



**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: Interview with Lt. Michael Sullivan
Involves: Lt. Michael Sullivan (W)
Activity Date: 07/02/2026
Activity Location: 294 Main St., Conneaut, Ohio 44030, Conneaut Police
Department
Authoring Agent: SA Daniel P. Boerner #135

Narrative:

On Thursday, July 02, 2026, at 1332 hrs, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Dan Boerner (SA Boerner) and SA Joe Goudy (SA Goudy) interviewed Conneaut Police Department (CPD) Lieutenant (Lt.) Michael Sullivan (Lt. Sullivan), who was accompanied by his attorney, Michael Piotrowski, from the Fraternal Order of Police. The interview took place at 294 Main St., Conneaut, Ohio 44030 (Conneaut Police Department). The interview was audio and video recorded.

Lt. Sullivan was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the Thursday, June 25, 2026, officer-involved critical incident which occurred in the area of 613 Orange St., Conneaut, Ohio. Reportedly, Lt. Sullivan 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.

Lt. Sullivan stated his radio call sign on Thursday, June 25, 2026, was L-1. He has been employed by the CPD for about twelve (12) years. He has been a police officer for a total of twenty-five (25) years. During the incident, Lt. Sullivan 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 #273, a Dodge Ram truck, marked with CPD emblems and emergency lights. He considered himself to be well-represented as a police officer during the incident. He stated was not under the influence of any substance that would impair his memory or judgment during the incident or during the interview with BCI.

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During his interview with SA Boerner, Lt. Sullivan stated the following:

Uh, we were called to, uh, a possibly barricaded subject. Uh, that was the, I believe that was the initial call that came in. Uh, we were there called to assist Ashtabula County, uh, I think it's special response team. Uh, uh, they were requesting assistance 'cause they had a potential of a possibly barricaded subject in the basement. So that was from what I recall, yes.

SA Boerner asked Lt. Sullivan where he parked once he arrived on scene and Lt. Sullivan stated the following¹:

I would say, um, it wasn't far. Um, I was past the neighbor's driveway, I'm pretty sure. 'cause there was a white SUV parked in front of me, which I believe was one of the SRT guys. I'd say somewhere maybe in here. Is what I kind of recall.

SA Boerner asked Lt. Sullivan what happened once he arrived on scene and Lt. Sullivan stated the following:

Uh, I arrive on scene. The, the mother, uh, the, the brother, I think it is Cain Dello-Butts. Lenette Butts. They're on the front porch. Uh, they're screaming and yelling. Uh, I know them, I've known them for a long time. Not Okay. We're not friends, but I know of them. Uh, they were, you know, yelling and screaming, you know, uh, that something that he was in the basement and, you know, that don't let him hurt my son. Something to that effect. I don't remember. Recall all of it. Um, and, uh, so, you know, I, I just kind of went over there and, uh, we, uh, we started trying to keep them back. 'cause, uh, the SRT team, they were in the driveway area on the, the north side of the home. Uh, so we kept them back. Uh, I'm trying to think. There was neighbors coming down, talking, you know, trying to, like I said, it kind of started to get chaotic very quickly. Um, they were, uh, I don't know if they were calling or friends were calling, but people started gathering very quickly in support of the Butts family, you know what I mean? Yeah. Um, and, uh, so I, I can be chatty sometimes, so if I veer off. Bring me back. Uh, but, uh, so I kept speaking with them and, uh, they said that, uh, Brandon, uh, was downstairs in the basement with his, I believe, girlfriend. And, uh, they, and I kept telling Cain to try to get ahold of, get ahold of Brandon and his brother. And, uh, he's like, he's not answering, he is not answering. I said, can you try the girlfriend? And, uh, so, uh, and again, I don't, I don't know exactly how much time evolved in between there. But that was basically what I, I

¹ Lt. Sullivan was provided with an overhead Google Earth image of the scene for use during the interview. A copy of the image was attached to this report.

