



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



2025-1049

Officer Involved Critical Incident – Interstate 275 / State Route
32, OH, 45245 (Clermont County) (L)

Investigative Activity: Records Received, Video Review
Involves: Trooper Sgt. Joseph Westhoven (W), Trooper Jason Byron (W)
Date of Activity: 04/09/2025
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On April 2, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Lauren Frazier received video footage from OSHP Trooper Investigator Michael Butler. SA Frazier was informed that the videos contained footage from the trooper's body worn cameras (BWCs) and in-car cruiser cameras. The videos received are from troopers that were either involved in the incident or witnesses to the OICI. The following troopers were identified as having video footage involving the incident: OSHP [REDACTED] (Agent Note: these videos were analyzed in a separate report), OSHP Trooper Jason Byron, and OSHP Trooper Sgt. Joseph Westhoven.

The following summary of the recorded video highlights the key points that the author deemed most relevant, although it does not provide a verbatim account. It is suggested that the full video recordings be reviewed. SA Frazier reviewed the video recordings and noted the following:

Trooper Jason Byron BWC Video:

- 2319 hours – BWC video begins.
- 2320 hours – Trooper Byron arrives on scene and [REDACTED] is seen moving away from the subject, stating, "I got the gun." The subject is seen face down on the ground being handcuffed by UTPD officers.
- Trooper Byron asked [REDACTED] to get a first aid kit from his vehicle.
- The subject is rolled over & officers begin cardiovascular pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Trooper Byron assesses the subject's injuries and applies gauze to control the bleeding.
- Trooper Byron identifies multiple gunshot wounds and says that he cannot feel a pulse.
- 2324 hours – Union Township Medics arrive and take over CPR. The subject is transferred onto a backboard and placed on an EMS cot.

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- 2328 hours – Trooper Byron talks with [REDACTED].
- 2329 hours – The subject is in the back of the ambulance with the Lucas device (CPR machine) attached. Trooper Byron removes the handcuffs from the subject.
- 2332 hours – Trooper Byron notices ticking coming from the vehicle and asks medics, officers, and civilians to move away from the immediate area.
- 2337 hours – Medics advise that the subject was pronounced deceased.
- 2341 hours – Trooper Byron runs the vehicle license plate from his in-car computer and identifies the subject as the vehicle's registered owner.
- 2345 hours – [REDACTED] hands Trooper Byron his cruiser keys.
- 0018 hours – BWC video concludes.

Trooper Jason Byron Cruiser Video:

- 2318 hours – Cruiser video begins.
- 2320 hours – Trooper Byron arrives on scene and responds to the subject's vehicle. [REDACTED] is seen running towards the cruiser and places a handgun on the cruiser's hood.
- Cruiser video captures officers providing medical aid on the subject.
- 2321 hours – [REDACTED] removes the handgun from the hood of Trooper Byron's cruiser. While walking away from the cruiser, [REDACTED] is observed placing an object in his back left pocket, believed to be the subject's magazine. [REDACTED] takes the dog and places him in the rear of his cruiser and presumably places the handgun on the hood of his cruiser.
- 2323 hours – Medics arrive on scene and take over medical care.
- 2347 hours – Crime scene tape put up by UTPD Sgt. Disbennett.
- 0019 hours – Cruiser video concludes.

Trooper Sgt. Joseph Westhoven BWC Video:

- 2319 hours – BWC video begins.
- 2320 hours – Sgt. Westhoven arrives on scene and makes contact with [REDACTED].
- Sgt. Westhoven grabs a first aid kit and brings it to officers providing medical aid.
- [REDACTED] tells Sgt. Westhoven, "I got the firearm. I just picked it right up man. I'm sorry. I need a break. I just need to calm down."
- Sgt. Westhoven asked [REDACTED], "Did you shoot?" and [REDACTED] said, "I shot. Dammit....she had it right up to me. I told her several times to just drop the gun. It wasn't even loaded."
- 2324 hours – [REDACTED] tells Sgt. Westhoven, "The gun is on my hood. It's clear. Cleared the chamber. There's no magazine in the gun."
- Sgt. Westhoven talks to several witnesses on scene.
- 2325 hours – [REDACTED] tells Sgt. Westhoven, "She had the gun. She dropped it and was complying."
- Sgt. Westhoven makes notification to his Lieutenant (BWC muted for phone call).
- Sgt. Westhoven talks with medics, who discuss their protocol.
- Cincinnati Police Department bomb squad was requested to respond, due to ticking heard inside the subject's vehicle.

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- Sgt. Disbennett puts up crime scene tape and Sgt. Westhoven starts a crime scene log.
- 0016 hours – Cincinnati EOD arrived on scene.
- 0017 hours – Animal control arrived on scene to secure the canine and take it to the vet.
- 0019 hours – BWC video concludes.

Trooper Sgt. Joseph Westhoven Cruiser Video:

- 2318 hours – Cruiser video begins.
- While en route, Sgt. Westhoven asks radio dispatch to shut down I-275 South.
- 2320 hours – Sgt. Westhoven arrives on scene.
- 0020 hours – Cruiser video concludes.

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.

All seven (7) BWC and cruiser videos have been uploaded in Axon (see references).

References:

OSHP BWC & Cruiser Videos on Axon

Attachments:

No attachments.

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