



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



2022-0727

Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 914 Salt Springs Road, Youngstown,
Ohio 44509

Investigative Activity: Video Review
Activity Date: May 16, 2022
Activity Location: BCI Youngstown Office
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Al Banksy #115

Narrative:

On April 25, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Al Banksy (Banksy) received video footage from Youngstown Police Department Captain Jason Simon. SA Banksy was informed that the videos contained footage from the body camera recorded by Youngstown City Police Officer (Ofc.) Joe West (West).

SA Banksy reviewed the video recordings and noted the following:

Note: Ofc. West was not involved nor took part in any actions regarding the officer-involved critical incident. Ofc. West arrived on scene after the shooting incident occurred.

Ofc. West's body camera recording is labeled: Axon Body: 3 X60AO4941.

The following times listed came from Ofc. West's body cam time bar, dated April 1, 2022:

- Approximately 17:14:38: Video shows Ofc. West operating his police cruiser going to the scene to Salt Springs Road.
- Approximately 17:16:04: Video shows/hears Ofc. West being advised that shots were fired and the suspect was shot.
- Approximately 17:17:18: Video shows Ofc. West arrive on scene.
- Approximately 17:17:33: Video shows a tan Chevrolet Malibu, along with two Struthers Police cruisers, one on each side of the Chevrolet Malibu. Damage could be seen on all three vehicles. In addition, video shows several Youngstown City police officers on scene preparing to secure the Chevrolet Malibu.
- Approximately 17:17:59: Video shows/hears one of the Youngstown officers saying, "Watch, there's a gun in the car."
- Approximately 17:18:04: Video shows/hears one of the Youngstown officers saying, "Secure that gun, leave it."
- Approximately 17:18:24: Video shows/hears one of the Youngstown officers asking Struthers Police Ofc. Schneeman if he was hit. Ofc. Schneeman responded saying, "I'm not hit, I'm not hit."



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- Approximately 17:18:39: Video shows/hears Struthers Police Captain (Capt.) Matt Haus (Haus) speaking to other officers after the shooting incident, saying, "He made the turn, I'm trying to pin him out. I'm ok, the fucking air bag came out and he reached a gun out."
- Approximately 17:19:39: Video shows James Sheets slumped over towards the right side of the driver's seat. Both driver and passenger windows broken out. Also, taser wires can be seen on the ground on both sides of the tan Chevrolet Malibu with two Struthers police vehicles on both sides of the same tan Chevrolet Malibu.
- Approximately 17:21:07: Video shows/hears one of the Youngstown City police officers saying, "There's a gun in the car."
- Approximately 17:22:55: Video shows/hears Capt. Haus talking to Youngstown City Capt. Jason Simon (Simon), "We didn't even get to the car dude."
- Approximately 17:23:01: Video show/hears Capt. Haus saying to Capt. Simon that his chief is on his way.
- Approximately 17:55:35: Video ended.

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.

The DVD containing the video footage was submitted to the physical BCI case file as item #77 for reference only.