



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



2024-3649

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 6880 Sunset Strip Ave  
NW, Room #220, North Canton, Ohio, 44720

**Investigative Activity:** Cellphone Video Review  
**Involves:** Jonelle Young (W), James Belcher (W)  
**Activity Date:** 06/18/2025  
**Activity Location:** BCI - Richfield  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Allison Fletcher

**Narrative:**

On November 18, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jesse Bynum received video footage from Jonelle Young (Young) and James Belcher (Belcher.) The video footage was recorded on Young and Belcher's personal cellphones and provided via a community request through Evidence.com. The footage contained portions of the officer-involved critical incident that had occurred at 6880 Sunset Strip Avenue NW in North Canton, OH.

Throughout the video recordings there were numerous percussive sounds. Although their origination could not be scientifically identified, it appeared some of the sounds were the result of gunfire. To the extent possible, the percussive sounds believed to be gunfire have been identified as such in this report. It should be noted that these references are based on the totality of corroborating information and evidence gathered throughout this investigation. Time references made by the author correlate with the video player time stamp.

On June 18, 2025, SA Allison Fletcher reviewed the video recordings and noted the following:

Reference Item C - Cell Phone Video Room 327

This file contained video footage recorded by Young, on her cellphone. The video was recorded from the area south of the Rodeway Inn in a parking lot (*Map Figure 1*).

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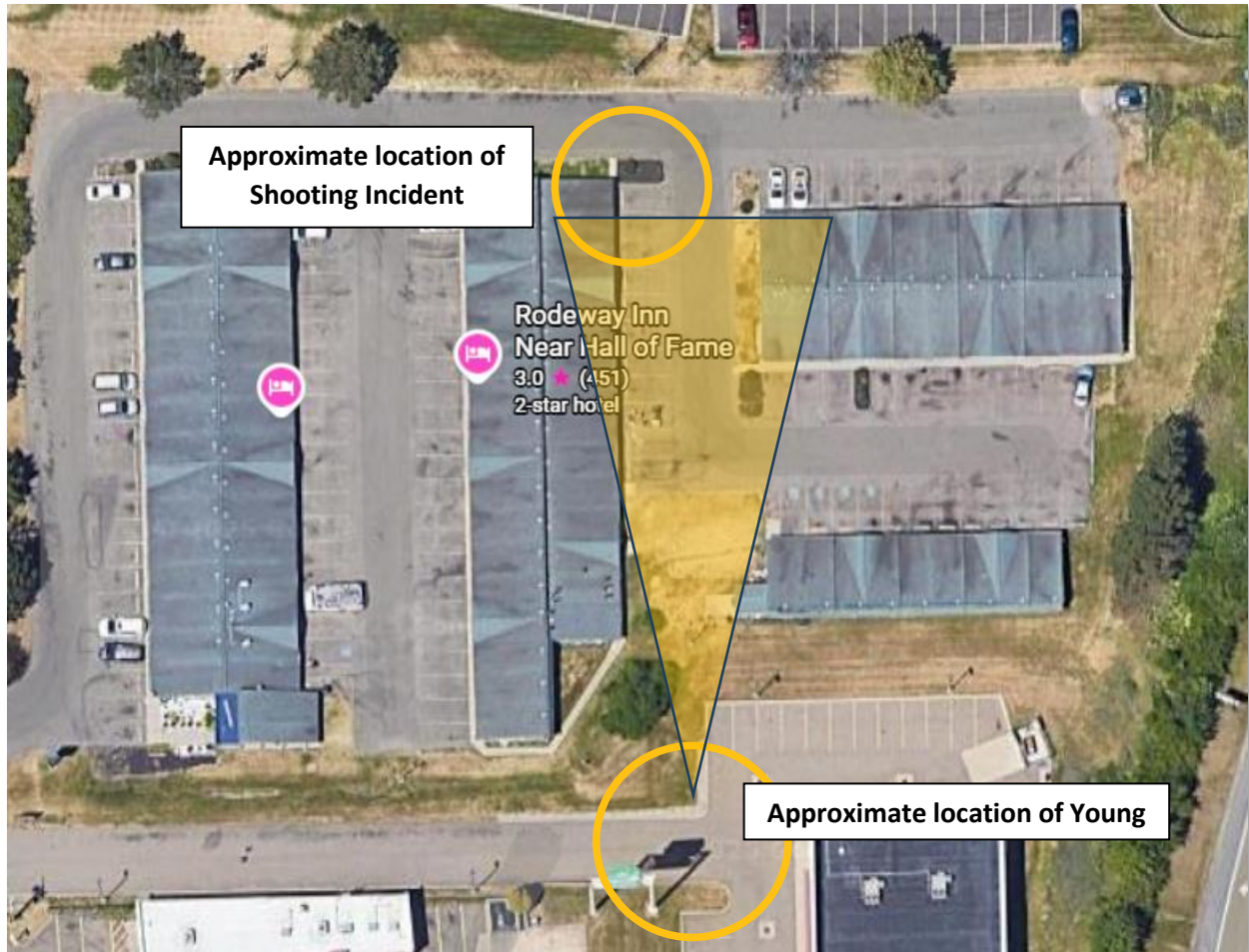


