



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



2023-0556

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 23897 US Rt 23, Circleville
43113 (L)

Investigative Activity: Video Review

Involves: Circleville Police Department (O), Pickaway County Sheriff's Office (O), Corporal Jon Campbell (S), Officer Tate Van Fossen (W)

Date of Activity: 02/25/2023

Activity Location: Rodeway Inn – 23897 US Route 23, Circleville, OH 43113, Pickaway County

Author: SA James Poole

Narrative:

On Saturday February 25, 2023 Circleville Police Department (CPD) requested the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred outside of room 104 of the Rodeway Inn, 23897 US Rt 23, Circleville, OH (Rodeway Inn). CPD and the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) were dispatched to locate a suicidal female with a gun. When deputies and officers arrived they located the female, who brandished a firearm. Two (2) deputies discharged their firearms, striking the female, who was transported to Grant and later succumbed to her injuries.

On April 26, 2023, SA Poole reviewed the video footage that was given by Circleville Police Department. SA Poole copied the body worn camera (BWC) and cruiser camera footage to a USB thumb drive and saved it within the physical case file. Please review the video footage in its entirety for specific details.

SA Poole reviewed the video and the following was noted within the Circleville Police folder "Axon_Body_3_Video_2023-02-25_0133_X6031331S_Ofc._Van_Fosen."

- The video begins with Officer Van Fossen talking with the front desk worker at the Holiday Inn.
- Officer Van Fossen then drives across the street to the Rodeway Inn to meet with other officers and Pickaway County Sheriff's deputies.
- Officer Van Fossen then went to the front desk of the Rodeway Inn to speak to the employee where he stated Pamela Croston checked into room 104 as "Pamela Garcia".
- At the 11:44 minute mark, Officer Van Fossen and other officers walk towards room 104 where they yell, "Gun, gun, gun" and find cover behind vehicles.
- Officer Van Fossen gets behind cover of a cruiser parked in front of room 104.

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- At the 13:39 minute mark, Croston is seen through the window of room 104 with what officers see a gun to her head.
- Officer Van Fossen is heard several times yelling, “Drop the gun.”
- Other officers are heard yelling commands to drop the gun
- Croston is then seen moving from the window out of site of the officers.
- Officer Van Fossen’s body worn camera is blocked by the tail light of the cruiser.
- At the 15:19 minute marker, officers are heard yelling for Croston to “drop the weapon” and “don’t do it” as she comes back into view.
- Officers continue to negotiate with Croston and give commands to drop the weapon. At the 18:42 gunfire is heard and seen coming from the deputies behind the cruiser. (The camera is still blocked by the tail light from seeing Croston.)
- Officers then approach Croston who is seen injured on the ground. Officer Van Fossen continues to clear room 104.
- Officers are then seen giving first aid to Croston.
- After the incident the rest of the video shows Officer Van Fossen setting up scene security and checking the front desk for any video footage the hotel might have.

SA Poole reviewed the video and the following was noted within the Circleville Police folder “Axon_Body_3_Video_2023-02-25_0138_X6031981M_Of._Hopkins.”

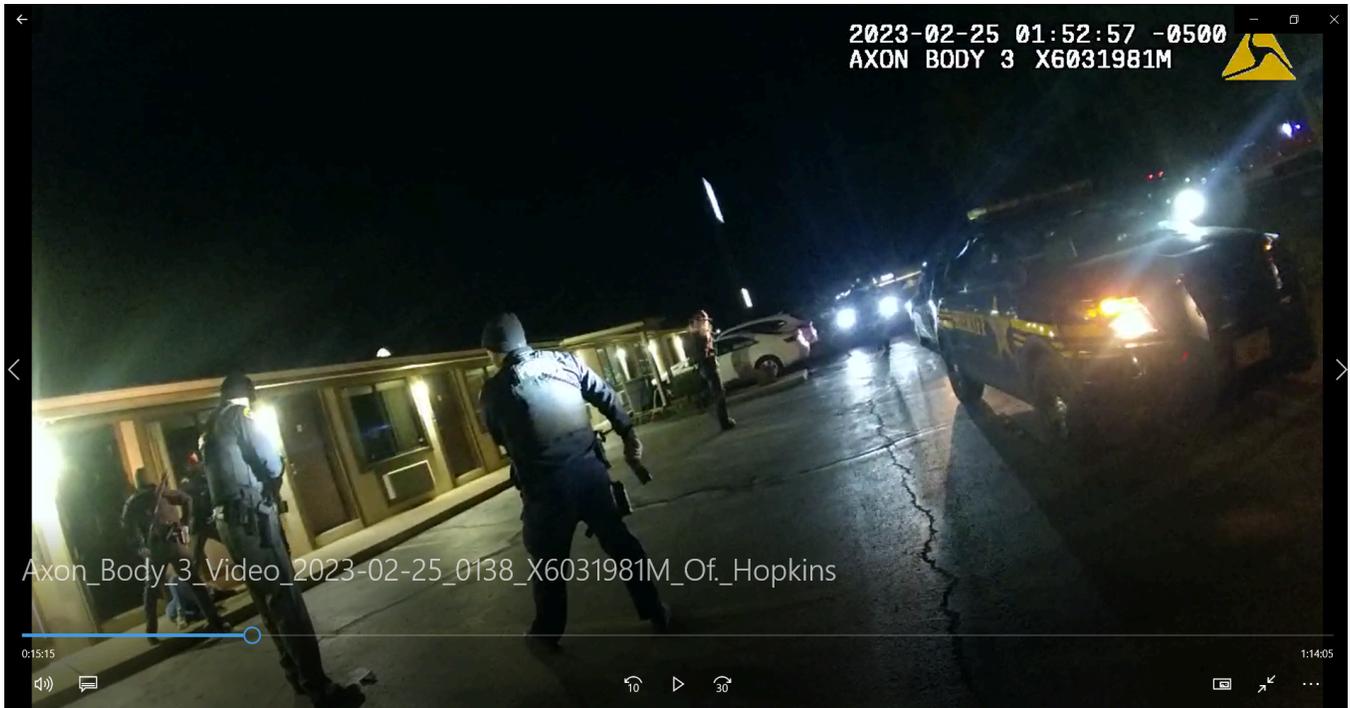
- The video starts out with Officer Hopkins en route to the Rodeway Inn and arriving with other officers
- Officers Hopkins checks the area searching for Croston arriving in front of room 104.

