



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 Witness  
**Involves:** Officer Mark Hoyle (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 06/13/2025  
**Activity Location:** Middletown Police Department – Business – One Donham Plaza,  
Middletown, OH 45042  
**Author:** SA Lauren Frazier, #129

**Narrative:**

On June 13, 2025 at approximately 0939 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Richard Ward and Lauren Frazier interviewed Middletown Police Detective Mark Hoyle (Detective Hoyle). 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.

Detective Hoyle was identified as being an officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the officer-involved critical incident that occurred on May 27, 2025, in the City of Middletown, Butler County, Ohio. Detective Hoyle 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.

Detective Hoyle prepared a typed statement, which was provided to investigators. Detective Hoyle read the statement out loud and at the conclusion, he signed and dated the statement. The typed statement read as follows:

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*STATEMENT OF OFFICER MARK HOYLE, BADGE NO. 440*

*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 March 17, 1998. My assignment is as a Detective in Narcotics, with [REDACTED] off. My regular duty hours are from [REDACTED], and on May 27, 2025, I was working from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. On the day of the incident, I was working with a five-officer Special Operations unit that included an additional one-officer uniformed patrol unit and a uniformed [REDACTED] officer assigned to the Special Operations Unit. We had the mission of serving high-risk narcotics search warrants that were the result of a narcotics investigation. The unit arrived in one un-marked police SUV and one marked police unit for the execution of the search warrants. I was identified as unit V-12. At the time this incident occurred, I was wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, jeans, a blue and white baseball cap and a black, outer bullet proof tactical vest, prominently marked in white with "POLICE" on the front and back. I was carrying my department approved Glock 19, semiautomatic 9mm pistol, loaded with department issued ammunition. I believe I had most recently qualified with this weapon during regular scheduled qualifications on August 20, 2024. I was not carrying a backup firearm, and I was not equipped with a body worn camera. I have prescription glasses and was wearing them during the incident in question. My corrected 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 consumed a small amount of alcohol in the twenty-four hours prior to my shift, but none in the 12 hours prior to the shift.*

*On May 27, 2025, I attended a roll call which included information on the search warrants to be served and included a site assessment of the locations involved. I was not the affiant for the warrant. After serving a warrant at a previous location, I proceeded to 909 Garden Ave. Middletown, Ohio 45044. 909 Garden Ave. is a single-story home in a residential neighborhood, with a 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 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 the marked patrol unit [REDACTED] arrived in two separate vehicles and parked several houses east of the 909 Garden Ave. residence. We approached single file until we reached the front of the residence, when Detective Singleton moved towards the back door to secure the rear of the residence. A four-man team, which included [REDACTED] Detective Crank, Detective Grindstaff and me, prepared to contact the residents and make entry into the front of the residence. I was equipped with the Haligan, a pry tool used to open the outer security 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 their presence as “Middletown Police,” identifying the residence as “909 Garden Ave.” and stating police had a search warrant for the residence. I was positioned approximately 2-3 feet from the doorway. When there was no response to repeated announcements, I 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. After several attempts, the security door opened. Suddenly, the interior door opened inward and a person, later identified as Michael A. Baker, pointed a silver handgun directly at [REDACTED]. When the door opened, I was positioned to the immediate left of the doorway and near a window with Detectives Crank and Grindstaff. I had limited cover and concealment from the residents inside the structure. I was able to see the suspect’s extended arm and a grey revolver in the suspect’s hand. The suspect had the weapon pointed at a 90-degree angle in the direction of [REDACTED] who was in line with the open doorway. I observed [REDACTED] fire several rounds at the suspect from approximately 6-10 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.*

*Although my position to the immediate left of the open doorway provided some cover and concealment from the suspect’s vantage point, I would have been exposed had the suspect taken any steps through the doorway. I was unable to see the interior of the residence and was not in a position to fire my weapon. After [REDACTED] fired his weapon, I entered the residence with the other Detectives to secure the interior and to provide medical care to the suspect. Upon entering the residence, [REDACTED] pointed out the suspect’s weapon, a revolver, lying on the floor inside the residence only a few feet from where the suspect had fallen. I confirmed to [REDACTED] that I had seen the weapon. After I entered the house, I assisted Detective Crank by providing him with a tourniquet to apply to a female inside the residence. I assisted in securing the interior of the residence, aired on the radio that shots had been fired, and then exited the residence to retrieve a medical bag for Detective Crank. I then assisted [REDACTED] by escorting him to the patrol car while medics entered the scene and provided medical attention to the male and female inside. I remained with [REDACTED] following the incident until he was removed from the scene.*