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*Map Figure 1*

The video was 1 minute and 42 seconds in length. The footage showed the area of Room #220 where the officer-involved shooting occurred. Room #220 was not captured in the video recording. However, the gray truck allegedly driven by Vanest could be observed in the recording. The details most relevant to this investigation have been included below:

Throughout the duration of the video, a female voice (likely Young) could be heard describing the incident. The female stated that officers were using “tear gas” (i.e. chemical munitions) and that the subject (Vanest) was shooting at officers. The female also mentioned officers setting out a “pedestal” which was likely the tripod used by

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North Canton Police Department (NCPD) [REDACTED] prior to him getting shot.

At 00:51 an officer could be observed standing next to a black SUV parked in the parking lot of the Rodeway Inn. A percussive sound could be heard, and the officer appeared to deploy a chemical munition in the direction of Room #220.

After the officer deployed the chemical munition, the same female could be heard asking, "Is that tear gas?" The female then discussed "backing up" to get away from the effects of the chemical munition.

At 01:03, a percussive sound could be heard. However, the origination of the sound was not visually captured in the video.

The same female could then be heard repeating that "he (Vanest) was shooting." The video then ended.

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*Young Cellphone 1*

Reference Item D - Cell Phone Video Room 305

This file contained video footage recorded by Belcher, on his cellphone. The video was recorded from the inside of a room at the Rodeway Inn which was located in the building east of the shooting incident (*Map Figure 2*).

