



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



2025-1603  
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4482 Hampton Woods  
Ct., Columbus, Ohio 43230 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Video review  
**Involves:** Ofc. Hunter Rennie (W), Ofc. Christopher Picha (W), Ofc. Brandon Meuse (W)  
**Activity Date:** 07/21/2025  
**Activity Location:** 1560 State Route 56 SW, London, OH 43140  
**Authoring Agent:** SA James H Gore

**Narrative:**

On Monday, July 21, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent James Gore (SA Gore) completed reviews of body-worn camera footage (BWC) for the following officers from the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) regarding the officer-involved critical incident from May 19, 2025:

- Officer Hunter Rennie (Ofc. Rennie)
- Officer Christopher Picha (Ofc. Picha)
- Officer Brandon Meuse (Ofc. Meuse)

The following was noted from **Ofc. Rennie's** footage:

- Upon arriving at the scene, Ofc. Rennie provided an additional ballistic shield (bunker) for cover to officers within the inner perimeter.
- She was apparently close enough to see the apartment door, but her BWC did not visually capture it, or anything in its immediate proximity.
- At or around the 22:17:36 hour timestamp, Ofc. Rennie and other officers reacted to a single gunshot, which apparently emanated from the apartment door.
- At or around the 22:29:51 timestamp, Ofc. Rennie mentioned that the apartment door opened, and the female hostage, Mary Beth Bright (Bright), was observed. The door shut again around 22:30:18.
- Sergeant Jason Ayers could be overheard on Ofc. Rennie's footage, apparently negotiating with the hostage taker, Jerry Smith (Smith), via phone.
- At approximately 22:32:52, Ofc. Rennie and other officers shifted their positions from the inner perimeter once members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team arrived. The positioning of the officers in relation to the apartment was not readily discernible from the footage.

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*Figure 1: Screenshot from Ofc. Rennie's BWC footage, SWAT officers gathering in parking lot, 5/19/2025, 22:32:52 timestamp*

- An unidentified SWAT marksman positioned himself behind a black sport utility vehicle at approximately 22:46:20 (pictured on right in image below), where he began to set up a rifle on a tripod shooting platform.



*Figure 2: Screenshot from Ofc. Rennie's BWC footage, unidentified SWAT officer taking position, 5/19/2025, 22:46:20 timestamp*

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- At approximately 22:57:08, Ofc. Rennie announced that the door opened again.
- Around 23:00:56, Ofc. Rennie and other patrol officers in the perimeter were advised to back out, presumably by SWAT officers.
- Officers at the scene relayed that the suspect poured lighter fluid, potentially on himself and/or other objects.
- Ofc. Rennie's BWC footage ended at 23:33:02 hours with no additional activity of significance.

For Ofc. Picha's footage, the following was noted:

- Ofc. Picha arrived and took an initial position of cover behind a red Nissan Rogue. Around the 22:17:36 mark, a gunshot could be heard. Ofc. Picha relayed that he saw a flash from the doorway.
- From Ofc. Picha's position, a portion of the phone conversation between Sgt. Ayres and Jerry Smith, was clearly audible. Smith stated that he was drunk, and he threatened to shoot Ms. Bright in the leg.
- At approximately 23:23:28, officers in the distance yelled, "Gun!" An officer who was conversing with Ofc. Picha relayed that the suspect stuck a gun out a window.



*Figure 3: Screenshot from Ofc. Picha's BWC footage, officers relaying suspect pointed gun out window, 5/19/2025, 22:23:30 timestamp*

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- Officers relayed that the suspect opened and shut the door several times over the course of the standoff.
- At 23:45:55, Ofc. Picha announced that the suspect's door was open again. A few moments later, at approximately 23:46:05, two to three gunshots could be heard in the distance, in rapid succession. Soon afterward, an officer could be heard yelling for Ms. Bright to get out of the apartment.
- Around 23:56:16, Ofc. Picha and other officers began putting up crime scene tape around the area.
- Ofc. Picha's footage concluded at 00:03:39 hours.

The following was noted from **Ofc. Meuse's** footage:

- Around the 22:17:34 mark, Ofc. Meuse, or someone adjacent to him announced that the apartment door opened. Immediately afterward, a gunshot was heard.
- At 22:32:09, Ofc. Meuse was joined briefly at his initial position of cover by an unidentified SWAT officer.
- Officers observed the door open and shut periodically. At about 22:44:15, Ofc. Meuse announced that the suspect was peeking out the left window.
- Around 22:53:45, Ofc. Meuse and the other patrol officers in his immediate vicinity were relieved of their positions by SWAT officers.
- At the 23:46:05 mark, two to three gunshots were audible, but Ofc. Meuse camera did not capture the action of the shooters.

None of the officers' video reviewed for this report had actual visual footage of shots being fired by the suspect or the involved officers. The video files referenced herein are available for review on the Evidence.com/Axon™ database.

**References:**

1. Axon Body 3 Video 2025-05-19 2204 X60A68723 (Ofc. Hunter Rennie)
2. Axon Body 3 Video 2025-05-19 2204 X60A8977X (Ofc. Christopher Picha)
3. Axon Body 3 Video 2025-05-19 2205 X60A60395 (Ofc. Brandon Meuse)
4. Axon Body 3 Video 2025-05-19 2346 X60A60395 (Ofc. Brandon Meuse)

**Attachments:**

No attachments.

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