



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



2026-1239
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 31000 Block U.S. Route
 250, Uhrichsville, Ohio 44683, Harrison County

Investigative Activity: Witness Officer Interview - Deputy Jason Saylor
Involves: Deputy Jason Saylor (W)
Activity Date: 04/02/2026
Activity Location: Harrison County Sheriff's Office - 978 East Market Street,
 Cadiz, OH 43907
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Thursday, April 02, 2026, at 11:31 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) John Tingley (SA Tingley) and SA Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) interviewed Harrison County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) Deputy Jason Saylor (Deputy Saylor). The interview took place at the Harrison County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Saylor was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the March 30, 2026, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of US 22 near Hopedale, Ohio. Reportedly, Deputy Saylor 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.

The interview was audio recorded and later uploaded to Axon Justice as part of Reference Item E -Recorded Interviews. Deputy Saylor was provided with a copy of the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form which he stated he understood. He then signed the form and agreed to participate in the interview. Deputy Saylor's signed Criminal Investigation Notification form was attached to this report where it can be reviewed in its entirety.

Deputy Saylor stated his radio call sign on March 30, 2026, was 3416. He has been employed by the HCSO for about 14 years. He has been a police officer for a total of 14 years. During the incident, Deputy Saylor wore his standard police uniform with a metal police badge affixed to it. He also wore a concealed ballistic vest and duty belt. He drove a marked HCSO patrol unit during the incident.

Deputy Saylor recalled being in the HCSO when [REDACTED] stopped a vehicle. After some time, [REDACTED] advised over the radio that he had consent to search the stopped vehicle. Shortly afterwards, Deputy Saylor remembered hearing [REDACTED] yelling over the radio that shots had been fired. A

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brief description was put out for the vehicle. It was described as a dark, possibly blue, SUV. Deputy Saylor advised that he started heading towards [REDACTED] location on US 250 with the intent of either locating the vehicle or reaching [REDACTED]

Deputy Saylor recalled passing the subject's vehicle on US 250 near County Road 55. Deputy Saylor radioed to a nearby HCSO Sergeant to alert them that the vehicle that had passed them was likely the subject's vehicle. As Deputy Saylor began to turn around to catch up to the vehicle, an Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Trooper also turned and began to pursue the subject vehicle. Deputy Saylor noted that the speeds of the pursuit were roughly one hundred miles per hour, and that after leaving US 250, the subject entered US 22 east bound.

While on US 22 one set of spike strips were deployed that were ineffective. As pursuit continued east bound on US 22, Deputy Saylor stated that a second set of spike strips were deployed, which were effective. Deputy Saylor was able to avoid the spike strips, but other law enforcement vehicles struck them. The suspect vehicle reportedly veered to the left, struck the ditch in the median, and came to a rest on US 22 in the westbound lanes. Deputy Saylor said that the lead Trooper was able to place his vehicle directly behind the subject vehicle.

Deputy Saylor stated that he maneuvered his vehicle towards the subject vehicle. He recalled the following:

... as soon as he crashed, as soon as he stopped, driver door opened and I could see him get out. When he got out, it was shooting posture, he was out. So I, uh, right when I, uh, pretty much hit the Westbound lane, um, I, I could hear boom, boom, boom, boom. Probably four or five, six shots, whenever he started shooting... (05:02)

Deputy Saylor went on to explain that he and HCSO Sergeant Thomas Smith (Sergeant Smith) were attempting to radio out that shots had been fired. He then backed his vehicle up in order to use it as cover. When he exited his vehicle, he positioned himself behind it and observed the subject for a few seconds. Deputy Saylor reported that he was unable to see the trooper, but he did watch as the subject ran northbound and jumped a fence into the woods.

SA Lamping asked Deputy Saylor to further describe the shooting posture he said that the subject took upon exiting his vehicle. Deputy Saylor advised that the subject took a deliberate posture while aiming towards the Trooper/Trooper's vehicle. He further stated that his belief was that the subject had the intent to kill the officers on scene.

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SA Lamping asked Deputy Saylor if he would have fired at the subject had he had a clear shot. Deputy Saylor advised, "Yes, *absolutely.*" (07:26)

SA Lamping asked Deputy Saylor if he had anything that he was not asked that he would like to inform the investigators of. He told the agents that a member of HCSO had been in contact with the subject's brother, and during the conversation the brother alerted the Deputy that the subject would likely not be taken alive. Deputy Saylor noted that this information was relayed to the officers on scene while they were searching for the subject. According to Deputy Saylor, this placed the officers on scene at an even higher level of alertness due to the belief that the subject would not cooperate with officers if located. Deputy Saylor went on to explain his heightened safety concern from when the subject jumped the fence line North of US 22:

That's, we didn't even jump. Once he jumped the fence, um, the, the two troopers that he was shooting at, at least the one, they jumped the ditch line too, and they went to crest the hill and Sergeant Smith called them back because in my mind, I, I thought for sure he was laying at the bottom of that ravine waiting for us. I, I, so we just did a brief scan, backed off, called air support, and went from there. (08:42)

The interview concluded at approximately 11:41 hours.

References:

Reference Item E - Recorded Interviews: Subfolder - Law Enforcement Witnesses:
File - 2026-04-02: Interview of HCSO Deputy Jason Saylor; stored on Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. HCSO DEP SAYLOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION NOTIFICATION FORM

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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).

x Jason Saylor
Printed Name of Interviewee

x 4/6/26 11:22am
Date / Time

x [Signature]
Signature of Interviewee

JOE WIMPANIGI
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature] #184
BCI Agent (Signature)