



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



2023-2598

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 415 Gregg Street, Washington
Courthouse, OH – Fayette County (L)

Investigative Activity: Body Camera Review, Records Received
Involves: Timothy D West (S)
Date of Activity: 10/02/2023
Activity Location: Washington Court House Police Dept. – Business – 130 North
Fayette Street, Washington Court House, OH 43160
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On Sunday, October 1, 2023, at approximately 1847 hours, the Washington Court House Police Department requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred after the involved subject, Timothy D. West (West), fled on foot from a traffic stop and was subdued by the pursuing officer, Officer Trevor Phillips (Officer Phillips), with a Taser energy weapon. After the Taser deployment, West became unresponsive and was later pronounced deceased.

On October 2, 2023, BCI Special Agent Steven Seitzman received body-worn and cruiser camera footage of the incident from Washington Court House Police Lieutenant Matthew Pfeifer. SA Seitzman received the cruiser camera footage (front, front wide, and cabin) of Sergeant Jeffery Heinz and Officer Phillips. He received body-worn camera footage of Sergeant Heinz, Officer Gavin Moore, and Officer Phillips. It should be noted that SA Seitzman did not review the cabin footage in its entirety as none of the relevant events occurred in a police cruiser cabin.

The majority of this report will focus on Officer Phillips' body-worn camera footage, as it was believed to be the most useful in understanding the events during the OICI. SA Seitzman documented the portions of the audio and video he believed to be the most relevant in obtaining the facts necessary to provide an understanding of the events that took place during the incident. The reader is encouraged to review the footage in its entirety.

SA Seitzman had previously learned or understood that there is commonly a delay in audio upon activating a cruiser or body-worn camera. The delay is typically due to the video recovering historical data during playback. Meaning, once the respective camera is activated, it goes back a predetermined amount of time. Washington Court House Police cruiser cameras have a sixty-second playback, while the body-worn cameras have a thirty-second playback. Furthermore, the time standard watermarked in the footage appears to be Eastern Daylight

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Time. The times listed in this report will refer to the timestamps as they appeared in the footage.

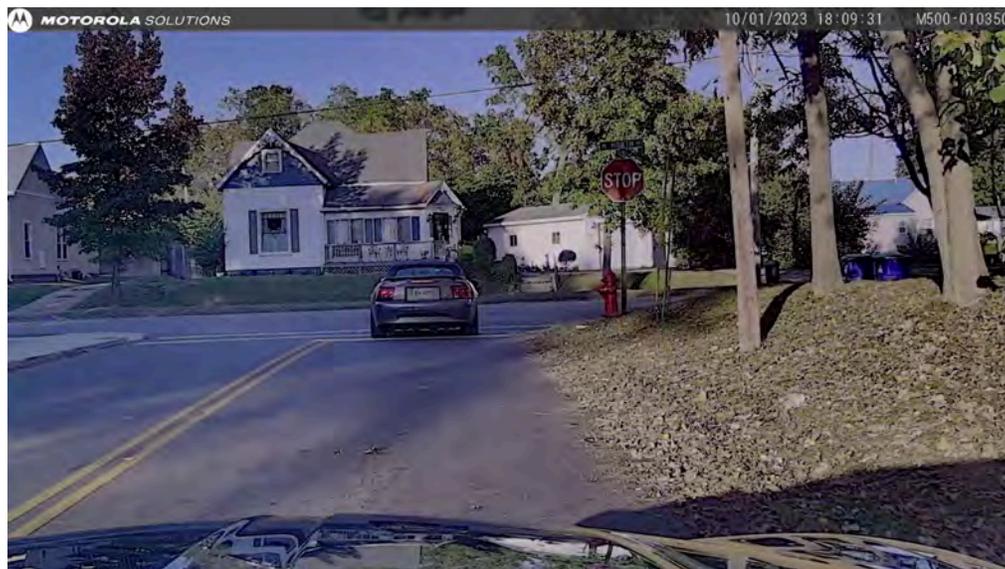
The following is a summary of the video footage:

Officer Phillips' Cruiser Camera Footage

File Name:	00_1d_96_1f_cf_af-0001607983_Front_20231001_1808_Stream0
File Fps:	30.0
Length (frames):	71037
Duration (time):	00:39:27.866

SA Seitzman noted the following:

- 18:08:46– The video begins (no audio for the first minute).
- 18:08:56– The Ford Mustang that becomes the subject of the traffic stop is seen making a left turn onto Eyman Park Drive from Lakeview Avenue.
- 18:09:31– The Ford Mustang comes to a stop sign at N. North Street. The Ford Mustang stopped beyond the stop bar and failed to use a turn signal. See the photograph below.



