



**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 [REDACTED]
Involves: [REDACTED] (S)
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 1105 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) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 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.

[REDACTED] read, understood, and signed the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form. A copy of the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form was uploaded to Matrix and attached to this report.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not intend to contain all questions and answers from the interview. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full recording be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the interview.

Preliminary and Demographic Information:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate Supervisor: Lt. Michael Sullivan
Radio Channel Utilized: CPD main channel	Mobile Data Terminal: Not Present
Cruiser Description: [REDACTED]	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating

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	Positions: Single
Assignment: Dayshift	Normal Shift:
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Not Present
Emergency Lights: Not Present	Siren: Not Present
Shift Day of Incident:	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off:	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: Working between 10hrs-12hrs a day
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 6hrs	Consider Self Well Rested: Yes
Total Length as Officer:	Length at Current Agency:
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: Glasses
Uniform Worn: Khakis, tennis shoes, t-shirt (CPD on front and back), external vest with police markings	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: No
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Not Present
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: Numerous SWAT trainings, De-escalation instructor	OPOTC Certification: Yes
Military Experience/Training:	Use-of-Force Training: Annually
Prior Shooting Incidents: Yes,	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None

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Officer's Firearm(s):

Make: Glock	Model: 19
Caliber/Gauge: 9 mm	Serial: UNK
Type: Semi-Auto Handgun	Method of Carry: Click here to enter text.
Magazine Capacity: Fifteen	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): Sixteen
Extra Magazines: Two	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: Fifteen
Discharged During Incident? Yes	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: Slide lock, reloaded	Number of Rounds Fired: I believe all sixteen
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right-Handed	Ownership: Department Owned
Last Qualification Date: Within the month of June	Type of Holster, if any: Paddle holster with retention

Narrative:

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] how he was dispatched to or how he became aware of the incident and [REDACTED] stated the following:

Um, my office is in the basement of the police department. In the hallway is a radio speaker where you can hear radio, the road radio traffic and police both police and fire outside. So, when I'm down there working on cases, I'm able to hear what's going on on the road and, um, if there's something that I think that I need to self-dispatch to if somebody's, if it's gonna be a priority call or if they're calling for assistance, I can hear that and respond to that. In this case, um, the dispatcher put a call out, um, on the radio that the sheriff's office was at an address on Orange Street attempting to serve a warrant and that the individual had barricaded himself in the home. That would typically be a, a call that I was self-dispatch to. That's a, that's an all hands, uh, on-duty call.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] what happened when he arrived on scene and [REDACTED] stated the following¹:

¹ SA Boerner provided [REDACTED] with an overhead image of the scene to assist in describing his location and the location of other members of law enforcement.

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So, as I pulled up, um, the sheriff's office had their warrant service van pulled into the driveway a little bit.

Yeah. So, this right here would be the sheriff's office van. And then there were cognac police cars, um, kind of lined up over here. Um, ish around there. And I pulled up, um, down here kind of by this house over here, uh, just to kind of get this straight blocked. I wanna make sure it looked like up here that nobody could get through, but I tried to park in a way that was making the last continental police car and my unmarked car so that you couldn't get traffic through there.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] to describe what happened after he met with Detective Evan Wolff with the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) and [REDACTED] stated:

Well, as I'm, as I walk up, I could see, um, two family members from the home were, were on the porch, and one of the sheriff's office personnel was talking to the family members, trying, trying to get information or talking to the family members or explain something to the family members. Um, Evan Wolff was, uh, standing at the front. Uh, and then there was, uh, the sheriff's office, uh, warrant service team members had taken up positions around the building. And there was several individuals at the door at the top exterior of the door on the driveway side. To that house. They were standing around on the outside. That's the, the what I could see. Um, when I walked up to Evan and I asked him, you, what's the situation? Uh, he said they attempted to serve a arrest warrant on, um, a guy by the name of Brandon Butts.

