



## Prosecutor Provides Update on Baymont Inn Officer-Involved Critical Incident

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 18, 2022**

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Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell announced that the Warren County Prosecutor's Office has concluded its review of the officer-involved critical incident that occurred on July 12, 2022 at the Baymont Inn, 2793 Waterpark Drive in Mason that resulted in the death of Thomas Henry Cromwell.

The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation conducted the case investigation, and on October 7, 2022 presented all the evidence to the Warren County Prosecutor's Office for its review.

"After careful review of all the facts and evidence, I have concluded that the application of the use of deadly force by Warren County Tactical Response Unit Office/Franklin Division of Police Officer Christopher Keene was objectively reasonable under the circumstances as defined by *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1 (1985) and *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989). Therefore, our office will not be presenting this matter to the Warren County grand jury and this investigation will be considered closed," Fornshell said.

Fornshell stated that Cromwell, who had recently escaped from River City Correctional Center in Cincinnati, barricaded himself into a room on the third floor of the Baymont Inn and held a female victim hostage for almost 12 hours. During several conversations with law enforcement negotiators and the hostage herself, Cromwell threatened "suicide by cop", indicated that law enforcement officers would have to kill him to save the female hostage, and stated that he was going to "go out in a glorious death". Law enforcement also observed a Facebook Live video that Cromwell streamed from the hotel room where he made threatening statements and displayed a knife. Ultimately, members of the Warren County Tactical Response Unit decided to breach entry into the hotel room to save the hostage, at which point they discovered (and the hostage herself indicated) that Cromwell was holding a knife directly to the hostage's neck. Officer Keene then fired a shot from his rifle at Cromwell, striking Cromwell and causing him to fall to the ground, thereby releasing the hostage from Cromwell's grasp.

The Hamilton County Coroner's Office, who conducted the autopsy, concluded that Mr. Cromwell's death was caused by a single gunshot wound to the head.



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