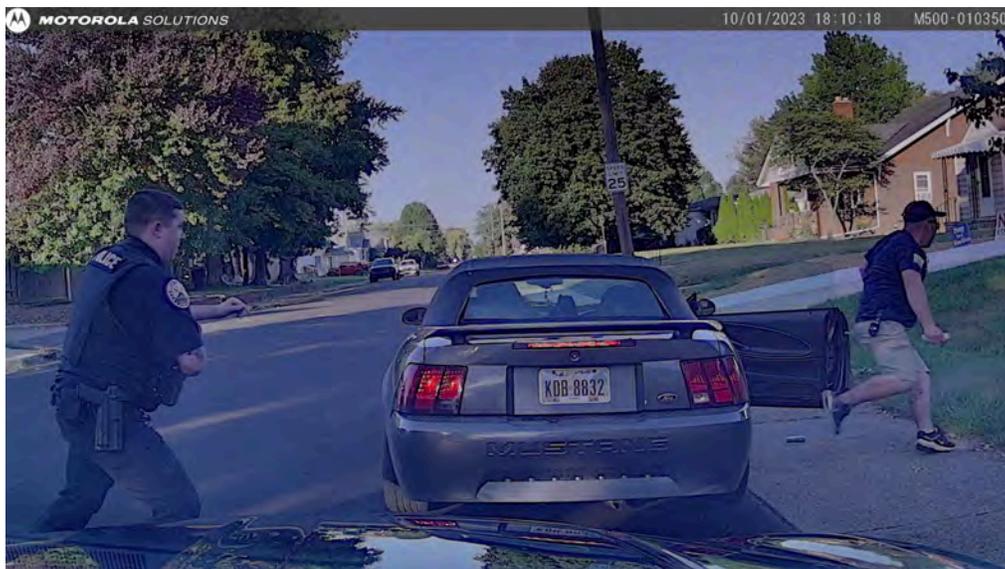
- 18:09:48– The Ford Mustang turns left onto Gregg Street. Officer Phillips' camera is activated, and he begins to call out the traffic stop.
- 18:10:07– The Ford Mustang stops on Gregg Street near Grace Street. The license plate on the vehicle, Ohio KDB8832, is readable.
- 18:10:12– The passenger, later identified as West, looks to his left, then his right.
- 18:10:16– West's door opens.

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- 18:10:17– The West exits the vehicle and begins to run. He is holding a brown bag and black objects in his left hand. He is also holding an object(s) in his right hand. See the image below.