Um, this was his house. They physically saw him run into the basement and he's barricaded in the basement. And then, um, Evan went on to tell me, he's like, he said that, uh, Brandon is in the basement and he's down there with a female and it looks like she's holding, he's holding her against her will. So, he believed that this was developing into a hostage situation. I said, okay. Um, I said, what, what's the layout of the house? Uh, he told us that the house had been evacuated. Everybody's out of the house, but the family members are on the front porch.

So, um, Brandon's brother is Cain Dello Butts. I've, I know him. Uh, individually. And I know that, um, Brandon's mom is Lenette Butts. I've

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interacted with her before, but, um, maybe just once or twice in my life. Um, I, so I know the names more than I know them. Um, um, so the, they, the family members were on the, like the stoop porch area for a little bit at some point in time. They moved onto the road, um, when that happened, I don't know. But when, when I got there, they, that's where they were. Um, so I asked, uh, Evan what the layout was. He said, basement steps down there, door is barricaded. Um, at the bottom, the, the Evan said that they could hear furniture being moved in front of the door down at the bottom. Um, he said there's no secondary way out of the, um, basement.

And that the basement had glass block windows all the way around it. So, we, we had no ability to see inside of there to try and gauge where he was. So, okay. Um, Evan told me that they were attempting to get phone contact with the female that was down there to try and start some type of negotiation, um, downstairs. And, but that, that was not providing, uh, wasn't proven fruitful. I could hear one of the Sheriff's Office members at the top of the steps, um, trying to make contact with Brandon downstairs. Um, he's come out, just come out, give yourself up. It's just a warrant. You'll be out on Monday, come out, just, just come out. Let's not make this any worse. Uh, he was definitely trying to deescalate the situation. Just let him know that, that, you know, this, we don't have any intention of making this go kinetic.

We just want him to come up right now and, and come on outta here. Um, so that was not, we were getting no response from him. Um, any response from the female at the, you, you could hear their, you could hear the female downstairs and you could hear both of them being loud at that point. That's what I remember. Both of them were being loud and it looked like their convers, like he wasn't engaging with us. It looked like their conversation was between each other and they were just ignoring the police upstairs.

██████████ stated that the decision was made to introduce pepper balls into the basement of the residence. ██████████ reported that he breached the glass block windows around the foundation of the residence and that Officer Mike Delisle deployed pepper balls into the basement.

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SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] what happened after the pepper balls were deployed and [REDACTED] stated the following:

Uh, we did the back one first, the, the western most one put some rounds in there. Um, when we breached the windows, we had to clear out curtains and plastic and stuff And make sure that you get in there. I don't, I don't know how well we did that, but, um, did it the best we could. Then the last window, which would be the, um, southeastern one, when I broke that window out, um, and Mike introduced pepper ball in there, I could hear the female and I could hear screaming, help me, help me. Please God help me. She just was screaming, please God help me. A bunch of times she sounded like she was in trouble. She sounded like she was being assaulted. Um, and I ran around the front of the house to let Evan know that this might be an instance where they need to do a crisis entry and there is as a hostage rescue. And by the time I got there, they had, I, I don't know what they heard on the other side, but they'd independently made that decision and went down the steps, breached the door. And as I'm coming around, the, the girl is coming out of the basement, they secured her. How, how that happened, the, that I wasn't a part of and I didn't see. So, I don't really feel comfortable commenting on that.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] what happened after the female came out of the basement and [REDACTED] stated:

Uh, I hear them, uh, taking her to an ambulance, uh, taking her to a squad to get checked out. And, um, I moved over to the, to the door to kind of figure out what was going on at the door. Um, that door looking down was, was now closed again. Um, it was completely closed off again. The, the basement, the bottom basement door's closed again and there was, um, there's two or three. So tactical team guys holding on the door to the side. And, but since that, since that door had opened and she had exited all of the pepper ball that we had introduced, that gas was coming up, the coming up the stairwell and the guys that were there didn't have gas masks on.

