



**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:** Video Review  
**Involves:** Massillon Police Department (O)  
**Activity Date:** 05/01/2025  
**Activity Location:** BCI - Richfield  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Allison Fletcher

**Narrative:**

On Thursday, May 1, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) began reviewing body worn camera (BWC) provided by the Massillon Police Department (MPD). The video recordings were created from BWCs utilized by MPD personnel during the November 18, 2024, officer-involved shooting in Jackson Township, Ohio.

One video was provided electronically by the MPD on December 4, 2024, by Lieutenant Nick Antonides. The video was added to the evidence.com case file and has been stored as Reference Item O.

The following video was reviewed:

Title	Officer	Recorded on	Duration	Source
U-129_Roadway_Inn_shooting(nantonides@massillonohio.gov).mp4	[REDACTED]	11/18/2024 12:45:14	1h 7m	Axon Body 3

The camera angle was obstructed throughout the video due to various factors including, but not limited to, vehicles, law enforcement personnel, and [REDACTED] rifle. Room #220, where the involved subject, James Vanest (Vanest), was located, was not visible on [REDACTED] BWC until 01:05:00. Percussive sounds could be heard throughout the entirety of the video. The most noteworthy percussive sounds as determined by this author will be indicated. Additionally, various communication and tactical strategies could be heard throughout the video from various law enforcement personnel on scene. Again, the most notable statements as deemed by this author will be annotated below. The video should be reviewed in its entirety for additional information.

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██████████ appeared to fire his rifle at two separate times throughout the incident. The first time was at 06:13 and he appeared to fire 12 times. The second time was at 08:31 and he appeared to fire approximately 15 times. His BWC did not visually capture the actions of Vanest leading up to or during the time ██████████ fired.

Details associated with the video were documented in the following table:

Title	Officer	Source	Comments
U-129_Roadway_Inn_shooting(nantonides@massillonohio.gov).mp4	██████████ ██████████	Axon Body 3	At 4:30 percussive sounds could be heard and someone said, "shots fired." Someone then said that the "suspect" (Vanest) was shooting from inside the "apartment" towards officers. At 05:18 percussive sounds could be heard and someone said, "still shooting." At 05:49 someone said, "he's reloading." At 05:58 percussive sounds could be heard and someone said, "shots fired." At 06:09 ██████████ asked an unknown person (likely Captain Marino) if they wanted "suppressive fire"; Somone then replied that if he had a shot, "to take it." At 06:13 ██████████ fired his rifle 12 times from behind what appeared to be the SWAT armored vehicle ( <i>MPD Image 1</i> ). At 07:04 someone said, "he's shooting at me." At 07:50 someone said, "he's reloading." At 08:31 numerous percussive sounds could be heard followed by ██████████ firing his rifle approximately 15 times from behind the SWAT armored vehicle ( <i>MPD Image 2</i> ). Percussive sounds could be heard after ██████████ stopped firing. ██████████ then moved his position further behind the armored vehicle and he appeared to reload his rifle with a new magazine ( <i>MPD Image</i>

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			<p>3). At 08:56 someone could be heard saying "cease fire" and then someone else said they were shot at twice (referring to Vanest shooting at them). At 26:58 [REDACTED] began moving from his location behind the armored SWAT vehicle to a perimeter position behind some parked vehicles. At 34:25 a percussive sound could be heard in the distance followed by multiple other percussive sounds and the sound of glass breaking. At 34:49 rapid percussive sounds could be heard and then someone said, "he's pointing a gun at me through the port." Someone could be heard saying the gun being used by Vanest looked like a "pistol." The video concluded with [REDACTED] appearing to stand on the outside of Room #220 after SWAT personnel appeared to make entry into the room.</p>
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The moments [REDACTED] fired were determined based on percussive sounds, visual recoil from [REDACTED] rifle, and the reflection of [REDACTED] on the armored SWAT vehicle he stood adjacent to.

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*MPD Image 1*

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*MPD Image 2*

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*MPD Image 3*

Screenshots from [REDACTED] BWC have been saved to the case file as Reference Item O.

**References:**

Reference Item O – BWC Video – Massillon PD [REDACTED] – in Evidence.com

**Attachments:**

None

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