



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 0856 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Richard Ward and Lauren Frazier interviewed Middletown Police [REDACTED]. The interview took place at the Middletown Police Department. Also present for the interview was Union 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.

[REDACTED] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: Police Officer
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] car
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Sgt. Jamie Wilcox
Radio Channel Utilized: Law 10	Mobile Data Terminal: Did not work
Cruiser Description: Marked patrol vehicle	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: One plus [REDACTED]
Assignment: Days	Normal Shift: Yes
In-Car Camera: Yes ,but not on.	Spotlight: Yes
Emergency Lights: Yes	Siren: Choose an item.
Shift Day of Incident: days	Duty Status: Patrol assigned to Narcotics Unit

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Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours:
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident:	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: Yes
Uniform Worn: Standard Middletown Police Uniform	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: Click here to enter text.
Ballistic Vest: Choose an item. Outer	Body Worn Camera: Yes
Other Recording Devices: No	Partner: None
Injuries: No	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: [REDACTED], SWAT	OPOTC Certification: Yes
Military Experience/Training: No	Use-of-Force Training: Yes
Prior Shooting Incidents: No	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: No
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? N/A	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: N/A

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon # 1

Make: Glock	Model: Model 17
Caliber/Gauge: 9mm	Serial: [REDACTED]
Type: Handgun	Method of Carry: Click here to enter text.
Magazine Capacity: 17	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): 18
Extra Magazines: Two	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: 17
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: 14	Number of Rounds Fired: 4
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right	Ownership: Middletown Police
Last Qualification Date: May 22, 2025	Type of Holster, if any: Level III

[REDACTED] typed written statement read as follows:

"STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] BADGE NO. [REDACTED]

This statement is in regard to an incident that occurred on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at approximately 7:23 a.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]

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.

My assignment is as a [REDACTED] assigned to the [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]. Prior to this assignment I was assigned as [REDACTED] road patrol officer, and I had previously worked with the Special Operations Unit on several occasions serving search warrants. My regular duty hours are from [REDACTED], and on May 27, 2025, I reported at [REDACTED] and was working until operations had been concluded. On the day of the incident, the unit tasked with the service of warrants included a seven-person team including a five-officer Special Operations unit, a one-officer uniformed patrol officer, and I was providing additional uniformed [REDACTED] support. Our mission was to serve high-risk search warrants that were the result of narcotics investigations. I was identified as unit [REDACTED]. At the time this incident occurred, I was wearing a department issued Middletown Police uniform which included a dark blue uniform shirt and pants, a prominently displayed police badge, a department issued duty belt with a taser and other approved police equipment, and an outer bullet proof vest. I was carrying my department approved Glock 17, semi-automatic 9mm pistol, loaded with department issued ammunition. I believe I had most recently qualified with this weapon during regular scheduled qualifications on May 22, 2025. I was not carrying a secondary or back-up weapon. I was equipped with a body worn camera which I engaged prior to approaching the front door of the residence. I was not wearing glasses or contacts, and my uncorrected vision and hearing are good. 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 any alcohol in the twenty-four hours prior to my shift.

On May 27, 2025, I attended a roll call with the team assigned to serve search warrants. This pre-deployment briefing provided information on the search warrants to be served, included a site assessment of the locations with photos (including 909 Garden Ave.), and we received information on the residents at each location where warrants would be served. I was not the affiant for the warrant and I specifically recall there was no intelligence disseminated that included information indicating weapons had been seen at the locations. After serving a warrant at a previous location, I proceeded with 4 members of the Special Operations Unit to 909 Garden Ave. Middletown, Ohio 45044. 909 Garden Ave. is a tan single-story home in a residential neighborhood, with an elevated front porch. I do not recall having previously responded to calls for service at 909 Garden Ave. in my capacity as a Middletown Police Officer. I also do not believe I have had previous contact with the suspect or other residents involved in this incident. The weather on the day of the incident was cloudy and temperatures were moderate.

The four-officer Special Operations unit and my marked patrol unit arrived in two separate vehicles and parked several houses east of the 909 Garden Ave. residence. My [REDACTED] remained in the vehicle because, based on the intelligence that indicated weapons had not been seen at the residence, we did not believe the deployment of a [REDACTED] unit was necessary. We approached the target residence on foot and single file. I was at the front of the line of officers because I was wearing a full Middletown Police uniform and I was easily recognizable. When we reached the front of the residence, Detective Singleton separated from the group and moved towards the back door to secure the rear and east side of the residence. A four-man team, which included Detectives Hoyle, Crank, Grindstaff and me, prepared to contact the residents and make entry into the front of the residence.

