



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



2024-4066
 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1004 Park Lane, Apartment A,
 Middletown, Ohio (Butler County) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Officer
Involves: Officer Jacob Swanger (W)
Date of Activity: 01/09/2025
Activity Location: Middletown Police Department – Business – One Donham Plaza,
 Middletown, OH 45042
Author: SA David Hornyak, #112

Narrative:

On Thursday, January 9, 2025, at approximately 1101 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Dave Hornyak interviewed Middletown Police Officer Jacob Swanger, who was accompanied by his attorneys Jennifer Knight and Robb Stokar from Front Line Advisors, LLC. The interview took place in a conference room in the Administrative section of the Middletown Police Department (MPD). The interview was audio recorded.

Officer Swanger stated that he has been with MPD as a full-time officer for approximately 2.5 years. On December 24, 2024, Off. Swanger was wearing his patrol uniform with his badge displayed clearly identifying himself as a police officer. Directly regarding the shooting incident, Off. Swanger provided the following information:

He was on duty when he responded to a disturbance call at 1004 Park Lane. Officers Ryun Rawlins, Marc Hunt, and [REDACTED] also responded and all four officers arrived at the location at the same time.

The officers proceeding into the apartment building and to the landing on the second floor. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] knocked on the door where the disturbance was occurring. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] knocked on the door while also verbally stating either "Police," or "Middletown Police." A male inside the apartment was heard responding, "Who is it?"

At that time, Off. Swanger took a position on the stairs leading to the upper floor. The apartment door then opened from the inside and Off. Swanger observed it had been opened by a White male holding a black object with a barrel in his left hand. Off. Swanger realized it was a firearm and, due to having no cover, "stepped offline" as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] shot the male. [REDACTED] fired 3-4 shots in total and the male fell inward into the apartment.

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Off. Swanger identified a firearm on the floor of the apartment and showed the other officers. Officers also encountered another male in the apartment and told him to leave the room. Off. Rawlins moved the found gun away from the fallen male and Off. Swanger secured a dog in a back room. The officers began rendering first aid on the fallen male who had multiple apparent gunshot wounds. Off. Swanger stated that a fire alarm was going off in the apartment "...after the shots were fired..." and that the apartment was "...smoky."

Off. Swanger said his body-worn camera (BWC) was activated during the entire incident and that he had reviewed his BWC footage before the BCI interview. At one point during the interview, SA Seitzman showed Off. Swanger a portion of his own BWC video. Off. Swanger did not change any of his statements after viewing the video.

Off. Swanger said that no other officers fired during the encounter and the fallen subject did not say anything during the encounter. Off. Swanger stated that he did not fire due to several reasons including how quickly the incident transpired and not wanting to hit any fellow officers. Off. Swanger further said he felt that his life was in danger when he saw the subject open the door with the firearm.

The interview terminated at approximately 1126 hours.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-01-09 Interview of MPD Officer Jacob Swanger

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.