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remember, you know, at the beginning, me doing, and, uh, Cain was on the porch. Lenette was, uh, on the front deck, uh, I'm sorry, right here. And then Lenette was standing like over in, uh, on the other side of this tree. And, uh, uh, Cain, uh, handed me his phone. He said, he goes, uh, he goes, she's on the phone. She's on the phone. So I, uh, I started speaking with her. I believe it was her. I've heard two different names. Heather Duva, Heather Pyle. I'm not really certain what her last name. Uh, so, so I, I was communicating with her, uh, uh, obviously there was noise on this side, so it was somewhat hard. Uh, so I kind of moved over this way towards the street as I'm talking with her. And then, uh, I kept telling her, you know, she's like, I can't get out. I can't get out. I said, I go, where's Brandon at? She said, he's in somewhere in the basement. I said, I go, can you make your way to the door? And she said, I'll try. And, uh, then she was coughing. She was doing a lot of coughing, a lot of hacking. And, uh, she said, I can't see. And, uh, I said, I go, you know, just try keep making your way to the door. Uh, I assume eventually she got to the door. And, uh, she said that, uh, she goes, there's something big in front of it. I can't move it. She said, she goes, and, uh, I, I'm reaching to the door and the door feels like it's nailed shut. I say, well, just keep pulling on the door. Pull on the door, you know, try to move whatever's there. She's like, I can't do it. I can't do it. I didn't know this girl prior. So, I mean, she's, I mean, she's probably about ninety (90) pounds. She had a tiny little thing. I saw afterwards. But, uh,

SA Boerner asked Lt. Sullivan to describe how Heather sounded on the phone and Lt. Sullivan stated:

Talking to her? Very distraught. Very distraught on there. Uh, just, you know, she's like, get me outta here. Get me outta here. And, uh, again, I don't know the exact verbiage, but it was, she, she wanted out of that basement. And again, she was coughing a lot. Uh, excuse me. So, uh, so I relay that information to, I want to say it was Evan Wolff, who is the SRT guy. I said, I go, I said, I go, she's telling me that, uh, the door is secured somehow. Um, he was probably over in this area, in the driveway, maybe. And he was communicating verbally, I think, through headset, maybe, uh, with his, with his people. And, uh, I said, I go, you know, to my, to my recollection, uh, I, I don't know the exact word for word, but I told him, you know, I said, I go, she's saying it's the door's locked or secured or something.

She thinks he nailed it shut. And there's something big in front of it. And, uh, so I kept talking to her, kept talking to her, and then I'm assuming he must have relayed that information. And then, uh, uh, within, I don't know, less than a

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minute, maybe ish, maybe a little more, I can't remember. 'cause I told her, I said, just keep, I said, you know, and then I heard, I heard them say something about hitting the door. So I told, uh, I said, I go, you know, get, don't stand in front of the door. And then they, they must have, I'm assuming they must have breached that basement door and, uh, must have moved whatever was in there. And then she said, she goes, I can, I, I'm coming out. I'm coming out. And, uh, so then I, she came out and I handed the phone back to Cain. So I had stopped my conversation with her. And then she came out and then, uh, uh, Evan Wolff brought her over to where their van was, which was, uh, there was, I wanna say it's Lenette's vehicle was right here. Uh, there was a deputy's, SUV right here. And then their black van was like, right here. Okay. And he brought her over there and started talking with her. And then I stood, like, just off to the side.

SA Boerner asked Lt. Sullivan if Heather said anything about Brandon having a gun or access to a gun and Lt. Sullivan stated the following:

Uh, she told me, Brandon said he had a gun, but she never saw it. And I relayed that information to, uh, Evan Wolff. I said, this is what she's telling me. And then, um, but then again, like I say, he, when he went over and talked with her on that, uh, she sat on the side of the van. The, they opened the van doors for her. And she sat there and he talked to her. And I was standing just off to the side. And, uh, she told him basically everything she told me on the phone that, you know, he said he had a gun. He said he wasn't, you know, he wasn't going, he wasn't going back to jail. And he was, you know, uh, they were gonna have to take him outta there. Okay. So.

