



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2022-2888
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1010 Wapakoneta Ave., Sidney,
OH 45365 (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Aaron Wesbecher (S)
Date of Activity: 01/11/2023
Activity Location: Sidney Police Department – Business – 201 West Poplar Street,
Sidney, OH 45365
Author: SA Perry K. Roeser, #114

Narrative:

On December 21, 2022, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred at Sidney Foodtown located at 1010 Wapakoneta Ave., Sidney, Ohio. The OICI occurred when Sidney police officers encountered Todd Jordan (Jordan), armed with a gun, inside Sidney Foodtown.

On January 11, 2023, BCI Special Agents Perry Roeser and Lauren Frazier interviewed Officer Aaron Wesbecher (Wesbecher) with the Sidney Police Department regarding his involvement related to the incident. Before the interview began, Wesbecher was read the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form, which was signed and attached to this report. (See attachment #1) Attorney Joe Hegedus was present for the interview at the Sidney Police Department, located at 234 W. Court Street, Sidney, Ohio. Wesbecher provided a typed statement to SA Roeser before the interview began. Wesbecher signed and dated the written statement before the interview's conclusion (See attachment #1). The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview. Please refer to the audio recording for additional information.

The interview with Wesbecher began at 1055 hours with administrative questions. Wesbecher stated he had been employed as a Sidney police officer for the past 18 years and was assigned to the day shift patrol division with badge #190. Wesbecher described on December 21, 2022 that he wore a class B uniform with clear police identification patches and worked the first shift (0700-1500 hours) with rotating days off. Wesbecher explained he operated police vehicle number 24 on 12/21/2023. Wesbecher stated his vehicle had an in-car camera, and his outer vest carrier contained an active body-worn camera.

On December 21, 2022, Wesbecher stated he was at headquarters when the call for service

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aired over the police radio. Wesbecher stated he heard the dispatcher announce "to all units" there was a subject inside Sidney Foodtown firing a gun. Wesbecher said Officers Andrew Shappie and Chris Burmeister all left headquarters about the same time and responded to the location. Wesbecher stated that while en route to Foodtown, he heard Officer Jason Viapiano had arrived on the scene over the radio. Wesbecher said it only took officers a couple of minutes to arrive at the location.

SA Roeser showed Wesbecher an overhead view (map) of Sidney Foodtown and the surrounding areas. SA Roeser asked Wesbecher to indicate on the map where approximately he parked his patrol vehicle when he arrived on the scene (see attachment #3 of the map). Wesbecher explained as he approached the store's front entrance, he charged his rifle with a round. Officers Shappie and Burmeister had entered the store's front doors just ahead of him.

As Wesbecher entered the store, Burmeister and Shappie verbally ordered commands to a White male wearing a hoodie near the first aisle's cash register, close to the office. Wesbecher explained that he positioned himself between Shappie and Burmeister and started ordering commands to the White male. As the commands were called out to the White male, he would comply, then drop his arms and raise them several times. As the orders were shouted in the direction of the male, Wesbecher stated the male did not say anything and had a "blank stare."

Wesbecher stated the male pulled out a handgun from his right pocket with a wooden handle as commands were shouted in his direction. Wesbecher described the handgun as a revolver, and the distance between officers and the male was between 5–8 feet. Wesbecher stated he discharged his rifle (possibly twice) in the direction of the male for fear for his life, fellow officers' lives, and the store's potential customers. Wesbecher said after the male was shot, he fell backward onto the floor, and his firearm fell to the ground near his feet. Wesbecher said he moved the handgun on the floor away from the male with his foot. Wesbecher then searched the male for other weapons and assessed his injuries. Wesbecher stated after the shots were fired, he called for a medic. Wesbecher said the squad arrived quickly for life-saving measures.

Wesbecher stated acting Sidney Police Chief Shoemaker arrived at the scene and ordered him to his cruiser and not to talk to anyone. Wesbecher said he left the scene, headed back to police headquarters, and awaited instructions. Wesbecher said after he met with BCI, he was relieved of duty.

The interview with Officer Wesbecher concluded at 1129 hours and was audio recorded. See attachment #2 for a copy of the audio recording.

Attachments:

- Attachment # 01: Officer Aaron Wesbecher written statement & CIN form
- Attachment # 02: 2023-01-11 / Officer Aaron Wesbecher Interview
- Attachment # 03: Overhead map of Foodtown

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Exhibit 1

AW

On December 21, 2022 at approximately 0800 Officers were dispatched to Sidney Foodtown (1010 Wapakoneta Av) on a report of an active shooter. Dispatch advised officers three shots were fired and the suspect was walking inside the store. Dispatch told Officers the male had a rifle. Shortly after the call came in Officer Viapiano called on scene. Officer Viapiano radioed he was entering the store. I arrived on scene along with Sgt. Burmeister and Officer Shappie. Upon my arrival I deployed my patrol rifle from Unit 24 and entered the store along with Sgt. Burmeister and Officer Shappie. As we entered the store an older white male in a dark jacket was walking towards the front entrance. The male was in a cashier aisle beside the front office of the store. Sgt. Burmeister, Officer Shappie and I all began giving the male commands to put his hands up. The male stopped walking and at first complied and put his hands up. The male did not say anything and just stared at Officers. Officers continued to give the male commands and the male dropped his hands down at one point but then put his hands back up. As Officers continued to give the male commands the male dropped his right hand down to his waistline and reached into his pocket. Officers continued to yell commands to put and keep his hands up. The male then pulled a brown handled revolver out from his pocket. At that time once the male pulled the revolver from his pocket, fearing for my life and the life of the other Officers, myself and other Officers fired striking the male. The male suspect fell to the ground and the revolver fell towards the suspects feet. I immediately notified dispatch shots were fired and the suspect was down and we needed medics. I slid the revolver with my foot back away from the suspects feet towards Officer White who had arrived on the scene. With other Officers still covering the suspect I sat my rifle down and put gloves on. I then searched the male for any other weapons and lifted his shirt to see if I could render any aid to the suspect. I observed a bullet wound to the abdomen and one on his upper body. Shortly after medics arrived on scene to render aid. I was then told by Captain Shoemaker to go to my cruiser. I secured the patrol rifle in my cruiser and then responded to the Police department as instructed.

