



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



2024-3564

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 5050 Eastpointe Drive,
Medina, Ohio 44256, Medina County

Investigative Activity: Video Review

Involves: Charles Alexander (S), [REDACTED] (S), Medina County
Sheriff's Office (O)

Activity Date: 12/12/2024

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

Authoring Agent: SA Jesse Bynum

Narrative:

On Tuesday, November 26, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jesse Bynum (SA Bynum) received video footage from the Medina County Sheriff's Office (MCSO). SA Bynum was informed that the videos contained footage from the drone, dash, and body cameras recorded by the Medina County Sheriff's Office.

MCSO Drone

1. DJI_0893_W
2. DJI_0894_T
3. DJI_0895_W
4. DJI_0896_T

MCSO Deputies

1. DavidMcGurk_202411112009_Car16-1
2. DavidMcGurk_202411112011_BWC2130724-0
3. ElizaPostlethwait_202411112010_Car06-1
4. GabrielCotrufo_202411112002_Car14-1
5. GabrielCotrufo_202411112015_BWC2023868-0
6. GabrielCotrufo_202411112036_BWC2023868-0

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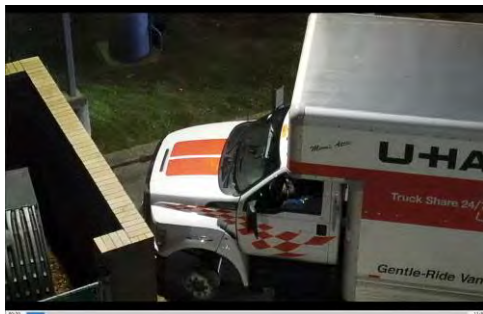
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7. JosephPiroli_202411112010_Car19-1
8. KrisConwill_202411112100_BWC2130424-0
9. NathanielYarborough_202411112056_Car24-1
10. Unknown_202411112021_Car26-1

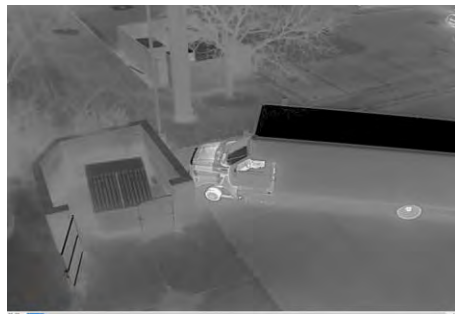
SA Bynum reviewed the video recordings and noted the following:

The Medina County Sheriff's Office Drone video recordings are from two flights with each containing video in color and one in thermal. As both the thermal and the color video recordings have the same perspective, they will be shown together in the following review.

The files "DJI_0893_W" and "DJI_0894_T" were videos that were 11:58 in length and from a drone camera of Medina County Sheriff's Office. At the 00:30 mark of the video, Charles Alexander's left hand was observed holding a dark object being used to break the driver's side glass (Image 1, Image 3, and Image 4). The thermal view of the same point showed that there was a small object that penetrated the window at the same time that the glass was broken (Image 2).



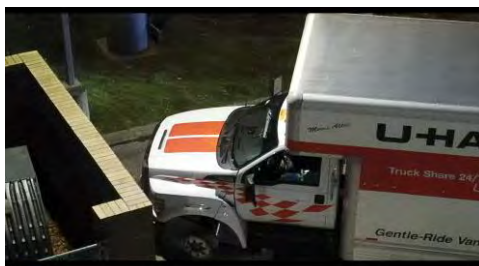
(Image 1)



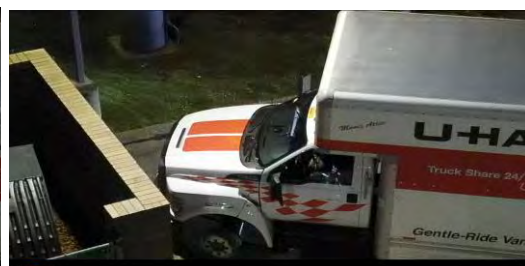
(Image 2)



(Image 2 Zoomed)



(Image 3)



(Image 4)