SA Boerner asked Lt. Sullivan what happened next and Lt. Sullivan stated:

Um, we ended up moving Cain, uh, Cain's a large guy, and he moves real slow. So we ended up, uh, getting Cain. Uh, he came off of the deck. He was standing in the front yard. We ended up moving them back. And then they were, they were over here. Uh, I don't remember at what point the caution tape went up. I don't remember that. Like what's, what, what at what point we set a perimeter up, uh, 'cause they were still communicating with him over here. I don't, I, I couldn't even, I wouldn't even wanna speak to what deputy was communicating him. 'cause I, there's a, a lot of new ones. I don't even know who they are. But, uh, one of 'em was, had like, communication with him, uh, and was talking with him and, uh, by, you know, to speak not on a phone.

Lt. Sullivan stated that as the incident progressed he observed the following:

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And then, uh, then I started hearing like a, a lot of more verbal commands, verbal commands coming, you know, from, uh, these guys, the SWAT guys. And, uh, so I went back over here. So you had the black van, you had the deputy's vehicle? I think it's a white SUV, which is Lenette Butts, the mother. Was parked here. And then, uh, like the door, this is the garage front porch.

The door's gotta be right here somewhere. Right here, kind of where that, uh, kind of where that shadow is. Is where her car was parked. Um, I would guess, I'm not a mathematician, but I guess here's the, here's the doorway. Here's the, the guys from the SRT team. They probably had a foot, maybe a foot and a half, uh, in between the, the door and her car. Evan Wolff and myself were on the other side of that car. Evan was almost in line with the door. I was off to the left of him.

SA Boerner asked Lt. Sullivan what he could he see from the perspective and Lt. Sullivan stated the following:

Um, I couldn't, I never saw Brandon. Uh, I could just see the SWAT people, and they were just, and again, I, my body cam was not on. But, um, they can, uh, they were just, they were giving him verbal commands. I could hear him yelling something, uh, kill me. Um, do something to me. I don't remember the exact verbiage. Uh, but, uh, I want to die. I, I was gonna say, I, I don't know exactly. 'cause there was a lot of screaming on his part. They were, uh, they were giving him a different verbal commands. Exactly what it was. It was somewhat, you know what I mean? I don't, I couldn't say exactly. And of course, they were, I had, they had their backs to me. And then, uh, um, so that went on for what I thought was quite a while. I mean, they were really, really, and, uh, pleading with him to, you know, to come out of the house and, uh, or, you know, come outta the basement and, uh, to show your hands.

I mean, that, that was said, I don't know how many times, and like I say, he made, I don't, I couldn't tell you the number, but you could hear him, you know, saying, referencing, killing him or taking him or, so, something to that effect. Uh, numerous, numerous times. And, uh, and then I could hear screaming coming from over here. Uh, don't let them kill my boy. Don't let something to that effect Lenette was saying. And, uh, so I looked over there and I looked at Officer Stitt, and he was immediately going up to her and keeping her back. 'cause they were trying to come up closer. And then, uh, so then I turned my attention back over here with, uh, uh, Evan Wolff. And, uh, then, um, like I say, I, I don't know what, I don't know what prompted, but then all of a sudden the shooting started.

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SA Boerner asked Lt. Sullivan if he could tell who did the shooting or how many shots were fired and Lt. Sullivan stated that he could not.

Lt. Sullivan stated that after the shooting, *"Lenette and Cain, uh, they started screaming, what'd they do? What'd they do? And then they started trying to come closer. So then I immediately went back over there where they were and just kept them at bay, uh, as best as we could. And then, uh, and we, myself, [REDACTED] came over. Uh, we immediately put up caution tape and started, you know, caution and tape everything off."*

Lt. Sullivan stated that at some point Fire/EMS went into the residence in an attempt to provide aid to Brandon. Lt. Sullivan stated that his primary concern at the time was scene security and crowd control.

SA Boerner asked Lt. Sullivan if he was wearing a Body Worn Camera (BWC) during the incident and he said "Yes". SA Boerner asked Lt. Sullivan if the BWC was activated during the incident and Lt. Sullivan stated that it was utilized intermittently. Lt. Sullivan stated that he deactivated his BWC while speaking with Chief Michael Bertalosio over the phone and handling other administrative matters.

The interview concluded at approximately 1400 hrs.