And it was, it was very difficult for them to stay engaged and cover that position or try and make contact with them or just be involved in the situation without gas masks. So, the question was raised like, Hey, we, let's, we need to get gas masks on if we're gonna be here for a

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while. So, I had my gas mask, and I had a spare gas mask in my truck. So, I got my gas mask and put it on, and I gave my spare gas mask to another one of the Sheriff's Office team members. I think only two other, um, tactical team members from the sheriff's office had their gas masks with them because they don't carry on that van any chemical munitions. So, they were not, they weren't intending to use chemical munitions. They didn't have that there; it wasn't a plan that they had. But two of them, uh, brought their own gas masks. So, two of the sheriff's office guys grabbed their gas masks. And then at that point in time, out of necessity, it became people with gas masks were on the stairwell. 'cause that's, that's, you could, you could stand there and hold a gas mask and be just fine so you could the guy to, um, so, so that's how that kind of, you know, started to unfold.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] to describe what happened next and [REDACTED] stated the following:

Um, I don't know for how long, um, but for a period of time that door's just closed and there's not really a lot going on. Warsing is trying to engage with him, trying to get him to come out every once in a while. We'll put, um, I'm sorry, he's not really responding. Butts is not really responding back, but you can hear him down the basement with like tools like, like smashing windows out smashing the, the, the cement block on it looked like, it sounded like he had some type, type of, sounded like a sledgehammer. I don't, hunk of metal that he was like trying to break out some, some concrete block down there. Huge. Sounded like he was just trashing that basement. Um, I'm sorry. After probably about a minute after the ho hostage was taken to the ambulance, we heard a radio call come back. They, the, um, one of the ACSO people went to go debrief the hostage and figure out what was going on down the basement. So very quickly after that it was reported back to us, um, over the radio. Hey, Butts is downstairs, he's armed with a gun in his hands. And that was repeated. Everybody like, Hey, we all copy that. He's armed a hundred percent with a gun in his hands. Okay. So, we like, all right. There's, that's,

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if they said what type of gun or anything similar and [REDACTED] stated:

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Actually, they used the, the, uh, the sheriff's office code for gun and said Code 40. In hand was, was what they, the exact words. And that's the information we had.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] what their plan was to end the situation and [REDACTED] stated that the plan was to wait Butts out. [REDACTED] stated that no one was in any immediate danger and that they felt they could wear Butts down.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if anything happened to change that plan and [REDACTED] stated:

The, the first contact that, again, he's not worsening, is just constantly, Brandon, come on, come out, come on out, come on out, come on out. Um, at some point in time, he starts responding to worsening. Um, and he says, I'm not coming out. I'm not coming out. I'm not going back to jail. Fuck you. I'm gonna kill myself. I'm not, I'm not going out. I'm, I'm, I'm not going back to jail. Uh, and then he, at some point in time, cracks open the door a bit and you can start seeing his face come out the door. I, it looked to me like he had enough of the pepper ball and needed some air. So, his, his way to do that was to crack the door, put his face out there, and then it almost forced him that he had to talk to and engage with wars at that point in time. Sure. So, he's, that's how the, the first interaction we have is that he starts cracking that door. And, um,

He opens it at various, various distances at different points in time. He cracks face off, uh, puts his face out, closes it, opens it enough where he can step in front of the door, steps halfway in and out of the door. But it, he was mobile in and out of that door at the bottom sometimes with his entire body out of the thing. And sometimes all the way in. Um, at one point in time he became, um, pretty agitated and, um, he had a flashlight, like a mag light where he says, I've got a gun and, and I'm gonna fucking shoot you and I'm gonna shoot myself. And he starts, you know, coming to the door and then scooting this flashlight up quickly. And Warsing says, man, that's not a gun, that's a flashlight. Like, we're, we're not, we're not shooting you because of a flashlight.

