2022-1782
Officer Involved Critical Incident -3295 Sullivant Avenue, Apt. H, Columbus OH 43204 (L)

Investigative Activity: Body Camera Review

Involves: Columbus Police Department (O)

Date of Activity: 09/08/2022

Author: SA Todd Fortner, #93

Narrative:

On August 30, 2022, BCI was requested by the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident at 3295 Sullivant Avenue, Apartment H, in Columbus. CPD officers were at the apartment attempting to serve an arrest warrant on the resident of apartment H, Donovan Lewis (Lewis). During the incident, an officer fired a single shot, striking Lewis. Lewis was transported to the hospital where he died.

Video footage from officers' body worn cameras (BWC) were initially viewed at the scene. BCI Special Agent Todd Fortner (SA Fortner) obtained an electronic copy of the video footage and placed it on a thumb drive which was stored in the physical case file at BCI London. SA Fortner reviewed the video from the officers and below is a summary of the officer's actions on video. The complete, individual videos should be referenced for further details. The video footage was obtained from the BWC's of the following CPD officers that were at the scene:

- K-9 Officer Ricky Anderson (Ofc. Anderson)
- Sergeant Chance Knox (Sgt. Knox)
- Officer Jack Randall (Ofc. Randall)
- Officer Justin Dodrill (Ofc. Dodrill)
- Officer Harry Dorsey (Ofc. Dorsey)
- Sergeant James Ingles (Sgt. Ingles)

Sgt. Knox:

Sgt. Knox's video began with he and his partner, Ofc. Dorsey, sitting in their patrol car outside the apartment building at 3295 Sullivant Ave. SA Fortner found that this video was clear, in focus, and showed the entire incident from his view until Lewis was placed in the medic. Ofc. Dorsey confirmed the domestic violence warrant they were attempting to serve and the address with dispatch. They were joined by Ofc. Randall and Ofc. Dodrill and the four approached the apartment building.

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Sgt. Knox and Ofc. Dodrill went and checked the rear of the building while Ofc. Randall and Ofc. Dorsey went up the stairs to apartment H on the 2nd floor. Sgt. Knox then joined officers on the 2nd floor balcony and Ofc. Dodrill stayed on the stairs. At 3 minutes 15 seconds into the video (mm:ss), Sgt. Knox began knocking on the door of apartment H. At 5:06 into the video, Sgt. Knox began announcing "Columbus Police" and "Come to the door" loudly, referencing Lewis by name. At 12:02, the door opened and a Black male in a gray shirt and jeans came out at gunpoint with his hands above his head. A second, shirtless Black male came out of the apartment shortly after. Both were placed in handcuffs and detained on the second floor balcony. Sgt. Knox removed a kitchen knife from the waistband of the first male.

At 14:30, Ofc. Anderson arrived with his K-9 partner and began announcing himself loudly and warning that he will send the dog in if they don't come out. Ofc. Anderson released the dog into the apartment at 14:51 into the video. The K-9 went around a corner and out of view. A male voice could be heard then the sound of a door shutting at 15:15. Sgt. Knox repeated commands to come out and "show your hands." 15:25, Ofc. Anderson and Sgt. Knox entered the apartment together. Ofc. Anderson asked if they should get a Taser and Sgt. Knox replied, "He's got...a gun..." though the entire reply is not audible.

Inside the apartment, there were three closed doors. Ofc. Anderson placed the K-9 back on the leash. He holstered his weapon to check doors. Two were closet doors. The third was a door to a room and the one that the dog was barking at. At 16:02 into the video, Ofc. Anderson held his K-9 with his left hand and opened the door with his right as Sgt. Knox was moving into the doorway. The room was dark and it appeared there was a subject sitting on a bed in the room. Sgt. Knox activated his weapon mounted light and Lewis is seen moving on the bed. Sgt. Knox said, "Hands, hands." Ofc. Anderson drew his service pistol with his right hand and raised it as he said, "Come out now." Ofc Anderson fired one shot at 16:03 into the video. Ofc. Anderson then immediately reholstered his weapon. Sgt. Knox began giving Lewis commands to crawl out. Ofc. Anderson said, "He fuckin' come up like this" and he rose his right hand. Ofc. Dodrill, who had been behind the other officers, then moved Ofc. Anderson back and he moved up with his gun drawn to assist Sgt. Knox.