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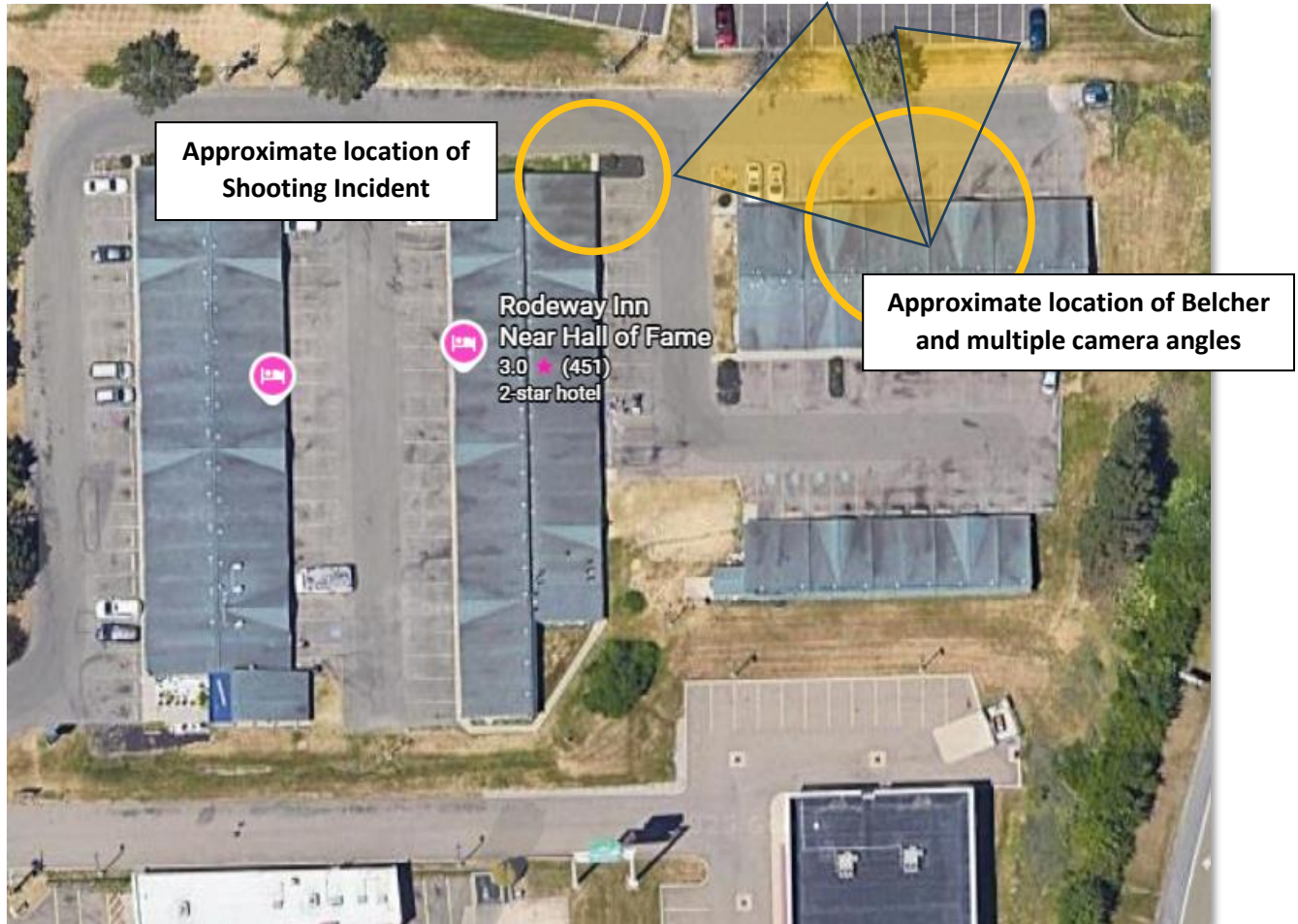


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*Map Figure 2*

Five videos were provided by Belcher, all of which appeared to be recorded from the interior of a room at the Rodeway Inn. The camera angles varied in each of the recordings. Room #220 was not captured in any of the video recordings and only portions of the shooting incident were observed.

- VID\_20241118\_115040841
- VID\_20241118\_123241136
- VID\_20241118\_123809498
- VID\_20241118\_125027206
- VID\_20241118\_125745256

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SA Fletcher reviewed each video and the details most relevant to this investigation have been included below:

VID\_20241118\_115040841

The video was 41 minutes and 58 seconds in length. The camera angle appeared to show multiple officers standing behind a black SUV parked in the parking lot of the Rodeway Inn. Room #220 was not visible. Throughout the duration of the video, numerous percussive sounds were audibly captured. Not every percussive sound will be noted below, only those determined by the author to provide relevant information to the investigation. Additionally, the origination of the percussive sounds could not always be determined.

Throughout the duration of the video, commentary by the occupants of Room #305 could be heard. Commands given by officers in the armored vehicle could also be heard.

At 01:09, a large, armored SWAT vehicle (Canton 11) could be observed pulling into the parking lot near the area of Room #220. Someone could also be heard saying, "Here comes the fucking bearcat... that's the SWAT team there."

At 02:12, Canton 11 parked and multiple officers could be observed exiting the rear of the vehicle outfitted with various tactical gear and firearms. Officers could then be observed taking positions of cover from the rear of the vehicle. An officer could also be observed in the turret located at the top of the vehicle.