Like, it's just a flashlight. Come on out here. Sure. So, he's, uh, the negotiation goes back and forth, and he wants to talk to his mom, like,

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no, we're not, you're not bringing, we're not bringing your mom over here. Like, it's not a safe situation. We can't, we can't do that. Just, just come up, come up. You can talk to your mom when you come up. Just come on outta here. And then that, um, he, he makes some more threats. I'm gonna kill myself, I'm gonna kill myself. And the next thing I remember is the door cracking open and the barrel of a gun sticking out the crack of the door. Um, it was probably out about a foot. I remember seeing the barrel of the gun and thinking, fuck, he's got a shotgun. It was pointed directly at us, and by the time I processed that, it was the barrel of a gun pointed at directly at us. And I took the slack outta my trigger to shoot to shoot. He pulled the gun barrel back inside and we, all of us had verbally said, gun, gun, gun. I feel like we were all at the same decision point, but just nobody could process that, that, that, 'cause it wasn't, it was kind of a, a silent moment. He wasn't saying anything that just poked that thing out at us. And so we said, gun, gun, gun poked the, the, that gun out at us and took it back in.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if he could describe the gun and [REDACTED] stated:

I saw the barrel and it looked like it was the sizeable pop. It looked like; I thought it was a shotgun. It looked like the barrel of a shotgun. Um, I mean, I, I come to learn later. It was not a shotgun, but it looked like the barrel was shotgun to me.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] what happened after that and [REDACTED] stated:

He goes back in and Warsing engaging with him again. He's like, don't, hey, don't bring that gun out here again. Don't point that gun at us. Don't point that gun at us. And shortly thereafter, he comes out and he, he comes all the way, opens the door, almost all the way, walks in front of the door, and he has a silver barreled muzzle loader, and he has it underneath his chin (Figure 1 , [REDACTED] demonstrating positioning of firearm 00:41:31 mark). And he says, I'm gonna kill myself. I'm gonna kill myself. Um, fuck you guys. You guys just need to go ahead and shoot me. And then he tells Warsing at one point in time, he's like, I want you to look me in the eyes when you shoot me. And he starts to walk up the steps towards us with the gun and we Warsing, tell, we're all yelling stuff at him too, but you can't hear her through our masks. But Warsing is telling him, don't come up the steps don't

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come up. The steps of that gun, don't come up the steps of that gun. At that point in time, uh, [REDACTED] from the sheriff's office had 40 millimeter foam baton, less lethal. And we told her to, to employ that on him, to keep him from coming up the steps of the dawn on us. She shoots him, hits him, has good effect. He goes back down inside of the basement with the gun and closes the door.



Figure 1, [REDACTED] demonstrating positioning of firearm 00:41:31 mark

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if he recalled how far Butts got up the stairs and [REDACTED] stated, "I don't think he got three steps." (00:42:41 mark)².

[REDACTED] stated that Butts came out of the basement bedroom a second time and described it as the following:

At that point in time, Brandon comes out the door again, has the, um, muzzle loader underneath his chin. But first time it was real tight. This time it was loose and almost like tipping it down a little bit at us (Figure 2, [REDACTED] demonstrating positioning of firearm 00:45:11 mark). And he come, he came out and he said, fuck you. The gun is

² SA Boerner provided [REDACTED] with a sideview of the staircase for reference.

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loaded and I'm gonna kill you. So Warsing said, don't bring the barrel of that gun down.



Figure 2, [REDACTED] demonstrating positioning of firearm 00:45:11 mark

Do not put the barrel of that gun down. Drop the gun, drop the gun, drop the gun. And he was, he was moving that gun around a lot. So, we put less lethal on him again. 40 millimeter less lethal on him again. I know we; he was, I know he did the thing where he came out and put the gun under his chin at least twice and we shot him with it. If there was a third time that that happened, I wouldn't argue with it, but I remember at least two times. But there could have been a third time in the, where a similar exchange comes out. But the, the last time was, fuck you, this is loaded. I'm going to fucking kill you. We put 40 millimeter on him. He goes back inside the door.