Sgt. Knox entered the bedroom and handcuffed Lewis at 16:45 into the video. He yelled for another officer to call for a medic saying Lewis was hit in the stomach. Lewis was seen lying on the bed and moaning. A small black object was seen on the bed with Lewis. It would later be found to be an electronic cigarette or "vape pen." Sgt. Knox told other officers that they would take Lewis down to meet the medic. They carried him out of the apartment, down the stairs and put him on the grass. Sgt. Knox began directing other arriving officers to secure the scene as three officers provided medical aid to Lewis. Sgt. Knox assisted them by removing Lewis' clothing. At 20:47, Lewis appeared to be unresponsive and an officer began chest compressions. Officers detected a pulse and stopped CPR. Medics arrived and an officer removed the handcuffs from Lewis. Officers and medics carried Lewis to the ambulance and Lewis' care is transferred to medics at 23:45 into the video.

All of the other officers BWC footage were similar to Sgt. Knox's video except for any differences noted below.

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Ofc. Anderson:

Upon arriving at the scene, Ofc. Anderson is told by one of the other officers that the subject had a 50A (felony warrant) for improper handling (of a firearm). After announcing and letting his dog in, Ofc. Anderson advised they would move up and asked if anyone had a Taser. That was when Sgt. Knox mentioned a gun. Ofc. Anderson could then be seen holstering his weapon and placing his dog back on the leash. Ofc. Anderson checked a closet then opened the bedroom door. This was the point when Lewis became visible and Ofc. Anderson drew his pistol, fired one shot, and reholstered.

Ofc. Anderson then exited the apartment as other officers took Lewis into custody. Ofc. Anderson demonstrated to other officers on his way out that "he came at me like this" as he raised his right arm to chest level. Ofc. Anderson put his K-9 back in his cruiser then waited outside as several officers arrived and provided aid.

Ofc. Randall:

Ofc. Randall handcuffed one of the subjects that exited the apartment and then entered the apartment with officers. Ofc. Randall stayed out in the living room and did not have a view of the bedroom or Lewis when the shot was fired. Ofc. Randall provided cover as other officers rendered aid then helped carry Lewis down the stairs. Officer Randall then helped carry Lewis to the medic when they arrived.

Ofc. Dodrill:

Ofc. Dodrill covered the rear of the building until officers entered the apartment. He then joined them in the apartment but did not have a view of Lewis or inside the bedroom. He then went to his car to get a first aid kit and helped provide aid when Lewis was brought downstairs, doing chest compressions on Lewis. Ofc. Dodrill then helped carry Lewis to the medic when they arrived.

Ofc. Dorsey:

Ofc. Dorsey was seen calling the girlfriend of Lewis to see if she or someone else was in the apartment. He then watched the detained subjects on the balcony as officers entered the apartment. After the shooting, Ofc. Dorsey entered the apartment and helped render aid to Lewis. He then helped carry Lewis downstairs and continued rendering aid. He also helped carry Lewis to the medic when they arrived.

Sgt. Ingles:

Sgt. Ingles arrived on scene as Lewis was carried downstairs. He then helped administer aid to Lewis, placing a chest seal over his wound. He also helped carry Lewis to the medic when they arrived. Sgt. Ingles spoke with Lewis' mother, Rebecca Duran when she arrived at the scene.

SA Matthew Collins further examined the video from Sgt. Knox and Ofc. Anderson's BWC using the InputAce software. Please refer to his report "Video Review_Knox and Anderson BWC".

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References:

001 - BWC video, radio traffic, phone calls
003 - Surveillance video from 3295 Sullivant Ave.

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