



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



2026-2190

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 2600 Navarre Ave.,
Oregon, OH 43616, Lucas County

Investigative Activity: Interview – Witness Officer Bartson
Involves: Officer Brett Bartson (W)
Activity Date: 06/23/2026
Activity Location: St Vincent's Hospital, 2213 Cherry Street, Toledo, Ohio
Authoring Agent: SA John P. Tingley #154

Narrative:

On Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 1030 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Doug Burke (SA Burke) and SA John Tingley (SA Tingley) interviewed Mercy Police Department (MPD) Officer (Ofc.) Brett Bartson (Bartson), who was accompanied, via Teams, by his attorneys, Brandon Santos and Mike Herring, from the McGuire, Woods Law Firm from Richmond Virginia. Also in attendance was Mercy Health Protective Services and Operations Director Everitt Werley. The interview took place at Mercy – St Vincents Hospital located at 2213 Cherry Street, Toledo, Ohio. The interview was audio recorded only per the request of Officer Bartson's Attorneys.

Officer Bartson was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the June 6, 2026, officer-involved shooting which occurred in the area of 2600 Navarre Avenue, Toledo, Lucas County, Ohio. Reportedly, Officer Bartson 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.

This report only summarizes the information deemed by the author to be of the most relevance to the investigation and does not purport to contain all the statements made by Officer Bartson, or questions and answers from the interview. Nor is it a word for word translation of the statements made, questions asked, and/or answers except where so indicated. The times listed will be the elapsed time from the beginning of the recording.

Officer Bartson was then given the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form which was read to him by SA Burke as he followed along. Officer Bartson then stated that he understood and signed and dated the form.

Officer Bartson began his narration and stated his radio call sign on June 6, 2026, was 30. He has been employed by the MPD for about five (5) years. He has been a police

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officer for a total of six (6) years. During the incident, Officer Bartson wore his standard police uniform with shoulder patches. He also wore an external ballistic vest, with his badge attached, and duty belt. 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. He does wear corrective lenses.

During the OICI, Officer Bartson was wearing a Body Worn Camera (BWC) which was activated during the OICI. Officer Bartson did not have any other audio, video, or audio and video recording devices with him during the incident. When asked by SA Burke, Officer Bartson stated that he had not watched his BWC or any other video of the OICI.

Officer Bartson then began his statement on his recollections of the incident.

Officer Bartson said that MPD - St Charles Hospital Officers were notified by MPD Central Dispatch (located at Mercy - St Vincents Hospital) of a disturbance in the Emergency Room (ER) parking lot in which a subject was being pushed into a vehicle by another subject.

Officer Bartson began responding to the call and was proceeding through a hallway leading to the "BHI" lobby of the hospital. While still en route to the call, Officer Bartson heard MPD [REDACTED] radio that he was out in the area of the disturbance call.

Officer Bartson continued moving towards the location of the incident while walking at a fast pace. However, when Officer Bartson got to the ramp leading to the exit doors, he looked out the glass (which had clear visibility to the ER parking lot) and saw [REDACTED] out with a subject with [REDACTED] having his duty weapon in his hand pointed at the subject (later identified as Christian Strassburg). Officer Bartson then drew his duty weapon and began running down the ramp towards the exit doors.

Officer Bartson continued and said that he was just exiting the hospital when [REDACTED] fired multiple rounds.

When asked, Officer Bartson stated that he was not close enough to hear what was being said outside. Officer Bartson then said:

"But what I could see was the individual, um, you know, closing in on [REDACTED] and what did not appear to be, you know, a friendly manner. Um, he did have his, his one hand...it looked like he was holding something." (14:12 mark of the recording)

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SA Burke then asked Officer Bartson what he did once he got outside and in the area of the incident.

Officer Bartson replied that he began giving commands to Samantha Binkley (Binkley), Strassburg's girlfriend/partner, while moving towards the incident location. Once at the scene, Officer Bartson checked with [REDACTED] and was notified by [REDACTED] that the other people in the area were not a threat.

Officer Bartson then escorted Binkley to a bench which was set against the wall outside of the ER. Once Strassburg was moved into the ER, [REDACTED] ordered Officer Bartson to go into the ER and be near the treatment room where Strassburg had been taken.

Officer Bartson then said, "And that's where I stood post for the remainder of my involvement." (17:28 mark of the recording)

At this point Officer Bartson ended his narration.

Officer Bartson was then asked a number of questions.

SA Burke asked if Officer Bartson had heard Strassburg make any comments or statements. Officer Bartson replied, "I couldn't make anything out." (17:51 mark of the recording)

SA Burke then asked if Officer Bartson was familiar with Strassburg. Officer Bartson said, "...I have no idea who this guy is." (20:17 mark of the recording)

Attorney Herring asked Officer Bartson if he had seen [REDACTED] moving during the incident. Officer Bartson responded, "He was taking some steps back, yes." (21:14 mark of the recording)

SA Burke then asked what it looked like as Strassburg was approaching [REDACTED]. Officer Bartson stated, "I would've interpreted it from, from what I could see, I would interpret it as being, uh, you know, hostile. His intentions appeared hostile." (21:33 mark of the recording)

Attorney Herring then asked if Officer Bartson had observed Strassburg comply with [REDACTED] commands or stop his hostile behavior. Officer Bartson replied, "Uh, at no point could I perceive anything that would indicate that he was retreating or complying...He was moving forward when being shot as well." (22:19 mark of the recording)

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SA Burke then asked if officer Bartson could give an approximate distance that was between [REDACTED] and Strassburg at the time of the OICI. Officer Bartson said, "I, I'd say well under twenty (20) feet, so probably in that you, 15..." (23:54 mark of the recording)

The interview was then concluded.

The interview was audio recorded. The recording was attached as Reference Item P – Witness Officers Interviews in AXON JUSTICE. The signed BCI Criminal Investigation Notification Form is also attached to this report. Please refer to the Reference Item and Attachment for further details.

References:

Reference Item P – Witness Officers Interviews

Attachments:

1. Brett Bartson BCI Criminal Notification

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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).

Brett Barton
Printed Name of Interviewee

6-23-26 1029
Date / Time

Brett Barton #30
Signature of Interviewee

SA Douglas Burke #162
BCI Agent (Printed)

SA [Signature]
BCI Agent (Signature)