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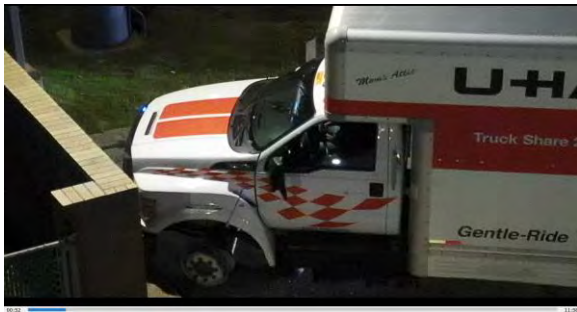
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At the 00:52 mark of the video, Charles's left hand was observed holding a black object consistent with a pistol with it facing towards Oaklynn (Image 5 and Image 6).



(Image 5)



(Image 6)

At the 2:20 mark of the video Charles's left hand was observed holding a dark object consistent with the size and shape of a pistol pointing toward Oaklynn (Image 7). The thermal view was blocked due to the windshield (Image 8).



(Image 7)

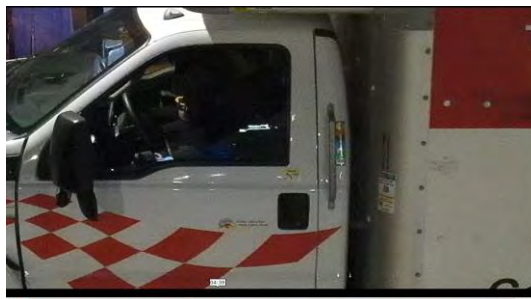


(Image 7 Zoomed)



(Image 8)

At the 3:55 mark of the video, Charles was observed with his right arm around Oaklynn sitting in the center of the U-Haul seat (Image 9 and Image 10).



(Image 9)



(Image 10)

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At the 7:52 mark of the video, Charles's left hand was observed holding a dark object consistent with the size and shape of a pistol pointed out and upward towards the OSHP Helicopter (Image 11 and Image 12)



(Image 11)



(Image 11 Zoomed)



(Image 12)

At the 10:22 mark of the video, Charles was observed pointing a pistol at the drone (Image 13 and Image 14).



(Image 13)



(Image 14)



(Image 14 Zoomed)

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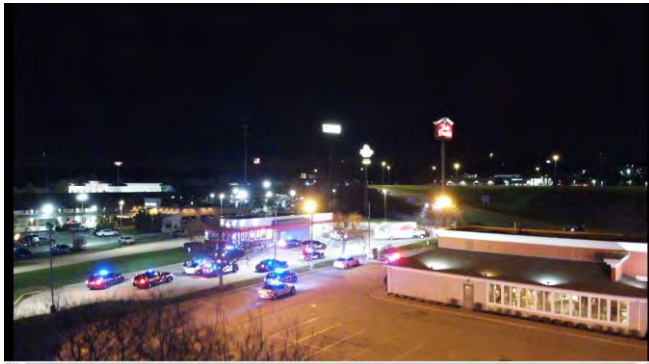
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The files "DJI_0895_W" and "DJI_0896_T" were videos that were 10:17 in length and from a drone camera of Medina County Sheriff's Office. At the 00:00 mark of the video, officers were observed approaching the U-Haul (Image 15 and Image 16). Nothing further of evidentiary value was noted.



(Image 15)



(Image 16)

The file "DavidMcGurk_202411112009_Car16-1" was a video that was 1:12:59 in length and from Medina County Sheriff's Office cruiser 16 being driven by Deputy David McGurk (McGurk). Audio is not present in the video until the 02:07 mark of the video. At the 15:47 mark of the video, Deputy McGurk was observed parking his cruiser on Eastpointe Drive (Image 17). Due to the location and position of the cruiser, nothing further of evidentiary value was noted.



(Image 17)

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The file "DavidMcGurk_202411112011_BWC2130724-0" was a video that was 55:07 in length and from Medina County Sheriff's Office body camera worn by Deputy David McGurk. Audio is not present until the 00:30 mark of the video. In the upper right corner of the video is a time and date of 11/11/2024 20:11:35 along with an identifier of BWC2-130724. At the 06:20 mark of the video, Deputy McGurk was observed getting ready to deploy spikes on 71 South (Image 18).