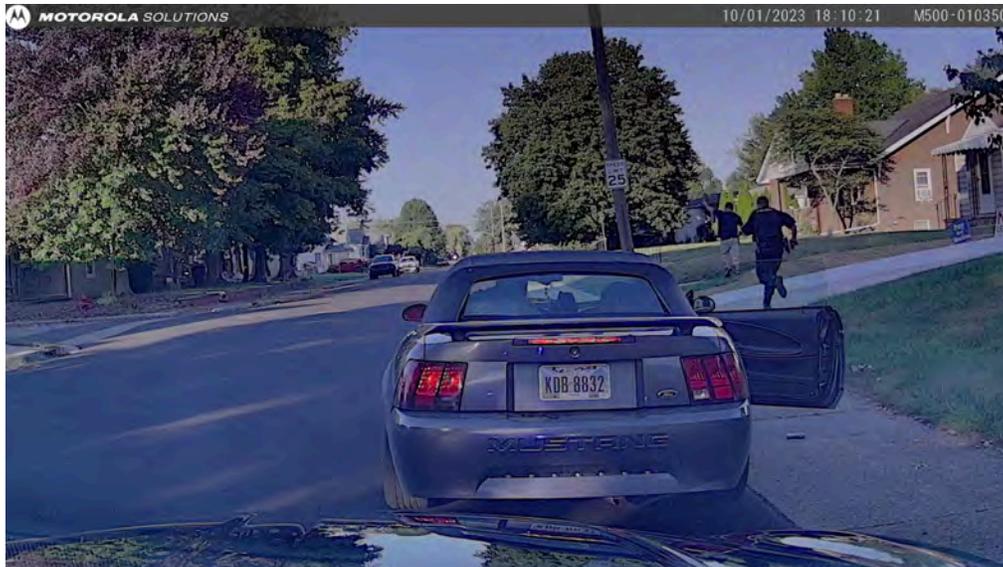


- 18:10:18– A knife sheath can be seen on West's right side. At the same time, Officer Phillips reaches for his Taser. See the image below.



- 18:10:21– West throws the brown bag. See the image below.

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- 18:10:33– Officer Phillips chases West out of camera frame.

Officer Phillips' Body-Worn Camera Footage

File Name:	00_1d_96_22_13_ab-0008126474_BWC Trevor Phillips (22)_20231001_1809_Stream0
File Fps:	29.9700
Length (frames):	35280
Duration (time):	00:19:37.142

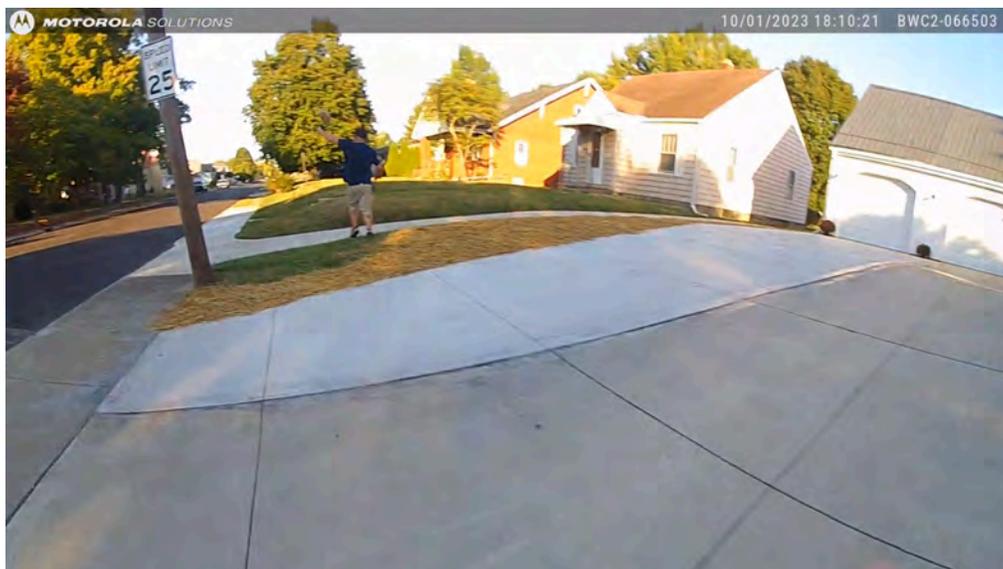
SA Seitzman noted the following:

- 18:09:17– The video begins (no audio for the first thirty seconds).
- 18:09:49– Officer Phillips calls out a traffic stop on "Gregg at North."
- 18:10:06– Officer Phillips updates his location to "Gregg at Grace."
- 18:10:10– Officer Phillips exits his cruiser and approaches the left rear of the stopped vehicle. See the image below.