The officers remained in their position of cover without notable change for approximately twelve minutes.

At 14:40 three officers could be observed moving from behind the Canton 11 to the rear of a black SUV that was parked on the left side of the armored vehicle. Officers continued moving to the left side of the black SUV and they were no longer observable within the camera angle. This was likely when officers moved into a position closer to Room #220 to deploy less lethal munitions.

At 14:54 a percussive sound could be heard. This was likely the deployment of less-lethal munitions into Room #220. Five additional percussive sounds could be heard. The three officers then appeared to move back to the rear of the black SUV.

At 16:11 a percussive sound could be heard and one of the officers standing at the rear of the black SUV appeared to fire their less lethal firearm into the ground behind the black SUV. This was likely an accidental discharge of the weapon and did not appear to strike anyone (*Belcher Cellphone 1*).

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At 20:07 two officers could be observed moving on the left side of a black SUV towards the area near Room #220. Faint percussive sounds were captured moments after the officers were no longer visible from the camera angle. This was likely the deployment of less lethal munitions.

Officers continued to move between the rear of Canton 11 and the rear of the black SUV. Numerous percussive sounds were audibly captured.

At 20:15, a faint buzzing could be heard, which was likely the drone utilized by Canton SWAT officers to enter Room #220. The faint buzzing was followed by a loud percussive sound that was likely when Vanest shot at the drone from his position behind the bed in Room #220. The video did not visually capture the moment the drone was shot.

After the percussive sound, someone could be heard saying, "Hey, did someone just shoot?" The question was then followed by multiple loud percussive sounds.

At 25:08, an officer could be observed firing a less lethal round in the direction of Room #220. The officer was likely Canton Police Department (CPD) Sergeant Eric Lee (Lee), who reportedly fired numerous rounds of less lethal munitions.

At 25:29 a percussive sound could be heard, and a small grey-like cloud could be observed near a cluster of officers. The officer appeared to fire additional rounds after ejecting cartridge casings on the ground. This was likely an additional deployment of less lethal munitions.

At 27:35 an officer appeared to deploy multiple less lethal munitions from the rear of the black SUV. The officer then moved to the left of the black SUV and deployed additional rounds.

At 29:58 an officer could be observed deploying numerous rounds of less lethal ammunition. Multiple faint percussive sounds could be heard, and a grey-like cloud could be observed at the front of the less lethal firearm. This was likely when pepper balls were being deployed into Room #220.

At 30:03 the officer continued to deploy the less lethal munitions from the rear of the black SUV. A large grey-like cloud could be observed near the front of Canton 11 (*Belcher Cellphone 2*).

Numerous rounds of less lethal munitions continued to be deployed from the rear of the black SUV. In the meantime, it appeared as though an officer began setting up a tripod and long rifle at the right rear of the black SUV. This was likely North Canton

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Police Department (NCPD) [REDACTED] who was assigned as the sniper during the deployment.

At 34:51 a loud percussive sound could be heard, and [REDACTED] appeared to react to something striking him. [REDACTED] then fell to the ground. Loud yelling could then be heard, and [REDACTED] right arm appeared to be injured (*Belcher Cellphone 3; Belcher Cellphone 4*). This was likely the moment when [REDACTED] was shot by Vanest.

[REDACTED] was on the ground, officers began rendering aid to him.

At 35:32 the officer in the turret of the armored vehicle appeared to switch firearms and began deploying less lethal munitions in the direction of Room #220. Numerous percussive sounds could be heard during the timeframe that [REDACTED] was rendered aid.

[REDACTED] was assisted by other officers and left the area where he was shot. Percussive sounds could be heard in the background.

At 36:29 the camera angle panned to the area near Cracker Barrel and officers could be observed running while assisting [REDACTED].

At 36:41 loud percussive sounds could be heard in rapid succession.

Another officer (likely CPD [REDACTED]) grabbed the rifle and tripod previously used by [REDACTED] and moved to a different location in a grassy area behind a black SUV.

