



CITY OF MOUNT VERNON

Mount Vernon Police Department

Office of the Chief of Police
5 North Gay Street
Mount Vernon, Ohio 43050-3241



November 21st, 2025

Press release

On November 21st, 2025 at approximately 10:30 am, a patrol officer from the Mount Vernon Police Department responded to a report of threats being made to several individuals.

During the officer's investigation, and based on the information provided by the victims, including statements and text messages, the suspect had made repeated threats of physical harm and death directed towards several persons. Information was also received that the suspect was in possession of multiple firearms.

A warrant was soon issued for the arrest of the suspect Justin L. Ross (34) for two counts of Aggravated Menacing, and one count of Telecommunications Harassment.

When officers approached the suspect's residence at approximately 11:30 am in the 800 block of West Vine Street to serve the arrest warrant, the incident escalated into a standoff with the armed and barricaded suspect. Officers quickly established a perimeter around the residence, and at this time the Mount Vernon Police Department Emergency Services Unit was activated and responded to the scene. Detectives from the Police Department were also called to the incident. Mount Vernon Police were also assisted by members of the Knox County Sheriff's Office and Knox County Dog Wardens Office.

Due to the direct proximity to the Knox ESC Learning Center, school staff were immediately notified, the school was placed on lock down, and school evacuation procedures were started. The school was completely and safely evacuated by 12:15 pm. The students and staff were taken by bus to the Mount Vernon High School field house.

After roughly two hours of communicating with the suspect, he exited his residence and surrendered himself to officers at approximately 1:35 pm without incident. He was then transported to the Knox County Jail and is being held without bond at this time.

As of this release, at least one firearm was seized and removed from the residence and a search warrant is being prepared for the home. This incident is still under investigation by the Mount Vernon Police Department, and further charges may be forthcoming.

In accordance with the provisions of Ohio's Marsy's Law, victim information will not be released at this time.

Robert K. Morgan
Chief of Police