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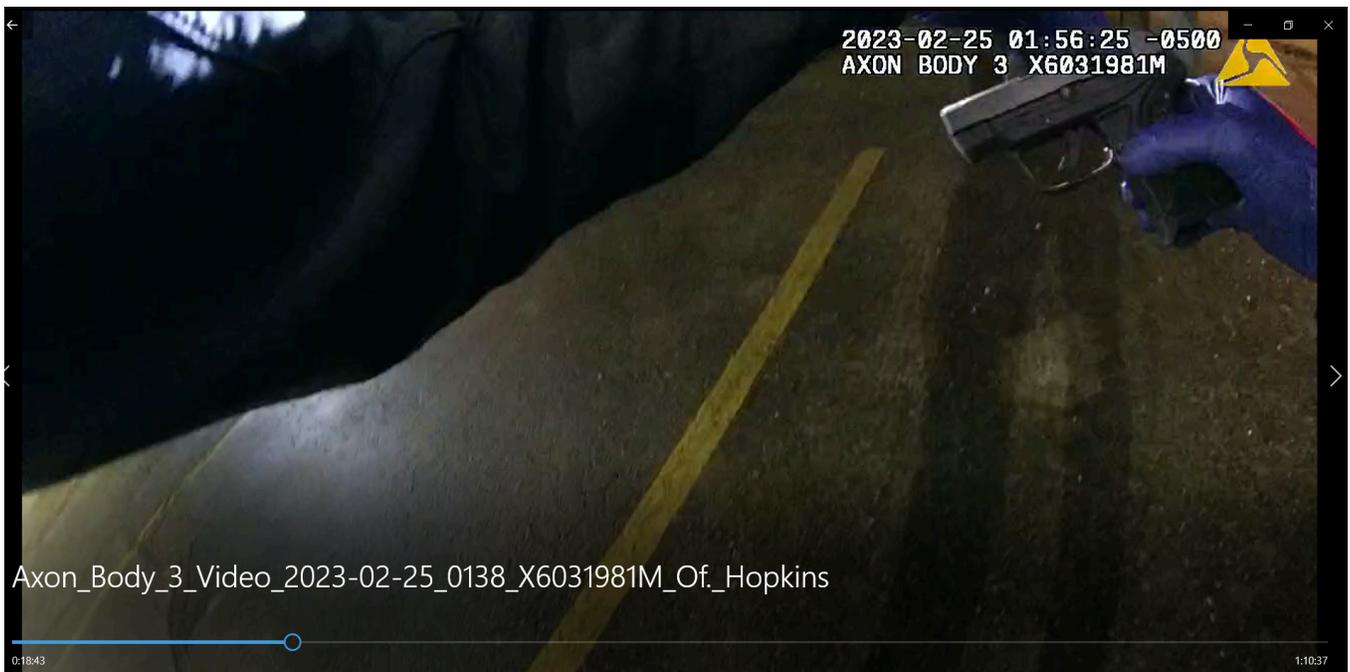


- At the 07:23 minute mark, officers are walking by room 104 when they yell “gun” and run for cover.
- Officer Hopkin's camera is blocked by staying behind cover of a police cruiser.
- Other officers are heard negotiating and commanding Croston with commands of “Don’t do it,” “Put the gun down,” and “please talk to us.”
- At the 14:27 gunfire can be heard.
- Officer Hopkins then approaches with other officers where Croston is seen on the ground with injuries.
- Officer Hopkins then clears room 104 with other officers.
- Officers are then seen giving first aid to Croston.

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- A black handgun is found by officers on the ground in front of where Croston is laying.
- Officer Hopkins gets a medic bag out of the cruiser and applies a tourniquet on Croston's leg assisting in medical aid.



- Officer Hopkins then collects the found handgun from the ground.

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- At the 18:54 minute mark ,the video shows Officer Hopkins take out the magazine and clear the chamber which there was one bullet that fell out.
- For the remainder of the video it shows Officer Hopkins helping set scene security and talking with other officers.

SA Poole reviewed the video and the following was noted within the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office folder "Officer_Involved_Shooting (1) Corporal Jon Campbell."

- The video begins with Corporal Campbell holding cover behind a State Highway Patrol cruiser with other officers.



- At the 1:25 minute mark it, shows Croston at the doorway of room 104 with a gun to her head.
- Several commands are given to Croston by other officers to include, "Put it down," "We can fix this," "Drop the weapon."

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- At the 3:18 minute mark, Croston begins walking towards the officers and points her gun at them.



- At the 3:18 minute mark, Corporal Campbell is seen firing his weapon 6-7 times at Croston.
- Croston is seen to be struck and falls towards the ground.

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- Corporal Campbell and other officers advance on Croston.
- Corporal Campbell is then seen giving first aid to Croston until medics arrive.
- There is no relevant video after.

References:

USB Thumbdrive