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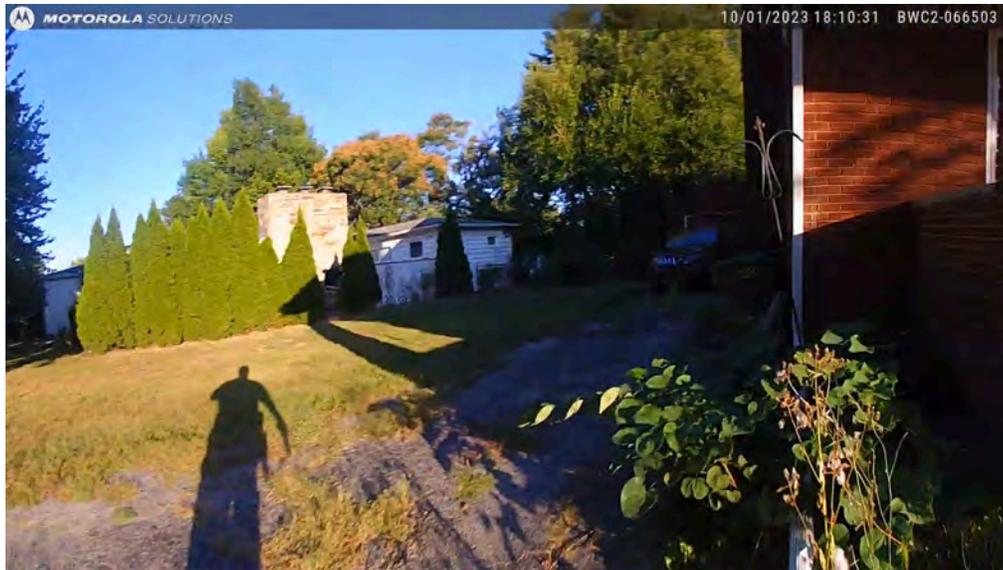


- 18:10:17– The front passenger (West) exits the vehicle and begins to run. Officer Phillips gives chase, making the footage difficult to view due to the amount of motion.
- 18:10:21– West throws a brown bag. See the image below.

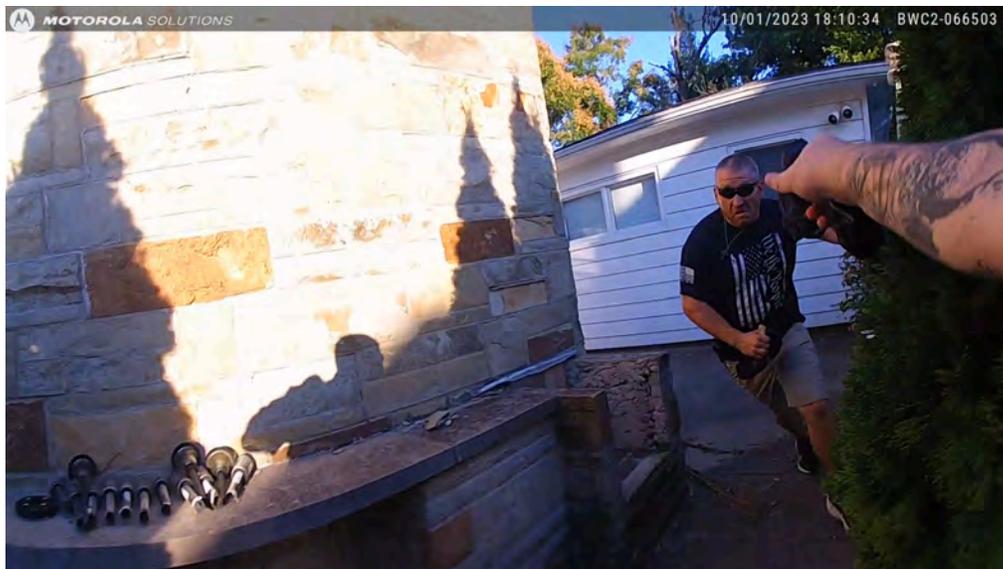


- 18:10:31– West runs between trees behind a house. See the image below.

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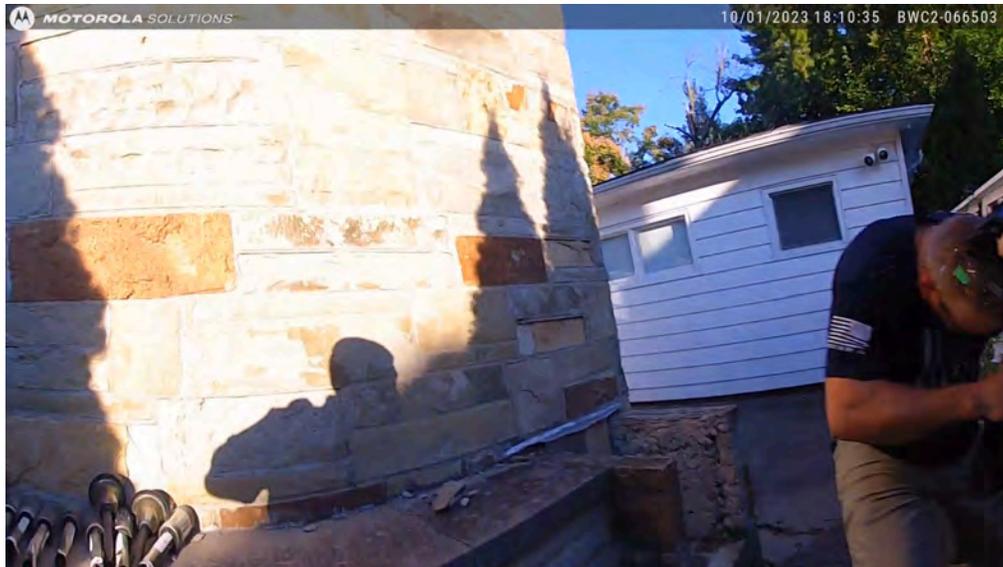