At 38:49 someone could be heard yelling "get away from the window." The camera angle moved rapidly, and loud yelling could be heard in the background, likely from the room occupants.

At 39:40 yelling continued in the background and the camera angled moved and began capturing officers taking cover behind Canton 11.

The video ended with officers standing behind Canton 11.

VID\_20241118\_123241136

The video was 4 minutes and 29 seconds in length. The video appeared to pick up where the previous video had left off with officers standing behind Canton 11.

Yelling could be heard in the background, likely from the occupants of Room #220. Nothing relevant to the shooting incident was captured in the video.

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VID\_20241118\_123809498

The video was 14 seconds in length. The video captured three uniformed officers standing behind a white transit van. Nothing relevant to the shooting incident was observed.

VID\_20241118\_125027206

The video was 7 minutes and 16 seconds in length. The camera angle captured an officer sitting on a grassy strip of land that divided the parking lots of Cracker Barrel and the Rodeway Inn. The officer was holding a long rifle which was pointed in the direction of Room #220. The officer was likely CPD [REDACTED]

At 00:03 a loud percussive sound could be heard.

AT 00:44 multiple rapid percussive sounds could be heard. [REDACTED] remained seated with a long rifle positioned in front of him.

At 01:00 additional rapid percussive sounds could be heard while [REDACTED] remained in his seated position with the rifle.

At 01:48 [REDACTED] appeared to fire one round in the direction of Room #220. This was based on the percussive sound and the observable recoil from the firearm. [REDACTED] also appeared to discharge a fired cartridge casing (*Belcher Cellphone 5*).

At 03:05 a percussive sound could be heard, and [REDACTED] appeared to duck out of the way.

At 3:18 rapid percussive sounds could be heard.

At 03:29 the camera angle changed and panned to officers standing behind Canton 11. Numerous percussive sounds could be heard.

At 03:34 multiple officers could be observed standing behind Canton 11. One officer was standing at the left rear corner of the armored vehicle and appeared to have fired his gun. A small grey-like could be observed near his rifle (*Belcher Cellphone 6*). Numerous percussive sounds could be heard in succession, followed by an alarm beeping in the background.

The video ends with officers standing behind Canton 11. One officer was pointing a firearm in the direction of Room #220 from the left rear side of the armored vehicle. Another officer could be observed in the turret of the armored vehicle pointing a firearm in the direction of Room #220.

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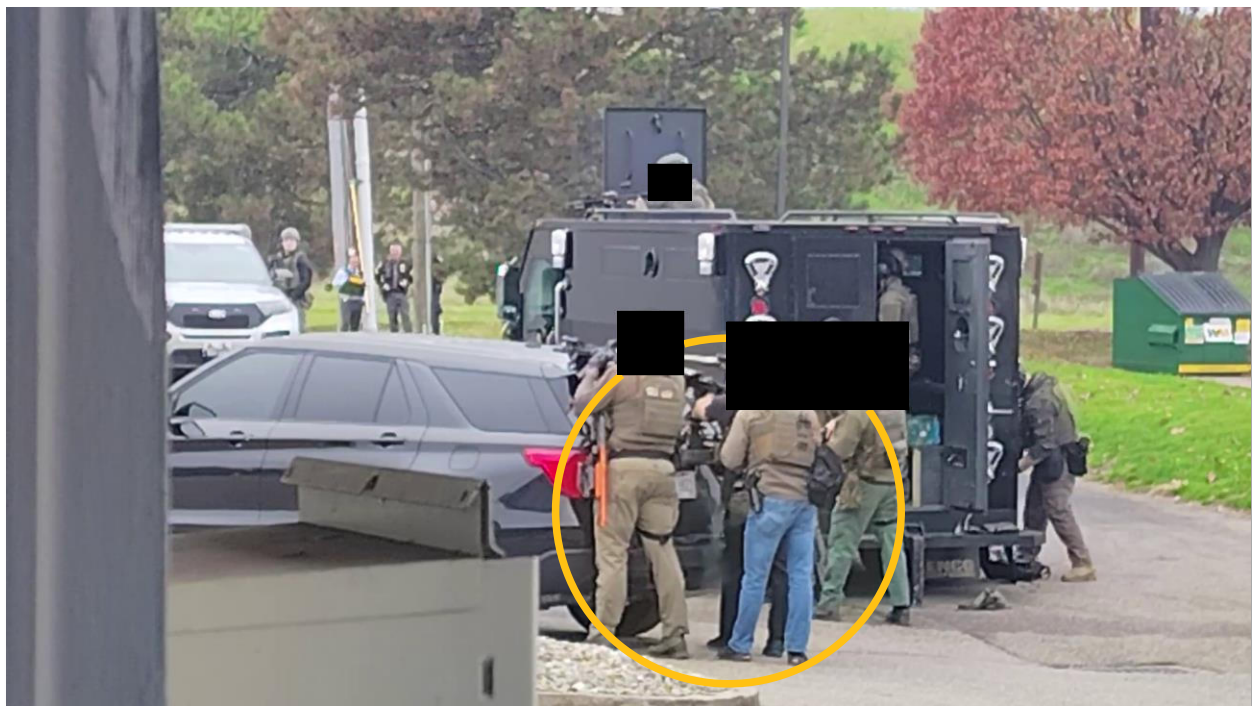