(Image 18)

At the 15:03 mark of the video, Deputy McGurk was observed deploying a drone (Image 19). At the 15:36 mark of the video, Deputy McGurk used his radio to advise other officers that someone (Charles) "just shot out the driver's side door." At the 20:33 mark of the video, Deputy McGurk advised that "he is dialing a phone number."



(Image 19)

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At the 27:28 mark of the video, Deputy McGurk was observed changing the battery of his drone.



(Image 20)

At the 49:57 mark of the video, Deputy McGurk was observed deploying the drone again. The body camera only showed the side of the cruiser. Nothing further of evidentiary value was noted.

The file "ElizaPostlethwait_202411112010_Car06-1" was a video that was 1:55:07 in length and from Medina County Sheriff's Office cruiser 6 being driven by Deputy Eliza Postlethwait (Postlethwait). Audio is not present until the 2:07 mark of the video. At the 14:50 mark of the video, Deputy Postlethwait was observed parking the cruiser in the Arby's parking lot (Image 21).



(Image 21)

At the 13:10 mark of the video, a dispatcher was heard advising that "He just told the little girl she was going to go to Heaven." At the 16:00 mark of the video, a gunshot is heard. At the 16:55 mark of the video, Montville Township Police Officer Rich Percy

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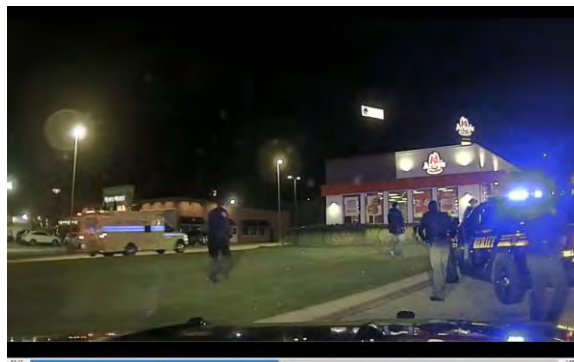
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(Percy) was heard advising other officers that Medina Township Police Chief John Minek (Minek) was on the phone with Charles Alexander as a crisis negotiator. At the 51:02 mark of the video, a gunshot was heard. Shortly thereafter, officers were observed running towards the location of the U-Haul. At the 54:13 mark of the video, Life Support Team's (LST) ambulance was observed traveling through the Arby's parking lot towards the U-Haul (Image 22). Nothing further of evidentiary value was noted.



(Image 22)

The file "GabrielCotrufo_202411112002_Car14-1" was a video that was 1:25:52 in length and from Medina County Sheriff's Office cruiser 14 being driven by Deputy Gabriel Cotrufo (Cotrufo). Audio is not present until the 2:07 mark of the video. At the 08:08 mark of the video, Deputy Cotrufo was observed getting ready to deploy spikes on 71 South (Image 23).



(Image 23)

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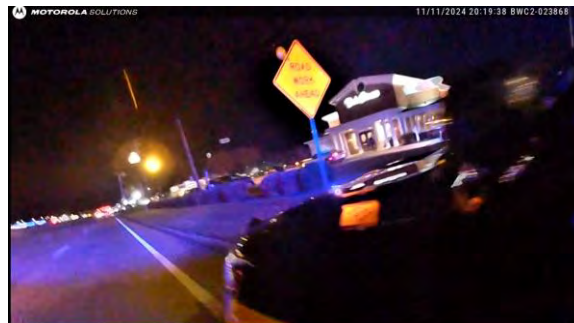
At the 16:53 mark of the video, Deputy Cotrufo was observed stopping his cruiser on route 18 near the entrance to Bob Evan's (Image 24).



(Image 24)

At the 41:43 mark of the video, Montville Officer Percy was heard advising dispatch that Chief Minek was unable to contact Charles Alexander. At the 43:55 mark of the video, Montville Officer Percy was heard advising that Chief Minek was on the phone with Charles Alexander. At the 49:07 mark of the video, Percy was heard asking dispatch if Charles called back to dispatch. Due to the location of the cruiser, nothing further of evidentiary value was noted.