- 18:10:31–18:10:34– West is out of camera frame. He reappears at 18:10:34.
- 18:10:34– West is seen running toward Officer Phillips. See the image below.

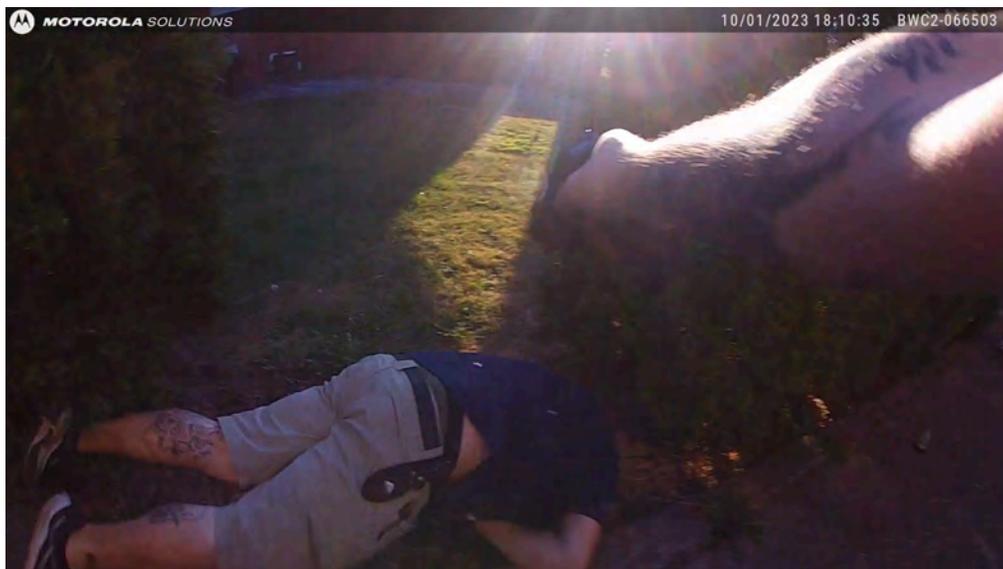


- 18:10:35– Officer Phillips discharges his Taser. See the image below.

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- 18:10:35– 18:10:36– West falls to the ground. See the image below.



- 18:10:41– Officer Phillips says, "Stay where you're at! Put your hands behind your back! Put your hands behind your back!" West does not respond.
- 18:11:02– Officer Phillips radios that he has the subject detained.
- 18:11:17– Officer Phillips says, "Get on your side," and tries to roll West on his left side. West does not appear to be responsive.
- 18:12:08– Officer Phillips radios for a "29." [Agent's note: a 29 is the code for an ambulance. This occurred approximately 1 minute and 33 seconds after Officer Phillips discharged his Taser.]
- 18:13:01– Officer Phillips radios that the involved subject is West.
- 18:13:18– Officer Phillips picks up items around West, such as a hat, money, and two phones.

