



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



2024-2614

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1309 Yellowstone Road,
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121

Investigative Activity: Video Review: South Euclid Police BWC and Cruiser Video Reviewed, Amped Replay Used

Involves: South Euclid Police Corporal Shauna McCann (W), South Euclid Police Officer Chris Hilier (W), South Euclid Police Officer Alex Clementi (W)

Activity Date: 11/14/2024

Activity Location: BCI, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, OH 44286

Authoring Agent: SA Nicholas Valente #139

Narrative:

On November 14, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente (Valente) completed a review of the video captured from the body-worn cameras (BWC) and a cruiser camera of South Euclid Police officers who responded to the scene and assisted the Cleveland Heights Police Department.

Amped Replay was used to review the videos.

SA Valente made working copies of the videos and placed the copied videos in a folder on his BCI issued laptop. The working copies of the videos were used for the review.

BWC VIDEO 1:

Axon Body 3 Video 2024-08-29 2224_X60A6223D -Working Copy

The Amped Replay software noted the following:

- The video was filmed at a rate of 30.0 frames per second.
- There was a total of 152,149 frames in the video.
- The video was 01:24:31.63 long.

Frame	0
Video-Embedded Timestamp	2024-08-29 22:24:38
Activity/Notes	This is the first frame of the video.

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Frame	152,149
Video-Embedded Timestamp	2024-08-29 23:49:09
Activity/Notes	This is the last frame of the video.

The video began as South Euclid Police Officer Alex Clemente (Officer Clemente) drove to the scene of the incident utilizing his emergency lights and siren. Officer Clemente arrived shortly after the officer-involved shooting occurred. Upon his arrival on scene, Officer Clemente assisted the Cleveland Heights Police officers in maintaining a secure perimeter around the scene. No derivative works were made from this recording.

BWC VIDEO 2:

Axon_Body_3_Video_2024-08-29_2227_X60A6847C - Working Copy

The Amped Replay software noted the following:

- The video was filmed at a rate of 30.0 frames per second.
- There was a total of 205,063 frames in the video.
- The video was 01:53:55.43 long.

Frame	0
Video-Embedded Timestamp	2024-08-29 22:27:07
Activity/Notes	This is the first frame of the video.

Frame	205,063
Video-Embedded Timestamp	2024-08-30 00:21:01
Activity/Notes	This is the last frame of the video.

The video began as South Euclid Police Corporal Shauna McCann (Corporal McCann) approached the scene on foot. Corporal McCann assisted Cleveland Heights Police in providing scene security. Corporal McCann attempted to comfort and escort family members of the subject away from and out of the scene.

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Corporal McCann spoke with Ferrel Thomas (Ferrel) as Ferrel sat in the grass in his front yard. During that conversation Ferrel asked Corporal McCann if his son was dead and told Corporal McCann the police had shot his son. Further, Ferrel stated (at the 18:02 mark of the recording), "I know he (the subject) fucked up. I know he fucked up. But y'all told me to bring him, to leave him in the house by himself. I should have stayed in there with him." While he continued to explain to the officer what transpired, Ferrel again shared he did not believe he should have listened to the police and exited the house. Ferrel then stated (at the 18:36 mark of the recording) "But he (the subject) did it, he, motherfucker. Know what the fuck he did to himself, goddamn it. Mother fucker."

Corporal McCann then obtained biographical and contact information from Ferrel. Ferrel explained he felt he failed his children, and his children had not seen their mother in years. Ferrel stated he was an army veteran and EMT and knew his son was dead because he still had not been loaded into the ambulance parked in the roadway in front of the scene.

Ferrel then again shared he should not have exited the home and believed there was someone outside the home who was going to be able to talk his son down. At the 25:29 mark of the recording Ferrel stated, "This is my fault. This aint y'all fault. It's not y'all fault. Y'all doing y'all job. He came out opening fire."

Ferrel complained to Corporal McCann that he had been waiting an excessive amount of time to be told where his son was and if he was alive. While expressing these frustrations Ferrel explained that waiting even five minutes in an ambulance before leaving for a hospital was a long time. At the 32:14 mark of the recording Ferrel said, "Five minutes is an eternity for somebody who just got shot. And I know y'all had to shoot him because he already came out the house firing a fucking weapon. I should have fucking stayed in there. He would have never came out there doin' that. If he would have shot anybody, it would have been me. It would have been all right."

At the 40:10 mark of the recording Ferrel asked, "Did he hurt anybody else?" Corporal McCann seemingly misheard the question and responded, "Not yet, I think there just trying to figure out where your daughters are going to go." Ferrel repeated the question, "Did he hurt anybody else?" Corporal McCann asked, "Did who?" Ferrel replied, "Did Christian hurt anybody else. Corporal McCann stated she did not know.

Around the 45:00 mark of the recording Detective Robinson approached Ferrel and informed him his son was deceased. Detectives asked Ferrel if he would accompany them to the police station to be questioned. Ferrel denied the requests and reiterated that he wanted to be allowed back into his house. Ferrel told Detective Laurello the

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subject had ADHD but no serious mental health issues. Ferrel stated he told the subject he needed to move out and was high on mushrooms earlier that day. Ferrel explained that although the subject may have been upset about having to move out of the family home that was not the impetus for the events leading up the officer involved shooting. Rather, while under the influence of mushrooms the subject believed someone killed his sister. The subject fired his gun in the home more than one time, apparently in response to the mistaken belief someone had shot his sister. At the 1:00:00 mark of the recording Detective Laurello asked Ferrel, "Did he (the subject) shoot outside at all?" Ferrel replied, "Yeah, right before y'all shot him and killed him." Detective Laurello asked, "He was outside when he shot?" Ferrel replied, "I'm sure." Detective Laurello asked Ferrel how he knew that. Ferrel replied, "Because I was [unintelligible] out here watching y'all shoot him and kill him." Ferrel reported the subject recently began employment at a nearby McDonalds.

Around the 1:37:00 mark of the recording, a female Ferrel identified in the video as being his mother arrived on scene. Ferrel embraced the woman in an extended hug and spoke with her about the shooting. The conversation between Ferrel and this woman has already been documented in the review of other police body-worn camera recordings.

No derivative works were made from this recording.

BWC VIDEO 3:

Axon Body 3 Video 2024-08-29 2235 X60A6355F -Working Copy

The Amped Replay software noted the following:

- The video was filmed at a rate of 30.0 frames per second.
- There was a total of 182,065 frames in the video.
- The video was 01:41:08.83 long.

Frame	0
Video-Embedded Timestamp	2024-08-29 22:35:06
Activity/Notes	This is the first frame of the video.

Frame	182,065
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Video-Embedded Timestamp	2024-08-30 00:16:14
Activity/Notes	This is the last frame of the video.

The video began as South Euclid Police Officer Chris Hilier (Officer Hilier) drove to the scene in his patrol vehicle utilizing his emergency lights and siren. Officer Hilier arrived after the officer-involved shooting occurred. Officer Hilier used crime scene tape to cordon off an additional area surrounding the originally secured area where the subject was then located. Officer Hilier continued to provide scene security throughout the remainder of the recording. No derivative works were made from this recording.

The final two recordings, titled "Axon_Fleet_3_Front_Camera_Video_2024-08-29_2234" and "Axon_Fleet_3_Interior_Camera_Video_2024-08-29_2234" are recordings captured from the dash camera and an interior backseat camera of Officer Hilier's patrol vehicle as he travelled to the scene utilizing his emergency lights and siren. No derivative works were made from these recordings.

References:

Item Q – BWC Videos

Attachments:

None

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