact with the suspect and the female victim involved in this incident. During my prior contact with the suspect, we discussed dirt track racing. On the day of the incident, in an attempt to de-escalate the situation, I again attempted to find this common ground with the suspect to persuade him to peacefully surrender. The weather on the day of the incident was cloudy and temperatures were moderate.

Prior to exiting my vehicle, I utilized my patrol PA system to announce police presence at the location. I made several loud verbal announcements on the PA system, announcing the presence of Middletown Police, identifying the target address, and ordering the suspect to come to front door with his hands visible. I observed the suspect at the front of the residence close the front door but he refused to surrender. I was able to identify the son of the suspect and victim outside the residence. The son stated the suspect (his father) shot his mom in the chest. The son indicated he was inside the house when the shooting occurred, and he fled. The son was able to confirm that only the suspect and the victim remained inside the residence.

After exiting the vehicle, I approached the rear of the residence and joined other responding officers near the back patio, and I positioned myself in a "stack" of officers in the 6th or 7th position behind several other officers. I assumed this position because I operated as a negotiator and was attempting to re-engage the suspect in dialogue at the rear of the residence. I made contact with the suspect, whom I knew from prior police contact. I attempted to connect with him and to negotiate a surrender so we could enter the residence and provide medical attention to the victim. I could hear the suspect responding from the rear of the residence but he refused to exit and threatened officers if entry was made. After a few minutes I heard the suspect fire a weapon in what I perceived to be the direction of the officers positioned at the back door. It was unclear if this was meant as a warning shot or if it was intended to strike officers positioned on the other side of the wall. I do not believe the round exited through the rear wall. I was aware the suspect had positioned himself in the rear of the house in the kitchen area, but it was unclear where the victim was located.

As I was positioned with the other officers on the rear patio area, and as the suspect fired his weapon, I was aware I had limited cover and concealment from the exterior wall of the residence. After the suspect fired upon officers, [REDACTED] who was in a position closer to the rear door of the residence, moved to the left of the open door and fired several rounds striking the suspect and neutralizing the threat.

After [REDACTED] fired his weapon, officers made entry through the rear door in order to clear the residence, secure any persons inside, and render aid to the victims. Upon entry, I observed the suspect on the ground near the kitchen as he was being handcuffed by other officers. I proceeded towards the front of the residence to clear the remaining rooms and I observed a female victim with a gunshot wound. I checked the female and found no pulse and observed her skin was cold to the touch. I believed she was deceased. I also observed approximately 6, 9mm shell casings, on the floor and scattered in the room near the victim. I observed a handgun on the recliner in the front room. I assisted other officers with clearing the residence, and I advised medics it was safe to enter the residence. I remained inside the residence when medics arrived and pronounced the female victim and the male suspect. After exiting the residence, I remained at scene until I was relieved by a supervisor.

The interview concluded at 1224 hours. The audio recording and Officer Kessler's signed statement are attached to this investigative report.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-07-25 Interview of Officer Ryan Kessler

Attachment # 02: Middletown Police Officer Ryan Kessler Signed Statement

STATEMENT OF OFFICER RYAN KESSLER, BADGE NO. 601

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 [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 single-officer unit, and my call number was 2L6. 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 17, 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 secondary weapon. 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 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 6 hours of sleep the night before my assigned shift.

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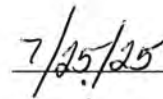
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This concludes my statement, and I am prepared to answer additional clarifying questions.



Officer Ryan Kessler, Badge No. 601



Date