We first visually confirmed the address as the house listed on the search warrant. I was

assigned to provide a uniformed presence and cover for the Detectives assigned to breach the front door to make entry into the residence. I was positioned in front of the door and moved to the front step to provide additional cover and support as Detective Mark Hoyle prepared to use the Haligan tool to breach the outer security door. Detective Hoyle was equipped with the Haligan, a pry tool used to open the screen door. Detective Steve Crank was equipped with the ram to assist in breaching the door to the residence if residents refused entry. The front door had a metal outer security door and a wood and glass front door. As we stood outside the front door, Detective Grindstaff gave several loud clear commands announcing our presence as "Middletown Police," and stating police had a search warrant for the residence. I was positioned approximately 8–10 feet from the front doorway on the first step down from the elevated porch. When there was no response to repeated announcements, Detective Hoyle used the Haligan tool to pry open the locked security door to provide access for Detective Crank to use the handheld ram to breach the front door. Suddenly, as Detective Hoyle breached the outer security door, the interior door opened inward. When the door opened, I saw a heavysset, shirtless, white male open the door, extend his arm beyond the threshold and point a gray revolver directly at me. I recall the male, later identified as Michael A. Baker, look directly at me with an angry look on his face. The suspect was pointing the gray revolver, with a fully extended arm at a 90-degree angle, through the doorway and directly at me and in the direction of Detective Hoyle. After breaching the outer security door, Detective Hoyle remained to the side of the doorway and in close proximity to the suspects extended arm.

I had no cover or concealment from the suspect's weapon, and I immediately recognized the deadly threat. I already had my weapon out and in a low ready position as we were breaching the front door of the residence. I responded to the threat and fired four rounds at the suspect from approximately 10–12 feet, before the suspect retreated into the residence and fell to the ground. Prior to the door opening, and until shots were fired, I do not recall hearing any statements or other noise from inside the house. My backdrop was the interior of the residence, and I did not observe any other person in the backdrop behind the suspect.

After the suspect retreated into the residence and fell to the ground, I paused to ensure the threat did not continue before entering the residence through the front door with the other officers. I immediately approached the suspect and attempted to place him in handcuffs. I did not immediately observe the revolver lying on the floor to my right because I was focused on securing the suspect. He was not responding, and I turned him over to ensure he did not have possession of any weapons. I discovered a cell phone under him but did not recover any weapons. I then observed the revolver on the floor to my right approximately 2–3 feet from the suspect. I advised another Detective to guard the position of the weapon while I continued to attempt to secure the suspect in handcuffs. Once the suspect was handcuffed and the residence was secured by the other officers, I exited residence with Detective Hoyle. After exiting through the front door, we proceeded to move the police vehicles to side of the roadway to facilitate a clear path for the responding medics. After clearing the ingress to 909 Garden Ave., I was placed in the rear of a cruiser and did not reenter residence. I was eventually transported to the police station.

At the time I fired my weapon, the suspect was standing inside the threshold of the open front door to 909 Garden Ave. approximately 8–10 feet from my position on the steps of the front porch. The suspect had fully extended his arm in my direction and was wielding a gray

revolver. I had no cover or concealment from the threat. I believe I fired four shots in rapid succession. My target was the suspect's center mass. The backdrop for my shots was the interior of his apartment. I was in a standing position when I fired my duty weapon. At the time I fired my weapon, I was responding to an immediate and deadly threat of serious physical harm to myself and to Detective Hoyle, who was partially exposed and within 2-3 feet of the open doorway. I fired my weapon to protect myself and Detective Hoyle. At the time I fired my weapon, I believed that an immediate response was the only means to stop an imminent threat of death or serious injury to myself or other officers.

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

██████████ had assisted as a ██████████ and uniformed presence for the Middletown Police Narcotics unit with other search warrants on this morning prior to 909 Garden Ave. ██████████ attended a pre-raid briefing prior to the execution of five search warrants on the morning of May 27, 2025. ██████████ described the narcotics agents were clad with exterior body-armor with police markings.

When ██████████ stood on the porch while detectives announced and breached the exterior security door, the inner door was opened by Baker who was in a slightly elevated position, shirtless and possessed a gray colored revolver in his right hand. ██████████ described Baker in a "fighting stance" and had extended his right hand/arm with the handgun directly at him crossing/protruding the threshold of the doorway. After the round was fired by ██████████, he entered the residence and observed the gray revolver to his right on the floor. Also, ██████████ observed a female in the deeper portion of the interior. The female was screaming, but ██████████ focused his attention to Baker who he had handcuffed. ██████████ and another detective attempted life saving efforts to Baker until the medics arrived. ██████████ stated when the detectives breached the door they made clear loud announcements identifying themselves as the police. ██████████ when asked, did not hear any noise emanating from the residence prior to the breach.

Once back at the Middletown Police Department, ██████████ believed he relinquished his firearm to Sergeant Jordan and was provided another, different, handgun. ██████████ had Baker's blood on his body / uniform and was requested by SA Ward to have cellular telephone pictures taken and the affected area be cleaned and/or removed.

██████████ stated he complied with the City of Middletown Police Department's Use of Force Policy.

SA Ward concluded the audio recorded interview at 0939 hours. Attached below are the audio recorded interview and Criminal Investigation Notification form.

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-06-13 ██████████ Audio Interview

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Attachment # 02: 2025-06-13 [REDACTED] Criminal Investigation Notification
Attachment # 03: 2025-06-13 [REDACTED] Typed Statement

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Ohio Attorney General's Office
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Criminal Investigation Notification

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is **not** a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).

[Redacted]

6-13-25 0857
Date / Time

[Redacted]

S/ARFCK WIND
BCI Agent (Printed)

S/ARube
BCI Agent (Signature)

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Badge No [REDACTED]