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- 18:13:30– Officer Gavin Moore arrives. Officer Phillips told Officer Moore, "I accidentally got him in the head with the Taser." Officer Phillips then informs Officer Moore that West is unconscious and that he might have hit his head.
- 18:13:55– Officer Moore asks Officer Phillips if West is breathing.
- 18:14:07– Officer Moore says, "I don't know if he's breathing." Officer Phillips radios the information to dispatch and asks for the ambulance to "step it up."
- 18:14:20– Officer Phillips begins chest compressions (approximately 3 minutes and 45 seconds after the use of force).
- 18:15:16– Officer Moore says something to the effect of West's color being "dark purple."
- 18:15:16– Sergeant Jeffery Heinz's voice can be heard saying something to the effect of, "He hit his head. You didn't tell us that." Officer Phillips responded by saying something to the effect of, "I accidentally got him...Taser." Officer Phillips then said, "I think he face planted in the dirt." Sgt. Heinz asks him if he shot West in the back, to which he replies, "He ran back there, he ran back towards me, and I shot it at him as he was running towards me."
- 18:16:34– Sgt. Heinz asks again about West's head injury. Officer Phillips says, "He was running towards me, and I shot him with the taser, and I don't know. I think he was ducking at the same time."
- 18:17:24– The medics arrive and begin taking over patient care (approximately 6 minutes and 50 seconds after the use of force).
- 18:19:20– Sgt. Heinz has Officer Phillips show him where West fell. Sgt. Heinz found a brick and determined that West likely hit his head on it.
- 18:20:29– Sgt. Heinz collects the Taser cartridge from the medics.
- 18:21:30– Officer Phillips stands next to his patrol cruiser at the direction of Sgt. Heinz.
- 18:28:11– Officer Phillips can be heard crying.
- 18:28:54– The BWC is deactivated.

Sergeant Jeffery Heinz's Body-Worn Camera Footage

File Name:	00_1d_96_22_13_c6-0008176812_BWC Jeff Heinz (13)_20231001_1800_Stream0
File Fps:	29.97
Length (frames):	50292
Duration (time):	00:28:29.743

- 18:00:57–The video begins with Sergeant Heinz conducting an unrelated traffic stop.
- 18:10:21– Sgt. Heinz begins to respond to Officer Phillip's traffic stop. He activates his lights and sirens at 18:10:31.
- 18:11:30– Sgt. Heinz arrives. He makes contact with the driver of the stopped Ford Mustang. Sgt. Heinz asks the driver who the passenger was. He says, "Tim." The driver said that the passenger kept telling him to run. The driver then provided his driver's

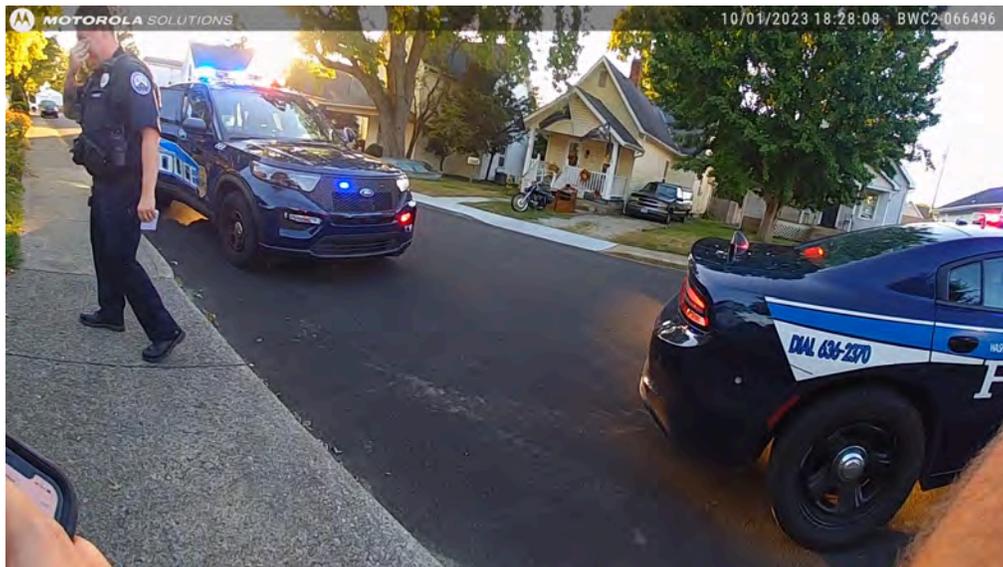
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license to Sgt. Heinz.