Um, that door doesn't close all the way. Um, it's open partially, and I can see Brandon Butts through that partially open door. I can see his fi, the silver firearm, and I saw the barrel of the gun come down and point at us right at us (Figure 3, [REDACTED] demonstrating positioning of firearm 00:46:20 mark). And, um, that's when we all fired him. But I, I'll say one thing before this, when he was, when he was moving the

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gun around, um, Warsing was telling him, don't, don't point the gun at us, don't point the gun at us, don't point the gun at us. And I don't know who it was in the three of us that had guns, said, Hey, we're all in agreement. He's not, if he point, he's not gonna point the gun at us again. Right. And we said, yeah, he's not, if, if he points the gun at us again, we're firing, we're not gonna take the chance against you.

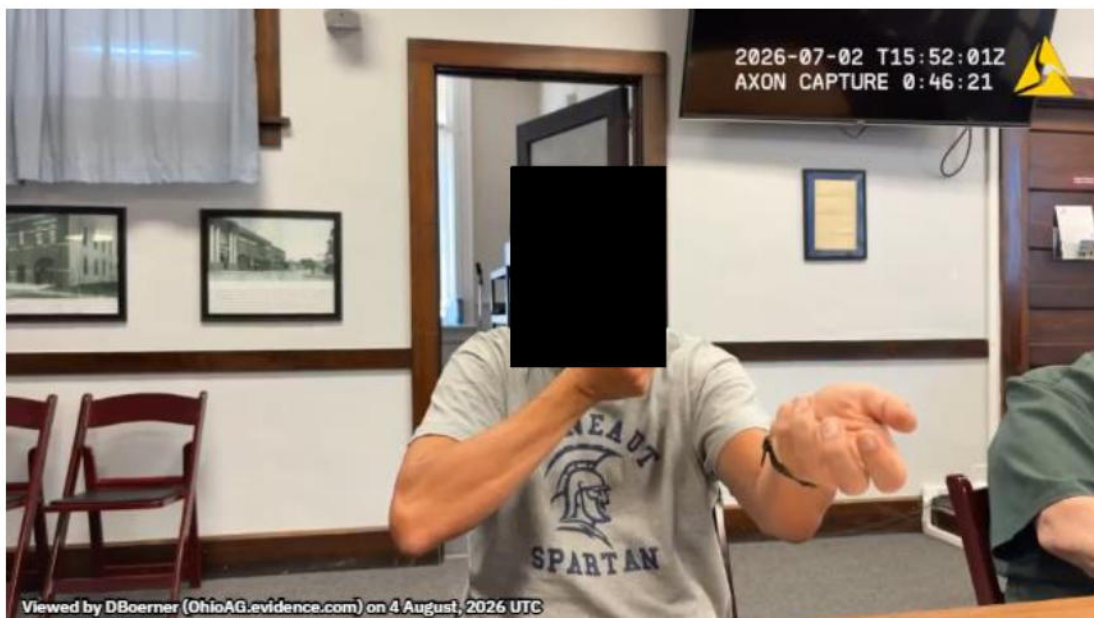


Figure 3, [REDACTED] demonstrating positioning of firearm 00:46:20 mark

[REDACTED] stated that after the shooting, someone from the sheriff's office attempted to make verbal contact with Butts. [REDACTED] stated that after receiving no response a drone was utilized to determine Butts' status. [REDACTED] stated that the drone confirmed that Butts was down. [REDACTED] recalled that members of the sheriff's office went into the basement to assess Butts, secure his firearm, and called for EMS.

[REDACTED] stated that he drove back to the police department and was transported to the Conneaut Medical Center for drug and alcohol testing.

SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] why he fired his weapon and [REDACTED] stated, "He had, um, Brandon Butts had threatened to kill us. Uh, he was in possession of a gun. He pointed that gun at us and I thought he was gonna kill us." (00:58:27 mark).

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SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] if he believed that they exhausted all opportunities to resolve the situation peacefully and [REDACTED] stated:

Absolutely. I absolutely do. I, if there had been, like I said, we ran through a decision tree of things that we could do. And for whatever reason we, you know, couldn't put a dog down there. Beanbag's not gonna work. We're not, you know, we're already doing what we can do with chemical conditions. We have a guy, uh, Warsing. I don't know if he has any training in crisis communications or not, but he was doing a really good job of staying calm and trying to take the temperature down with him. I felt our communication was really good. I, listen, I've been 29 years I've been doing this. I've been in a lot of barricades. I felt that this was handled as professionally as I've ever seen a barricaded situation. If he wanted, I, I gotta be honest, if he wanted to be down in that basement still to this day and hadn't come out, we probably would still be sitting up there just not pressing the issue with it. Um, this was, this was handled as professionally as, as possible.