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VID\_20241118\_125745256

The video was 4 seconds in length. The camera angle captured multiple SWAT officers standing behind Canton 11. The tripod utilized by [REDACTED] was also visible in the video. Nothing else relevant to the shooting incident was observed.



*Belcher Cellphone 1*

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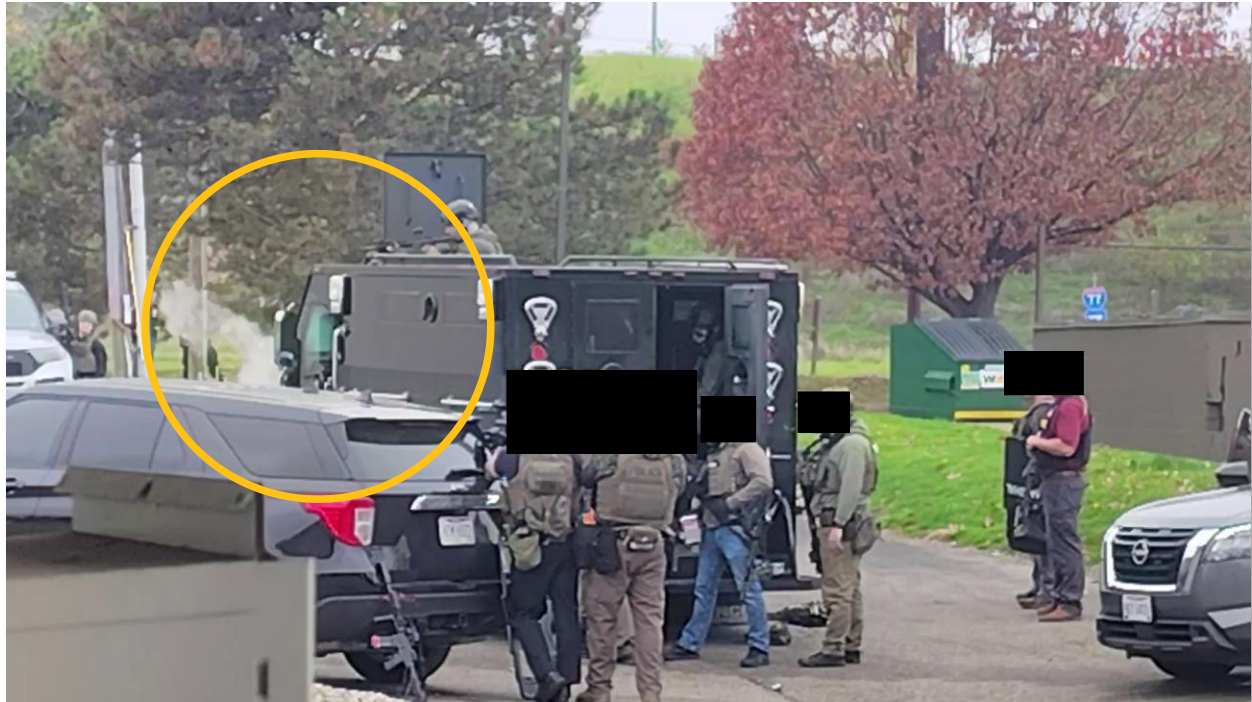


