

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



2022–2121 Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 6463 Tara Brooke Court, Hamilton, OH 45011 (L)

Investigative Activity:	Body Camera Review, Dash Camera Review
Involves:	Stephaun Sylas Jones (S)
Date of Activity:	10/10/2022
Activity Location:	Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation – 1560 SR-56 SW, London, OH 43140, Madison County
Author:	SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On October 10, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Steven Seitzman (SA Seitzman) received body-worn and cruiser camera footage from the Fairfield Township Police Department. On October 11, 2022, SA Seitzman received body-worn camera footage from the West Chester Township Police Department. SA Seitzman reviewed the footage and determined none of it captured the Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) between Stephaun Sylas Jones (Jones) and the Hamilton Police Officers Bryan Bowlin and James Leisinger.

SA Seitzman noted that some of the footage captured what occurred prior to the OICI. The details of what SA Seitzman deemed relevant are outlined below.

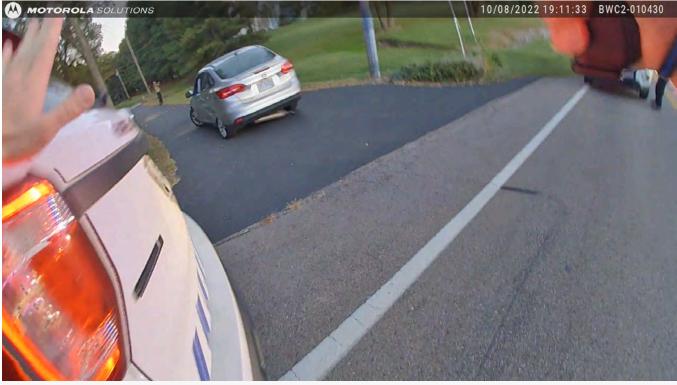
Former Fairfield Township Police Officer Austin Reed's Body-Worn Camera:

- The BWC filename is 00_0096188855_96_0d_66_0f 0095805228_0096184861_0096184894_video0
- Former Fairfield Township Police Officer Austin Reed (Reed) arrived at 6322 Morris Road at 19:11 hours.
- Reed exited his patrol cruiser and immediately gave verbal commands to a subject, later identified as Jones, who was standing in front of a silver Ford sedan parked in the driveway. See image Reed BWC 1 below.



Reed BWC 1

- Reed gives multiple commands for Jones to show his hands.
- Jones points an apparent object in Reed's direction. [Through interviews with Reed and former Fairfield Township Police Officer Mark Bartlett, Jr. (Bartlett), the object was identified as a handgun.] See image Reed BWC 2 below.



Reed BWC 2

- For the remainder of the encounter, Reed commanded Jones to drop the gun multiple times.
- Reed took cover behind his patrol vehicle. At 1911 hours, Jones can be seen walking in the grassy area to the right of the driveway, presumably to see Reed's location.
- Reed told Bartlett that Jones took cover behind a tree.
- At 19:12 hours, Reed holstered his pistol and drew his Taser.
- At 19:13 hours, Reed unsuccessfully discharged his Taser from behind his patrol cruiser.
- Jones ran into the wooded area to the left (north) of the driveway.
- At 19:17 hours, the homeowner approached officers and said that Jones had jumped a fence in the backyard.
 - Reed stayed near the southwest corner of 6322 Morris Road for nearly the remainder of the video.

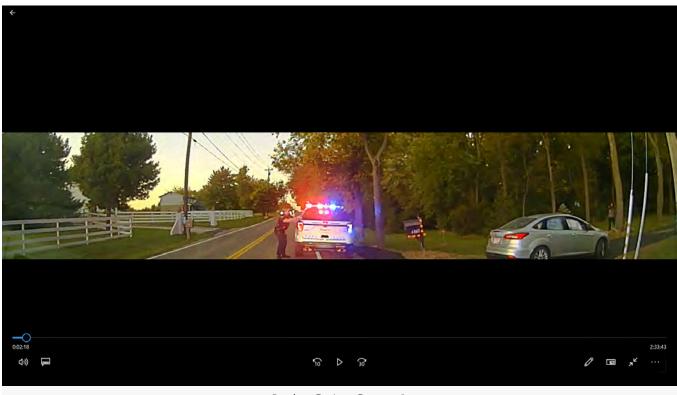
Bartlett's Body-Worn Camera Footage:

- The BWC filename is 00_0094018956_96_0d_56_6c-0091951003_0094002712_0094002727_video0
- Bartlett arrived at 6322 Morris Road at 1911 hours.
- Bartlett yelled, "Drop the gun."
- At 19:12 hours, Bartlett advised dispatch, "Be advised, he's behind a tree. He still has a gun."
 - The dispatcher responded, "Behind a tree. Shotgun."