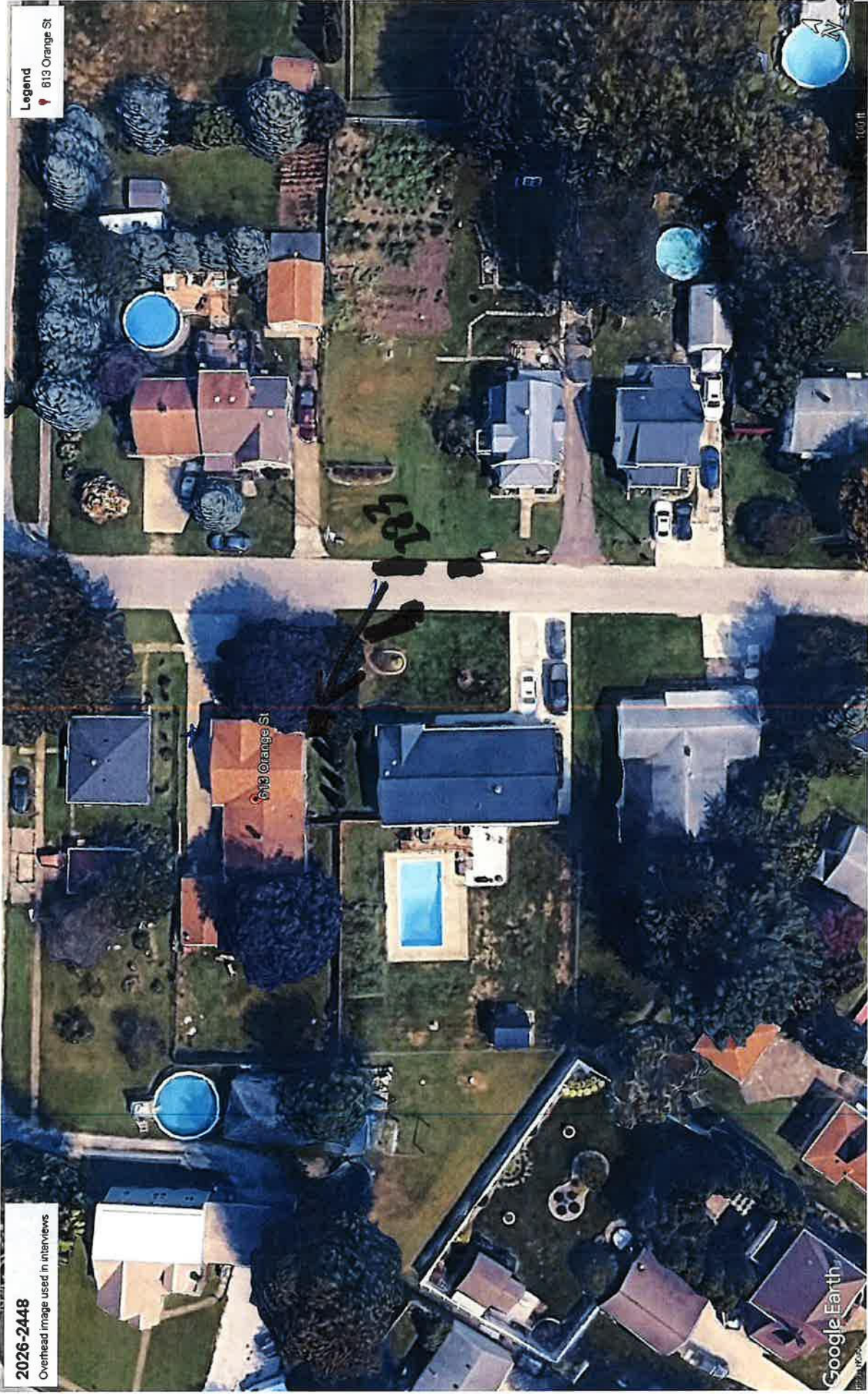
The interview was audio/video recorded. The recording was uploaded to Axon Justice as Reference Item H - Conneaut PD Officer Interviews > Witness Officers.

