



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



2024-1385

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 121 W. Perry St., Tiffin, OH,
44883 (L)

Date of Activity: 05/09/2024
Author: SA Joshua S. Rammel, #175

Narrative:

On May 9, 2024, Special Agent (SA) Josh Rammel (Rammel) completed the review of surveillance footage obtained from a Merkurs Smart Camera owned and operated by Karriedad San Nicolas (Karrie). The footage obtained from the Merkurs camera was reviewed in regards to an active Office Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that took place on May 3, 2024, in front of the Karrie's residence located at 121 West Perry Street, Tiffin, Ohio.

The Merkurs camera was positioned in the front room widow of Karrie's residence, facing towards West Perry Street in order to detect motion near/around the vehicle operated by Karrie parked in front of 121 West Perry Street.

The Merkurs camera was activated by motion from the OICI that occurred between involved Tiffin Police Officer Drew Westenbarger (Westenbarger) and involved individual Blake Fleure (Blake). The footage was provided to SA Rammel from Karrie by directly downloading the footage from Karrie's phone to SA Rammel's laptop computer.

The footage is 19 seconds in length and includes sound during the timeframe of the recording. The time stamp on the video indicated the recording began at 11:54:57 on May 3, 2024, and concluded at 11:55:16.

The footage begins as a red truck, identified as being operated by Blake, created the motion that activated the camera as the red truck is seen driving west on West Perry Street before coming to a stop just west of a parked vehicle, later identified as Karrie's vehicle.

At the two (2) second mark a Tiffin Police Cruiser, being operated by Westenbarger, is seen entering the footage behind the red truck with its overhead lights activated initiating a traffic stop.

At the six (6) second mark both vehicles come to a complete stop with the red truck at the far left/west of the camera and the cruiser almost directly behind Karrie's vehicle.

At the 12 second mark, Westenbarger is seen exiting his cruiser in order to make contact with Blake still in the driver seat of the red truck. Westenbarger proceeds to walk towards the red truck as an unidentified brown truck is seen driving past both the cruiser and the red truck

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Approved By SA Christopher Hamberg on
05/15/2024

with Blake still in the vehicle.

At the 14 second mark Blake is seen exiting the red truck and at the 16 second mark Blake is fully out of the red truck with his right hand extended straight out as he rapidly moves towards Westenbarger. Westenbarger initially lifts his left hand in what appears to be a motion to indicate "stop" towards Blake before removing his firearm from its holster and pointing it towards Blake at the 17 second mark.

Between the 17 second mark and the end of the footage at the 19 second mark Westenbarger takes approximately 10 steps backwards, going from between his cruiser and the red truck to past his cruiser, with his gun drawn as Blake continues to approach Westenbarger at a running pace. During this time a voice can be heard repeating "shoot me" six times as Westenbarger retreats, and Blake continues towards him. Also, during this time, a second voice can be heard saying what appears to be "stay in the vehicle" twice.

The footage ends prior to any gunshots being heard as Blake is still seen approaching Westenbarger with his hand held out and Westenbarger still retreating by walking backwards with his gun drawn.

A vehicle identified as being driven by Robert Fay (Fay) is seen entering the footage at the 18 second mark and is seen slightly behind Westenbarger's cruiser as the footage ends. See Investigative Report (IR) authored by SA Rammel for the details of SA Rammel's interview with Fay.

The footage obtained from the Merkury Smart Camera was placed on a USB drive and provided to Lead Agent SA Ryan Emahiser (Emahiser) for proper retention.