The file "GabrielCotrufo_202411112015_BWC2023868-0" was a video that was 16:26 in length and from Medina County Sheriff's Office body camera worn by Deputy Gabriel Cotrufo. In the upper right corner of the video is a time and date of 11/11/2024 20:15:28 along with an identifier of BWC2-023868. Audio is not present until the 0:05 mark of the video. At the 04:09 mark of the video, Deputy Cotrufo was observed exiting his cruiser in front of Bob Evan's (Image 25).



(Image 25)

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At the 05:22 mark of the video, Deputy Cotrufo was heard discussing a plan to use a hill nearby for cover to shoot Charles Alexander. It was decided, due to the location of Charles, Oaklynn, and other officers, there were limited angles. Nothing further of evidentiary value was noted.

The file "GabrielCotrufo_202411112036_BWC2023868-0" was a video that was 27:37 in length and from Medina County Sheriff's Office body camera worn by Deputy Gabriel Cotrufo. In the upper right corner of the video is a time and date of 11/11/2024 20:36:01 along with an identifier of BWC2-023868. Audio is not present until the 0:05 mark of the video. At the 00:00 mark of the video, Deputy Cotrufo was observed in the parking lot of Bob Evan's near the North side (Image 26).



(Image 26)

Deputy Cotrufo was observed moving to several areas to include a tree between Bob Evan's and Arby's and back to Bob Evan's to meet with the Medina County Sheriff Terry Grice (Grice) and MCSO's negotiator. At the 17:22 mark of the video, Deputy Cotrufo was observed walking to the North side of the Arby's (Image 27), before [REDACTED]'s gunshot was heard at the 17:27 mark of the video.



(Image 27)

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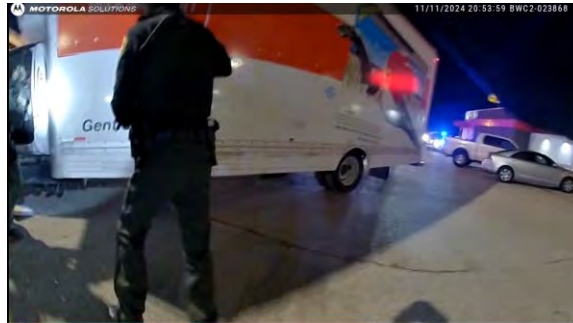
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At the 17:58 mark of the video, Deputy Cotrufo was observed approaching the driver's side of the U-Haul (Image 28). Oaklynn was being taken out of the passenger side by SWAT members and Charles was slumped over near the driver's side.



(Image 28)

At the 19:11 mark of the video, Officers were observed opening the rear door of the U-Haul and checking the box (Image 29). At the 21:52 mark of the video, a red generator, a suitcase, and a rifle were observed inside of the U-Haul box (Image 30).



(Image 29)



(Image 30)

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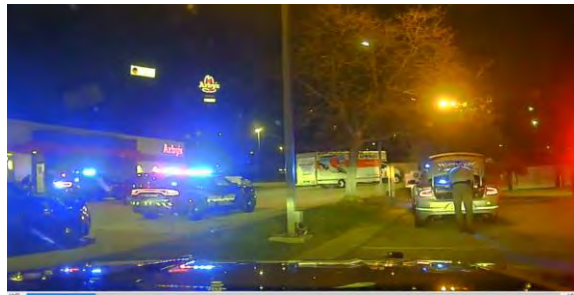
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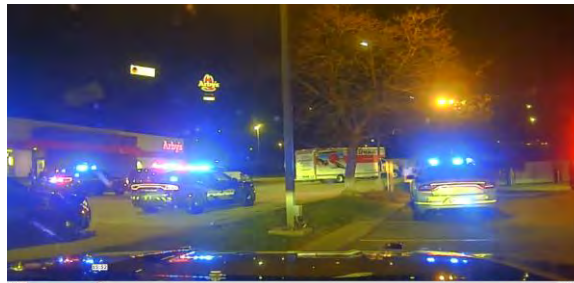
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The file "JosephPiroli_202411112010_Car19-1" was a video that was 1:54:10 in length and from Medina County Sheriff's Office cruiser 19 being driven by Deputy Joseph Piroli (Piroli). Audio is not present until the 2:06 mark of the video. At the 14:50 mark of the video, Deputy Piroli was observed parking in the Bob Evan's parking lot (Image 31).



