



## Prosecutor Provides Update on Middletown Walmart Officer-Involved Shooting Investigation

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell announced that the Warren County Prosecutor's Office has concluded its investigation into the officer-involved critical incident that occurred on February 25, 2023, that resulted in the death of Victor Lee Lykins.

"After careful review of all the facts and evidence, I have concluded that the application of the use of deadly force by Middletown Division of Police Officer Jonathan Hilgendorf and the use of force by Middletown Division of Police Officer Austin Renner 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.

On February 25, 2023, at approximately 5:30 p.m., Middletown Police Officer Jonathan Hilgendorf initiated a traffic stop for an improper turn on a 2008 Jeep Commander. The vehicle pulled into the parking lot of Walmart located at 2900 Towne Boulevard in Middletown. The passenger, Victor Lee Lykins, 47, who was the brother of the driver, provided false identifying information to Officer Hilgendorf.

After the driver was removed from the vehicle, he provided the correct identifying information for Lykins, who had an active warrant for his arrest. During this time, Middletown Police Officer Austin Renner arrived on scene and was speaking with Lykins.

When Officer Renner requested Lykins to exit the vehicle, Lykins refused and displayed a revolver. A struggle immediately ensued as Officer Renner attempted to gain control of the revolver. At that time, indicating that he feared for his partner's safety, Officer Hilgendorf fired two rounds into the vehicle, striking Lykins in the head and back. Lykins was pronounced deceased at the scene. BCI's crime scene investigators located Lykins' Burgo 22 LR double action revolver on the ground next to his body. The revolver contained eight 22 LR rounds.

During a subsequent interview with BCI, the driver reported that at the time of the traffic stop, Lykins told him he would not go back to jail and that he would kill himself first. The driver further stated that Lykins then grabbed the revolver from the back seat of the vehicle and placed the revolver between his legs before Officer Renner reapproached the vehicle.

The Montgomery County Coroner's Office, who conducted the autopsy, concluded that Lykins' death was caused by multiple gunshot wounds.



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