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*Belcher Cellphone 2*

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*Belcher Cellphone 3*

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*Belcher Cellphone 4*

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*Belcher Cellphone 5*

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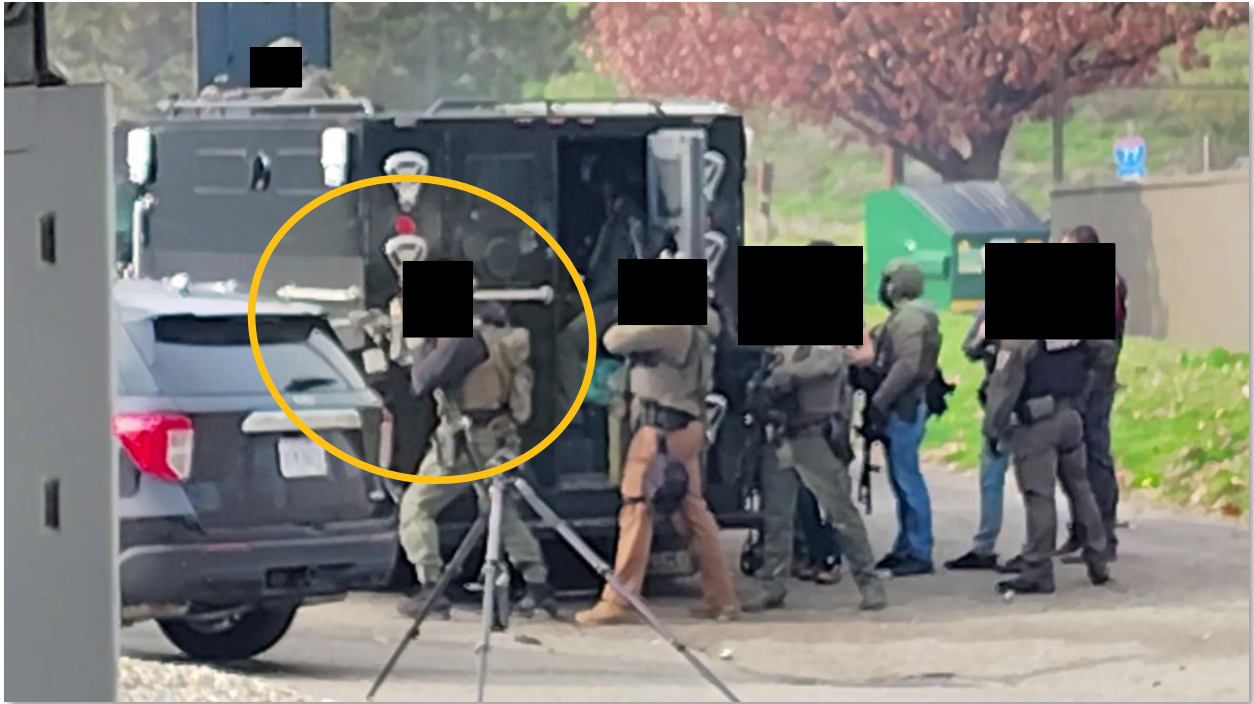


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*Belcher Cellphone 6*

The videos were stored on Evidence.com as Reference Items C and D.

**References:**

Reference Item C - Cell Phone Video Room 327 – Stored in Axon Justice

Reference Item D - Cell Phone Video Room 305 – Stored in Axon Justice

**Attachments:**

1. Young Cellphone 1
2. Belcher Cellphone 1-6

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