



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: Chris Burmeister (S)
Date of Activity: 01/12/2023
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 Avenue, Sidney, Ohio. The OICI occurred when Sidney police officers encountered Todd Jordan (Jordan), armed with a gun, inside Sidney Foodtown.

On January 12, 2023, BCI Special Agents Perry Roeser and Richard Ward interviewed Officer Christopher Burmeister (Burmeister) with the Sidney Police Department regarding his involvement related to the incident. Before the interview began, Burmeister was read the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form, which was signed and attached to this report (See attachment #1). Fraternal Order of Police Attorneys Doug Behringer and Robert Merkle was present for the interview conducted at the Sidney Police Department, located at 234 W Court St., Sidney, Ohio. The details below summarize the pertinent portions of the recorded interview. Please refer to the audio recording for additional information.

The interview with Burmeister began at 1114 hours with administrative questions. Burmeister stated he had been employed as a Sidney police officer since 1998 and was assigned to the day shift patrol as a Junior Sergeant with badge #174. Burmeister described on December 21, 2022; he wore a class B uniform with clear police identification patches and worked the first shift (0645-1445 hours) with rotating days off. Burmeister explained he operated police vehicle #2 on 12/21/2023. Burmeister stated his vehicle had an in-car camera active. When Burmeister was asked about a body-worn camera, he said when the call for service arrived for Sidney Foodtown, he ran out of the office without attaching it to his outer vest carrier. Burmeister stated he was a trained SWAT officer. When Burmeister was asked about discipline, dishonesty, or use of force, complaints alleged against him; Attorney Behringer asked, "received or upheld." Agent Ward asked for sustained complaints related to dishonesty and use

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.

of force. There was a pause, and 'no' was answered.

On the date of the incident, Burmeister said he arrived at work around 0620 hours and started his day. After completing the morning roll call with his unit, he went into his office and started on daily paperwork. Burmeister stated that at around 0800 hours and in his office, the call came in through dispatch as "shots fired at Foodtown." Burmeister said Officers Shappie and Wesbecher were also in the office, and all three left for the scene simultaneously. While en route, Burmeister stated he heard over the radio the subject was "firing a rifle." SA Roeser asked Burmeister what his mindset was while heading to the call. Burmeister explained his thoughts were he was headed to an active shooter call. Burmeister stated he had been trained to respond to an active shooter complaint call. Burmeister stated the priority of life was civilians, officers, and the subject discharging a firearm.

SA Roeser provided Burmeister with an overhead map of Foodtown and asked him to place an X at the position where he parked his patrol cruiser in the parking lot (See attachment #2). Burmeister stated when he arrived; he exited his cruiser with his patrol rifle. As Burmeister approached the front entrance with Shappie, a male was at the front door and said something about the "deli." Burmeister stated as they entered the store, they came into contact with a white male near the office and the first cash register. Burmeister then heard from someone, "that's him." Burmeister said they began to shout commands (put your hands up and get on the ground) in the direction of the male. Burmeister described the male as White, wearing a coat, and in his sixties. Burmeister said his left hand was up and down, and then the male moved his right hand down. Burmeister said the male pulled a handgun from his right-side pocket with a wooden hand grip.

Burmeister thought the gun was a Smith and Wesson revolver. Burmeister said he fired his rifle once, maybe twice, at the male. Burmeister stated he believed he was about 5-7 feet away from the male when he discharged his firearm and had no obstructions between them. After the shooting, Burmeister radioed for Shoemaker, the acting Chief of Police, to come to the scene.

After the male was on the ground, Burmeister said he and another officer began to canvass the store for other shooters and victims of the crime. Burmeister stated he found employees and customers in the rear coolers of the store and escorted them out.

Burmeister said when Acting Chief Shoemaker arrived on the scene, he was told to head to his vehicle. Burmeister said he then headed back to the Sidney Police Department and awaited BCI, and was relieved of duty.

Burmeister said when he fired his rifle, the male was a threat to himself and others. He said he feared his life, the lives of his officers, and the customers.

The interview with Burmeister and the BCI agents concluded at 1145 hours and was audio recorded. See attachment #3 for a copy of the audio recording.

After the interview concluded, Attorney Behringer explained approximately 10 years ago, Burmeister was terminated from Sidney Police over allegations. Attorney Behringer stated that after a third-party arbitrator heard the case, reinstatement was issued to Burmeister's employment. Burmeister then offered he received a disciplinary suspension for not being forthcoming with an investigation.