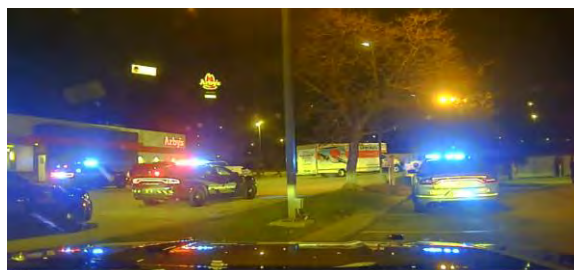
(Image 31)

At the 15:53 mark of the video, the passenger side door of the U-Haul was opened and then closed (Image 32). At the 16:01 mark of the video, a gunshot was heard.



(Image 32)

At the 51:27 mark of the video, SWAT was observed approaching the U-Haul (Image 33). Nothing further of evidentiary value was noted.



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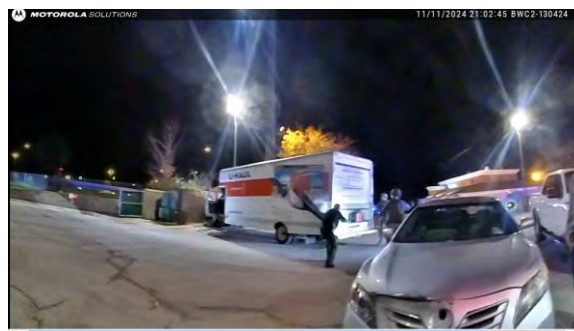
(Image 33)

The file "KrisConwill_202411112100_BWC2130424-0" was a video that was 02:16 in length and from Medina County Sheriff's Office body camera worn by Captain Kris Conwell (Conwell). Audio was not present until the 00:30 mark of the video. In the upper right corner of the video is a time and date of 11/11/2024 21:00:49 along with an identifier of BWC2-130424. At the 00:45 mark of the video, SWAT was observed approaching the U-Haul (Image 34).



(Image 34)

At the 00:59 mark of the video, Captain Conwell was heard requesting LST to respond to Arby's. At the 01:55 mark of the video, Officers were observed opening and checking the rear of the U-Haul (Image 35). Nothing further of evidentiary value was noted.



(Image 35)

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The file "NathanielYarborough_202411112056_Car24-1" was a video that was 06:18 in length and from Medina County Sheriff's Office cruiser 19 being driven by Deputy Joseph Piroli. Audio is not present until the 00:12 mark of the video. At the 04:17 mark of the video, Deputy Yarborough (Yarborough) arrived and parked at the (Image 36). Nothing of evidentiary value was found in this video.



(Image 36)

The file "Unknown_202411112021_Car26-1" was a video that was 1:53:34 in length and from Medina County Sheriff's Office cruiser 26 being driven by an unknown Deputy. Audio is not present in the video. At the 02:20 mark of the video, the U-Haul was observed driving through the Arby's parking lot (Image 37). At the 02:53 mark of the video, the cruiser was observed parking on Eastpointe Drive (Image 38).



(Image 37)



(Image 38)

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The images in this report are for demonstrative purposes only.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS FOR EVALUATING THE VIDEO RECORDINGS

There are numerous other factors that need to be considered when reviewing and evaluating the videos and audio recordings of this incident. Those factors are:

A. Video recording devices record within the video and sound capabilities available, and they record objectively. Video recordings lack the history, perspective, and interest of the people involved. The positions, angles, obstacles, lighting, and distance from the incident are also factors that need serious consideration.

B. Video recording devices also record more information about a particular scene or incident than the person(s) involved in the incident can process during the critical incident. Video recording devices rarely record an event from the same perspective of the officer. It captures the action but not the perception, decision making, focus, or intent of the officer. Video recordings often miss tactile cues or other actions of a subject.