- 18:12:34– Sgt. Heinz retrieves the brown bag that West threw.
- 18:13:04– Officer Moore arrived. Sgt. Heinz directed him to Officer Phillips' location.
- 18:13:12– The driver identified property in the vehicle that belonged to West, including a "black box."
- 18:19:24– Officer Moore shows Sgt. Heinz the location of West's fall. See the image below.



- 18:28:09– Officer Moore is seen crying. See the image below.



- 18:29:10– The video is deactivated.

Sergeant Jeffery Heinz's Cruiser Camera Footage

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File Name:	00_1d_96_1f_a4_55-0003412362_Front_20231001_1800_Stream0
File Fps:	30.00
Length (frames):	86460
Duration (time):	00:48:01.966

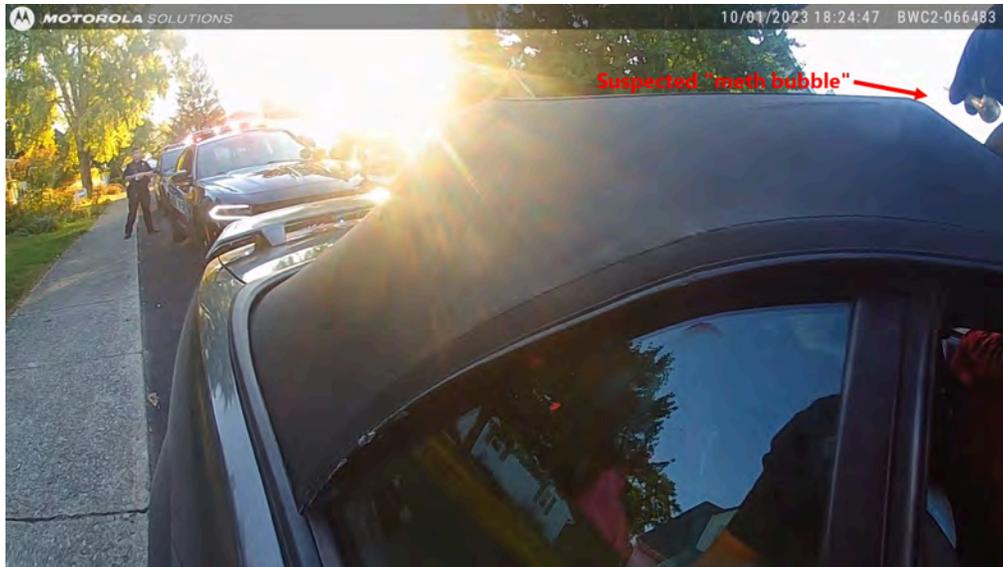
- The cruiser camera footage was reviewed. While it provided a different point of view, it did not lead to any additional facts not known from other footage.

Officer Gavin Moore's Body-Worn Camera Footage

File Name:	00_1d_96_22_13_7e-0008170658_BWC Gavin Moore (25)_20231001_1810_Stream0
File Fps:	29.97
Length (frames):	36570
Duration (time):	00:20:20.185

- The body-worn camera footage was reviewed. While it provided a different point of view, it did not lead to many additional facts not known from other footage.
- 18:20:24- Officer Moore asked the driver, who identified himself as Jonathan Penn, how he knew West. He said "a girl" he used to go to school with introduced them a couple weeks prior. He was giving West a ride from Walmart to Bloomberg. He then said, "He had that bag of shit, and he told me to run." After telling West that he would not run, he said, "He [West] just fucking darted." He then told Officer Moore that West suffered a seizure a week prior when he gave him a ride to Greenfield. Mr. Penn then identified property in the vehicle that belonged to West. Officer Moore removed the property, including bags and a suspected "meth bubble." The property was secured in Sergeant Heinz's cruiser.

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- 18:30:58–The video was deactivated.

All cruiser and body-worn camera footage received from the Washington Court House Police Department was uploaded to the AGO BCI Data Network F:Drive. SA Seitzman used Amped Replay software to create the still images that appear in this report. Furthermore, SA Seitzman used Amped Replay to create a subclip of Officer Phillips' body-worn camera footage, as well as a subclip of the Taser event slowed to two frames per second.

References:

AGO BCI Data Network F: Drive/ Washington Court House PD Body-Worn & Cruiser Camera Footage
AGO BCI Data Network F: Drive/ Officer Phillips BWC subclips

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