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.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: BCI CIN form–Chris Burmeister

Attachment # 02: Overhead map of Foodtown

Attachment # 03: 2023–01–12 / Chris Burmeister interview

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.

Exhibit 1



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).

Christopher C Burmeister
Printed Name of Interviewee

1/12/2023 1116
Date / Time

[Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

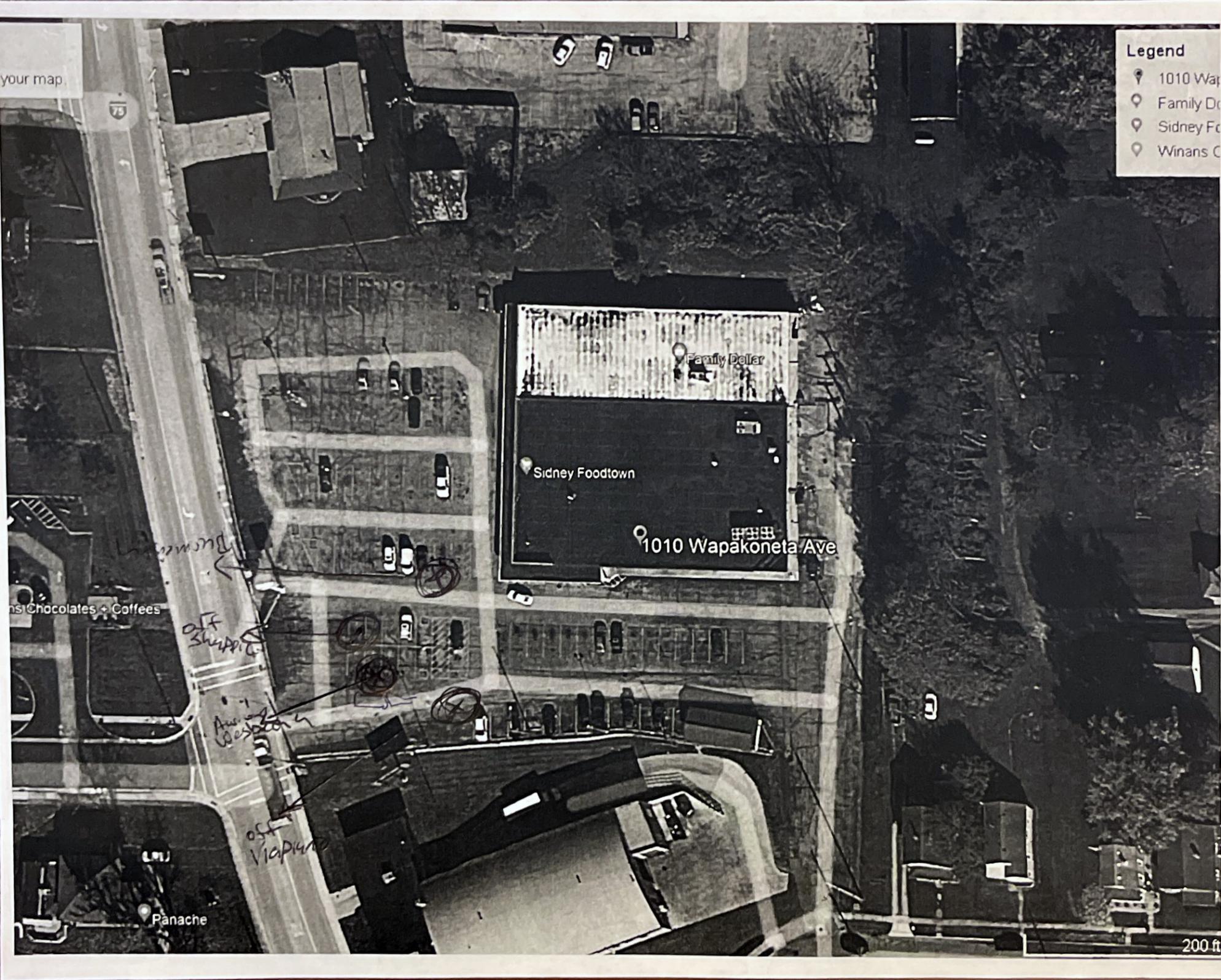
SA Perry Roeser
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)

Exhibit 2

your map

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



ns Chocolates + Coffees

off shipping

off Viapiano

Panache

200 ft

Exhibit 3

Included as a separate file.