C. The speed of the incident is remarkable. The speed and complexity of rapidly evolving situation(s) that occur during use of force encounters are difficult concepts to comprehend by only watching the video.

The video footage was submitted to the physical BCI case file as item Reference Item C - Aviation_Drone_Dash_and_Body_Camera_Video for reference only.

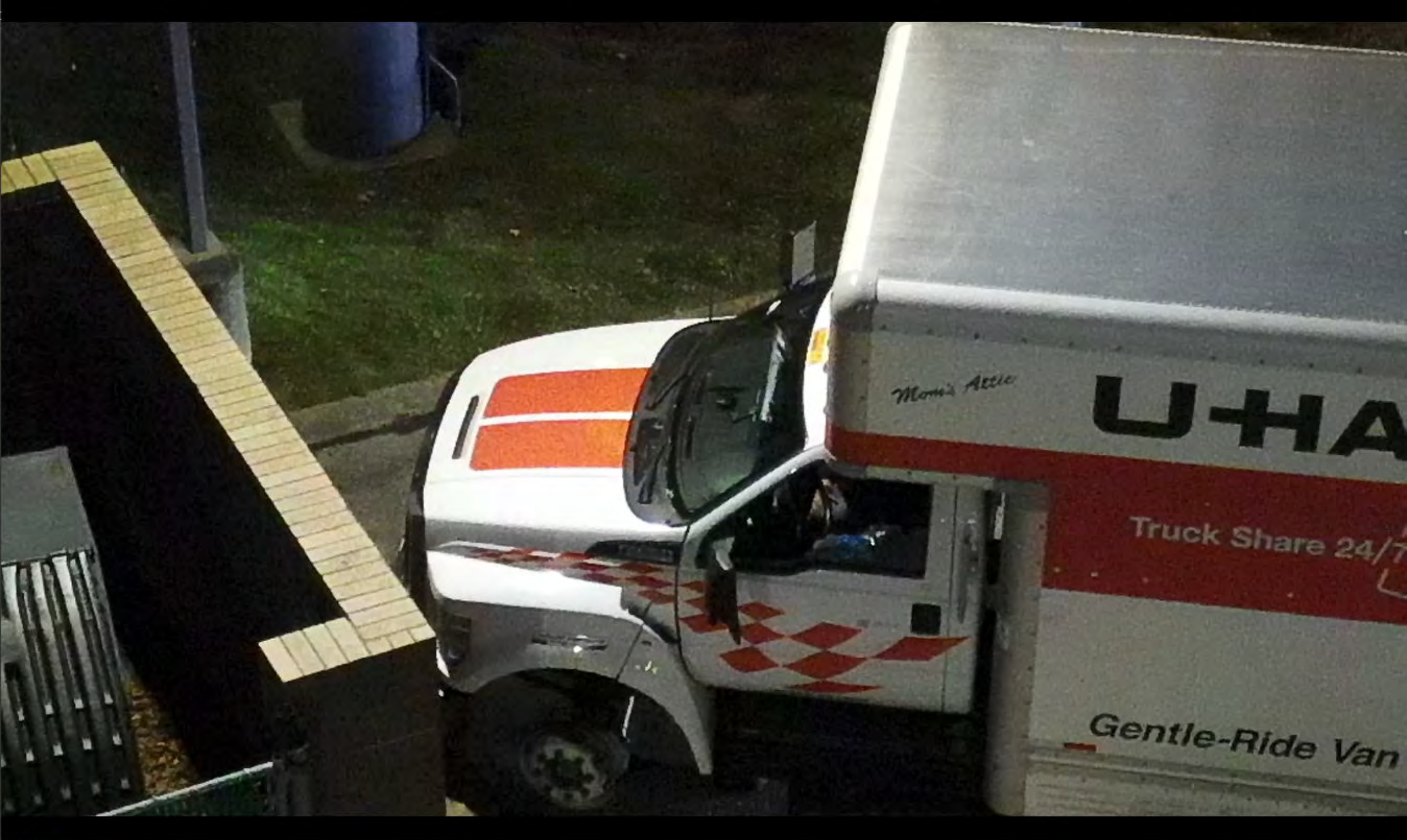
References:

Reference Item C - Aviation_Drone_Dash_and_Body_Camera_Video

Attachments:

1. 2024-11-11 MCSO Camera Screenshots

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02:15



















11:58









10:22





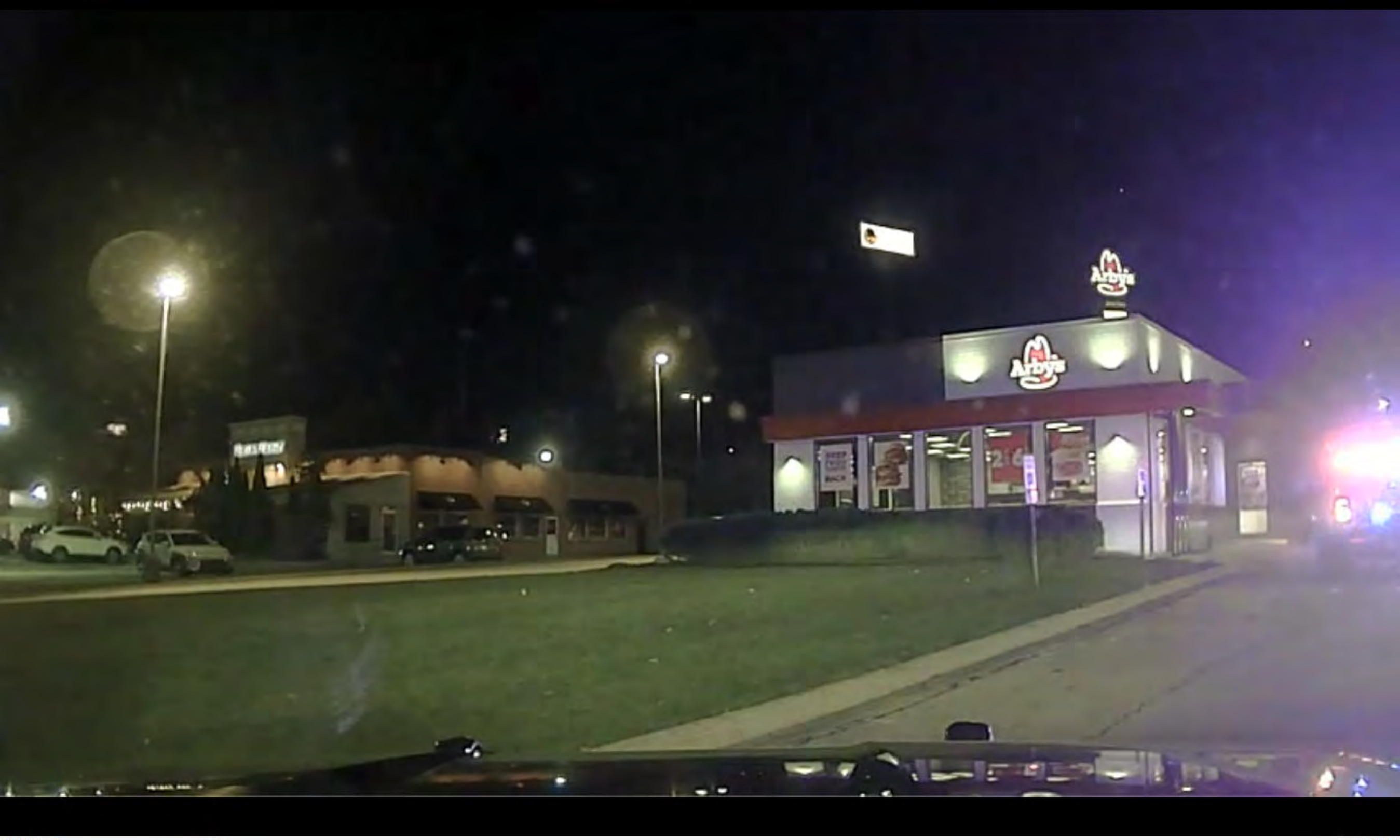


































15:52