Between the 01:02:23 and the 01:08:32 marks, SA Boerner asked [REDACTED] to demonstrate Butts' actions prior to the shooting using a doorway.

The interview concluded at approximately 1216 hrs.

The interview was audio and video recorded. The recording was attached to this report. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form is also attached to this report. The diagrams utilized during the interview are also attached to this report. Please see the attachments for further details.

References:

- Reference Item H - Conneaut PD Officer Interviews > Involved Officer - [REDACTED] - stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. 2026-07-02 [REDACTED] CIN and Interview Diagrams

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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).

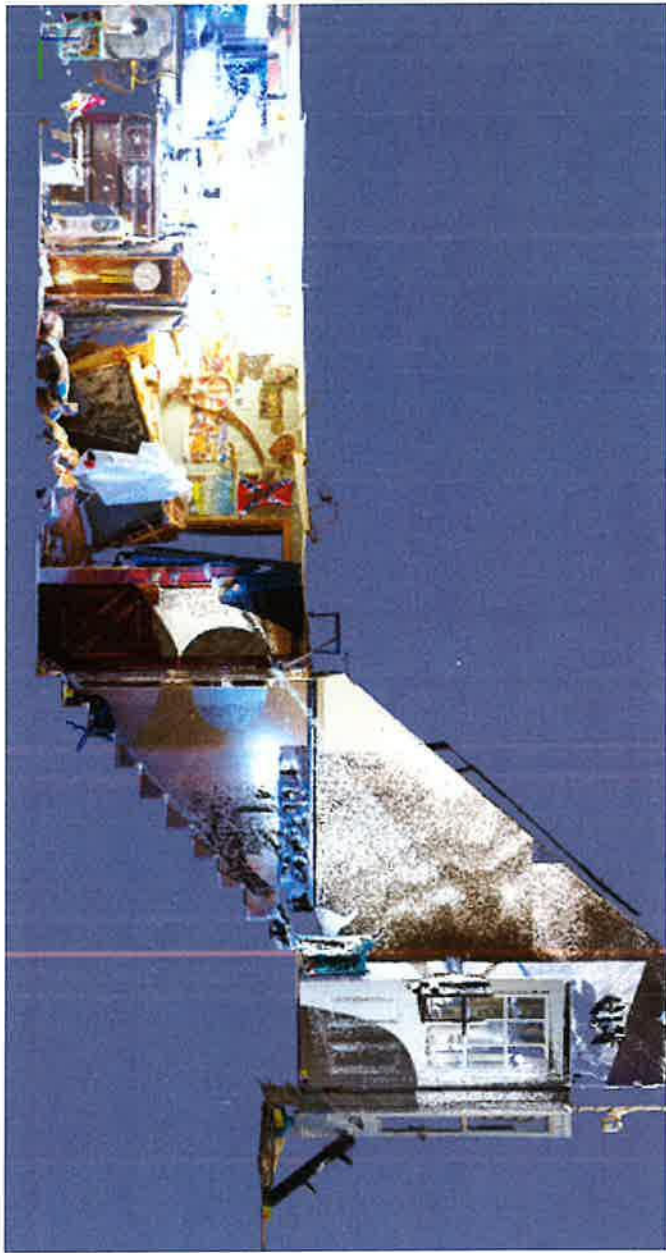
[Redacted]
Printed Name of Interviewee

07.02.26 / 1102
Date / Time

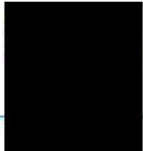
[Redacted]
Interviewee

SA DAN BOERNER *ALR*
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA Dan Boerner
BCI Agent (Signature)



7.2.26



7.2.26



7.2.26