*At the time I observed [REDACTED] fire his weapon, I had observed the suspect open the door with a weapon in his hand pointed in the direction of [REDACTED]. I believe [REDACTED] was responding to the suspect’s deadly threat.*

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

Detective Hoyle is a Detective with the Special Operations Unit, with a focus on drug-related offenses. He said that he has been a Detective for 19 years. He said that his radio call sign was Victor-12 (aka V-12). He said that they utilized a separate radio channel for the search warrant operations that day, being Law-10, so that all involved agencies could operate on the same radio channel. He stated that he did not have a body-worn camera or any other

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recording devices, at the time of this incident. Detective Hoyle said that he was on the SWAT team for 24 years and has been to basic SWAT training, breacher school, and numerous entry trainings.

Detective Hoyle's role on the day of the incident was to assist with entry by using a Halligan tool. He described that a Halligan is a silver tool that is used to help pry open doors, specifically security screen doors, or break windows. He said that it can also be used as a wedge to penetrate locked doors.

Detective Hoyle approached the residence with [REDACTED], Detective Crank, and Detective Grindstaff. Detective Singleton provided cover on the rear of the residence. He said that he was directly in front of the front door, within inches. Detective Hoyle said that he was trying to get the screen door open by prying it with the Halligan tool. He said that he noticed the front door come open. Detective Hoyle said that either the suspect released the screen door or he was able to release it. When the screen door came open, Detective Hoyle said that he ended up going to the left side of the door, which was the natural motion, for him prying the door open.

At this time, Detective Hoyle stated that he saw a gun come out of the doorway, pointed straight towards [REDACTED]. He said that [REDACTED] was directly in front of the door and he believed that he was standing on the top of the porch steps. He said that the gun was protruding from the doorway and described that he could see the subject's arm from his elbow to his hand, holding a gun. Detective Hoyle said that he could not see the subject's body. He said that he was approximately 2-3 feet away from the subject at this time. Detective Hoyle did not hear any statements made by the subject. He said that announcements were still being made by officers, stating "police, search warrant." Detective Hoyle heard [REDACTED] discharge his firearm, but did not see him fire.

After shots had been fired, Detective Hoyle said that he got on the radio immediately and said that shots were fired and requested medics to respond. He said that Detective Crank and Detective Singleton went to assist a female inside the residence, who was injured, from what he believed to be shrapnel on her lower leg. Detective Hoyle gave Detective Crank a tourniquet from his vest to apply to the female. Another officer requested a "med bag", so Detective Hoyle ran to the SUV outside, grabbed the medical bag, and brought it to Detective Crank.

[REDACTED] and Detective Grindstaff were already providing medical aid to the male subject inside the residence. Detective Hoyle said that [REDACTED] pointed out that there was a firearm inside, which Detective Hoyle described as a gray revolver, approximately five feet inside the door, near a doorway to a bedroom. Detective Hoyle said that he does not believe that anyone touched or manipulated the firearm.

Detective Hoyle stated that he did not hear anything outside, prior to shots being fired. He said that he also could not hear any noises coming from inside the residence, prior to shots fired. Detective Hoyle said that he just head the door open suddenly. When officers entered the residence, he recalled the male and female screaming because they had been shot.

Detective Hoyle said that additional officers began arriving on scene and secured the

residence and put crime scene tape around the perimeter. He stayed with [REDACTED] until they were transported to the Middletown Police Department. Detective Hoyle said that he eventually participated in the search warrant reference narcotics at the house and said that drugs were recovered from inside the residence.

SA Frazier asked, if he feared for the safety of himself and for other officers at the time, and he stated, "yes." Detective Hoyle, said that he believed that the subject was going to shoot [REDACTED] and then shoot him. He could not recall if any shots were fired by the subject. SA Ward asked if it is the policy of the Middletown Police Department, that when deadly force is utilized, that medical aid is to be rendered, when it's safe to do so, and Detective Hoyle stated, "yes."

The interview concluded at 1002 hours. Detective Hoyle's typed statement and a copy of the audio recorded interview are attached to this report.

**References:**

No references.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2025-06-13 Detective Hoyle Typed Statement

Attachment # 02: 2025-06-13 Detective Mark Hoyle Audio Interview

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*Det. Mark Hoyle 6-13-2025*

Officer Mark Hoyle, Badge No. 440