



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



2026-2448

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 613 Orange Street,
Conneaut, Ohio 44030 Ashtabula County

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview
Involves: Conneaut Police Sergeant Wade Stitt
Activity Date: 07/15/2026
Activity Location: Conneaut Police Department
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Goudy

Narrative:

On Thursday, July 02, 2026, at 1300 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) and SA Joseph Goudy (SA Goudy) interviewed Conneaut Police Department (CPD) Sergeant (Sgt.) Wade Stitt (Stitt), who was accompanied by his attorney, Michael Piotrowski, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at the Conneaut Police Department, located at 294 Main Street, Conneaut, Ohio 44030. The interview was video recorded.

Sgt. Stitt was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 25, 2026, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 613 Orange Street, Conneaut, Ohio. Reportedly, Sgt. Stitt did not discharge a firearm during the course of the incident. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

Sgt. Stitt stated his radio call sign on June 25, 2026, was S3. He has been employed by the CPD for about 5 years. He has been a police officer for a total of 10 years. During the incident, Sgt. Stitt wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore an external ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove CPD unit #282, a Ford Explorer, marked with CPD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated he was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

When asked if he had a Body Worn Camera (BWC) on and activated during the incident, he stated, *"It was on, uh, intermittently throughout."* (02:26). When asked to elaborate on the BWC being on intermittently, he stated, *"Uh, I had to make some administration calls, uh, for call out to backfill the city. Um, some, uh, you know, just admin stuff that wasn't related to the scene."* (02:34). Sgt. Stitt's BWC remained activated during all activities related to the scene and was deactivated while performing routine administrative duties.

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Sgt. Stitt stated that they were requested to assist the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) with a male who was barricaded in his residence. With the help of an overhead diagram of the area, Sgt. Stitt pointed out where he parked his CPD cruiser. Sgt. Stitt stated that he relocated his cruiser to be closer to where the brother of the subject, Brandon Butts (Butts), was located to assist him. He further stated that the brother had lower extremity issues and a dog. Sgt. Stitt allowed the brother and dog to sit in the back seat of his cruiser to have access to the air conditioning. Sgt. Stitt further stated that he felt this would aid in de-escalation with the family due to the situation at hand.

When asked to describe what he saw when he arrived at the residence, Sgt. Stitt stated that he noticed several law deputies from ACSO standing in the driveway near the door and a couple deputies were standing in the front yard. Sgt. Stitt stated that the ACSO deputies were properly marked and recognized as deputies with the ACSO. After Sgt. Stitt arrived on scene, he was briefed by ACSO Detective (Det.) Wolfe on the matter. According to Sgt. Stitt, Det. Wolfe advised him that they had a barricaded male in the basement, along with a female. At the time of the briefing, they did not know the identity of the female. Sgt. Stitt stated they later learned her identity after she exited the residence. Sgt. Stitt stated that while he assisted with securing the perimeter, CPD Officer (Ofc.) Mike Delisle (Delisle) assisted by deploying pepper ball rounds into the basement.

While securing the perimeter, Sgt. Stitt stated that he and Det. Reese were attempting to de-escalate the situation involving Butts' family members who, *"were highly upset and agitated."* (07:54). While Sgt. Stitt was trying to secure the area and keep the family calm, he heard the ACSO deputies giving Butts commands to exit the residence. Sgt. Stitt stated, *"I did hear them probably for a good 20, 30 minutes trying to get this, you know, um, Brandon and later to be known Heather, uh, out of the basement."* (08:51). The female, "Heather" eventually exited the residence during that time frame. Sgt. Stitt did not hear anything said by the female after she exited.

During the incident, Sgt. Stitt stated he made a *"couple rounds"* around the residence to make sure the scene was secure from the agitated family members. During this time, he went over to Ofc. Delisle's location where he was deploying pepper ball rounds into the basement. Sgt. Stitt stated, *"I did witness, uh, Brandon, um, he took a metal pole that was probably like this wide. It was hollow, it was probably six, seven feet and he busted out the basement. It was a block window."* (10:34). Sgt. Stitt further stated:

"I did hear what appeared to be like, he was saying, 'I'm gonna kill you guys', and, um, making threats like that. And then he was taking the pole out and waving it in there and aggressively. So, um, but shortly after that, he then

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retracted the pole, and then they were talking to him again on the other side.”
(11:05).

Sgt. Stitt went back to the other side of the residence to assist with the family members getting agitated again. When asked how the family members were acting, Sgt. Stitt stated that they were not complying with his lawful orders to remain calm and stay out of the secure area. Due to the nature of the incident, Sgt. Stitt felt that he could have detained the family members for not being compliant but chose not to do so to prevent the situation from getting worse. Most of the time spent on scene by Sgt. Stitt was to ensure the scene was secure and to keep the family from interfering with law enforcement on scene.

While Sgt. Stitt was in the driveway keeping the family from entering the scene, he heard shots fired. When Sgt. Stitt turned around, he saw the law enforcement officers at the side door firing their weapons. Sgt. Stitt only recognized [REDACTED] being one of the officers who fired. He did not recognize the ACSO deputies who fired. Sgt. Stitt stated that all the officers stopped firing at the same time. Sgt. Stitt was asked why he did not fire his weapon, and he stated that he was never in a position to do so.

After the shooting incident ended, Sgt. Stitt described the family's behavior as “*not positive*” and that they made several harsh comments about law enforcement. Shortly afterwards, additional people arrived and were “*pushing back the caution tape.*” Sgt. Stitt stated that they made several de-escalation attempts to calm the family and neighbors

The interview concluded at approximately 1322 hours.

For further information, please refer to the video interview of Sergeant Wade Stitt, which can be found in Axon Justice under reference item H – Conneaut PD Officer Interviews / Witness Officers / Interview with Sgt. Wade Stitt 2026-07-02 125954135.

References:

Reference item H – Conneaut PD Officer Interviews / Witness Officers / Interview with Sgt. Wade Stitt 2026-07-02 125954135

Attachments:

None

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