OFF. A. M. Wor

1-11-2023 11:29



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation



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).

Aaron M. Wesbecker

Printed Name of Interviewee

1-11-2023 10:57

Date / Time

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature of Interviewee

SA Perry Roeser

BCI Agent (Printed)

SA Perry Roeser

BCI Agent (Signature)

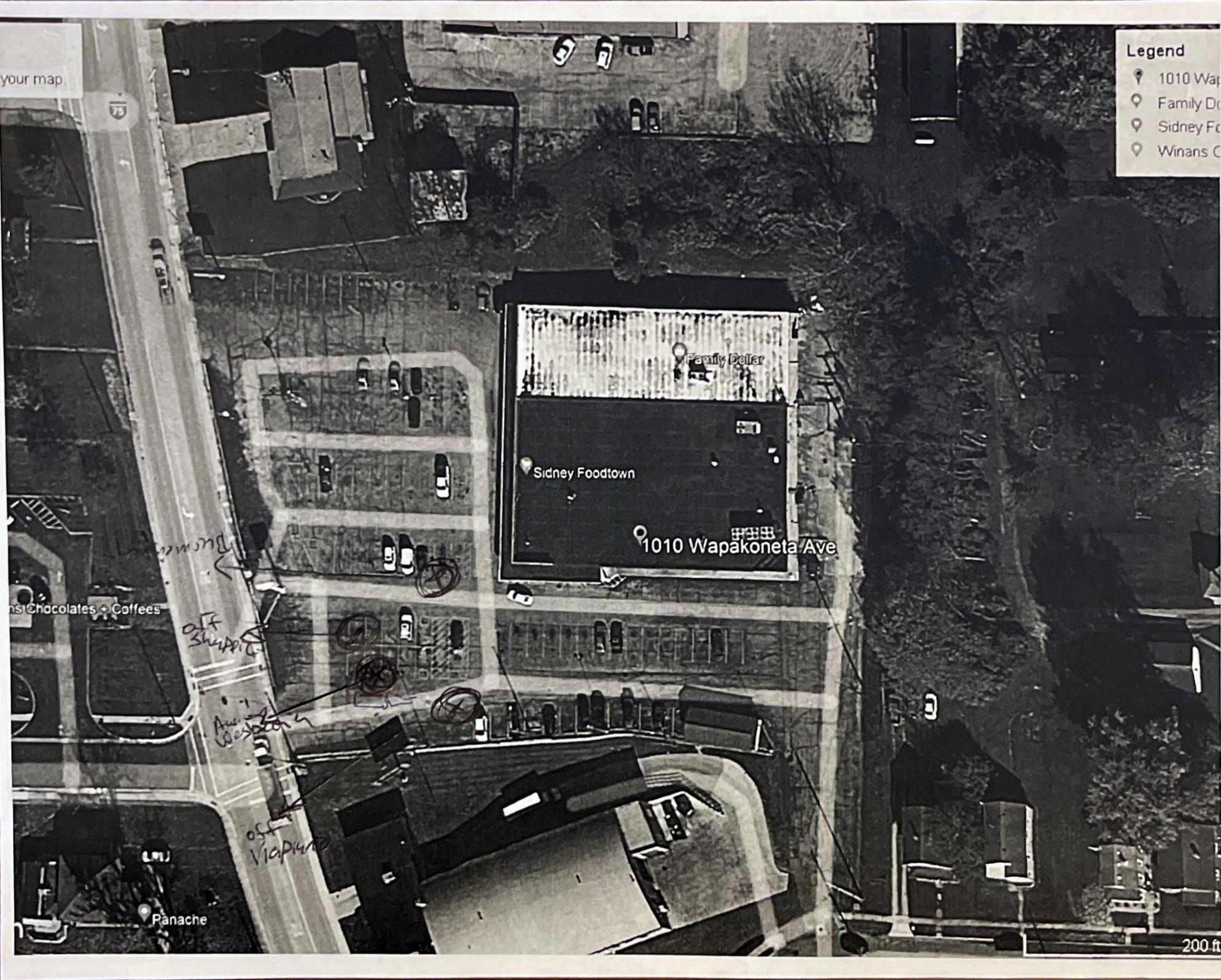
Exhibit 2

Included as a separate file.

Exhibit 3

your map

- Legend**
- 📍 1010 Wapakoneta Ave
 - 📍 Family Deller
 - 📍 Sidney Foodtown
 - 📍 Winans C



ns Chocolates + Coffees

off shipping

off Viapiano

Panache

200 ft