References:

- Reference Item H - Conneaut PD Officer Interviews > Witness Officers

Attachments:

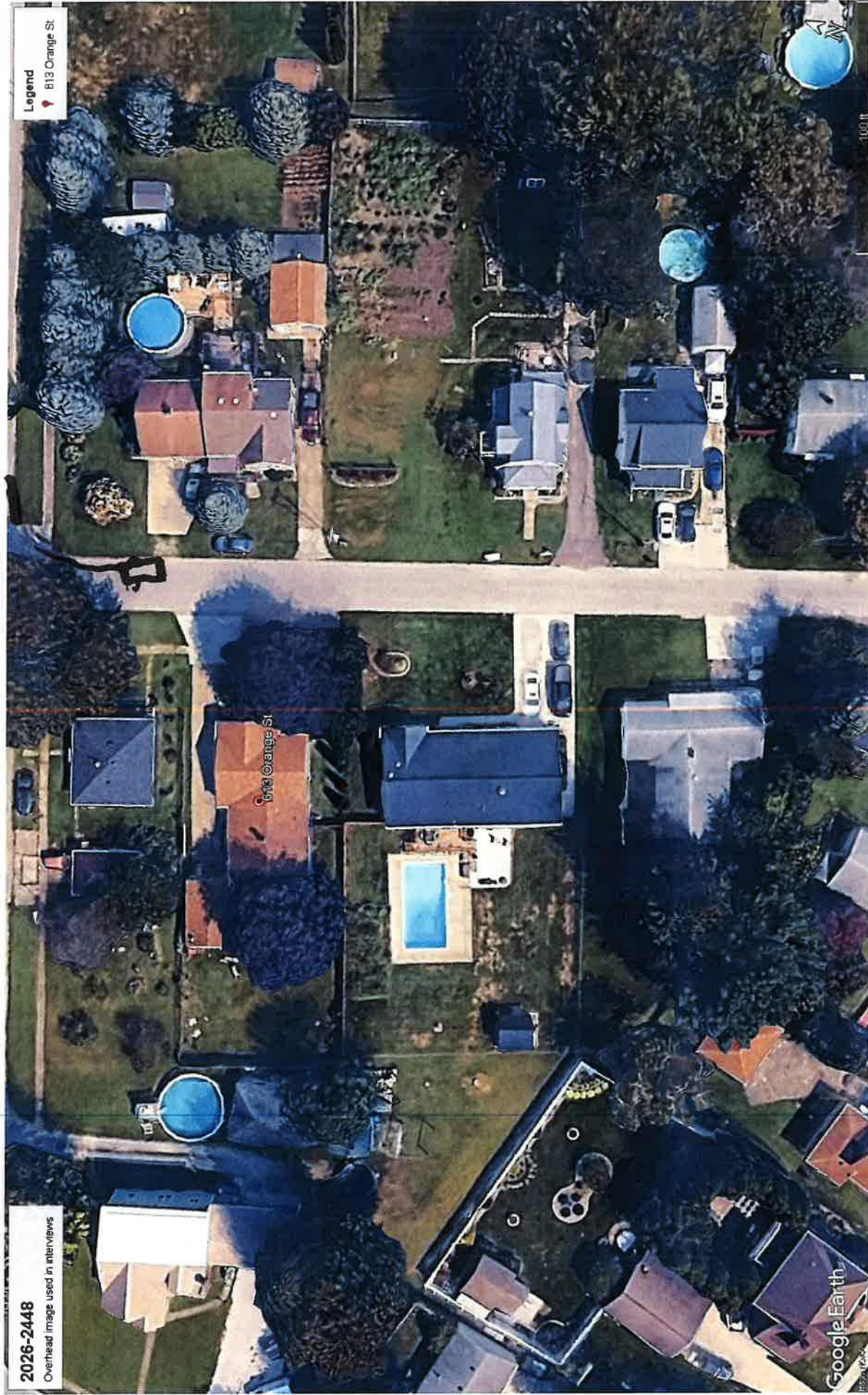
1. 2026-07-02 Witness Officer Diagrams



MD 7/2/26

7/2/26, 6:39 AM

Mail - Michael Sullivan - Outlook



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