- At 19:13 hours, a loud pop can be heard. Bartlett then advised over the radio, "Taser deployment. He's going into the woods!"
- Bartlett remained at the end of the driveway with the silver Ford sedan for a large portion of the video.
- At 19:47 hours, Bartlett briefed West Chester Township police officers as to the nature of the incident.
 - Bartlett advised the officers that Jones was a "Black guy, dreads, and a camo hoodie." Bartlett further advised the officers that Jones pointed a gun at him.
- Bartlett followed behind the West Chester Township Police canine.
- At 20:07:34 hours, distant gunshots are heard.
 - The gunshots consisted of a single gunshot, then an approximate threesecond pause, followed by three additional gunshots.
- From 20:07:42 until 20:09:30, Bartlett responded to the scene of the shooting.
- At 20:09:48, Bartlett approached one of the apparently involved Hamilton police officers [Officer James Leisinger]. Bartlett asked, "Are you good?" Officer Leisinger said, "I'm good." Officer Leisinger then secured his rifle in his patrol cruiser.
- For the remainder of the video, Bartlett secured the crime scene with tape and remained in the area. He briefly spoke with the Hamilton Police Chief and other law enforcement officers.

Bartlett's Cruiser Camera (panoramic view):

- The video filename is tick2106261325-tick2106280022-video2.
- SA Seitzman noted that the video did not contain a timestamp.
- At 0:02:17 into the video, Jones can be seen pointing an object, presumably a gun, in the direction of Reed and Bartlett. See image Bartlett Cruiser Camera 1 below.



Bartlett Cruiser Camera 1

- At 0:02:42 into the video, Reed discharged his taser. Jones then ran into the woodline, out of the camera's view.
- At 0:58:44 into the video, a faint sound, presumably distant gunshots, can be heard.

Officer Scott Singleton's Cruiser Camera:

- The video filename is tick48609239-tick48613196-video0.
- Officer Scott Singleton (Officer Singleton) arrived at 0:01:40 into the video. Jones can be seen hiding behind a tree.



Singleton Cruiser Camera 1

• At 0:01:46 into the video, Jones raised his right arm and pointed an object (presumably a handgun) toward the officers. See image Singleton Cruiser Camera 2 below.



Singleton Cruiser Camera 2

• At 0:02:09 into the video, Jones ran into the wood line, and out of the camera's view.

West Chester Township Police Officer Bradley Popplewell's Body-Worn Camera:

- The filename is WCPD_Assist_10-8-22-4.
- The video showed Officer Bradley Popplewell (Officer Popplewell) following behind West Chester Township Police Officer Michael Veeneman (Officer Veeneman) as Officer Veeneman's canine tracked.
- At 20:07:33 hours, the officers neared the roadway on Tara Brooke Court, and a single gunshot could be heard. After approximately three seconds, three more gunshots are heard. The officers then responded toward the location of the gunshots.
- The officers reached the shooting scene at 20:09:20 hours.
- At 20:09:43 hours, Officer Popplewell stood next to Hamilton Police Officer Bryan Bowlin, who was holding a rifle.
- At 20:09:53 hours, Officer Bowlin handed his rifle to Officer Popplewell. Officer Popplewell asked Officer Bowlin, "You good?" Officer Bowlin said something to the effect of, "Yeah. I'm fine."
- At 20:10:19 hours, Officer Popplewell took the magazine out of the rifle and ejected the chambered round. He then placed the rifle, magazine, and ejected round in the truck of Hamilton Police cruiser 461. Officer Popplewell then asked Officer Bowlin for his pistol. He took the magazine out and also ejected the chambered round. He then placed all the items in the trunk of the cruiser.
- At 20:11:02 hours, a dispatcher asked Officer Bowlin over the police radio,

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"Confirming you guys are all okay, just the suspect, correct?" Officer Bowlin replied, "Yeah. Myself and 93 are fine."

• Officer Popplewell turned his body-worn camera off at 20:11:12 hours.

West Chester Township Police Officer Veeneman's Body-Worn Camera:

- The filename is WCPD_Assist_10-8-22-5.
- Officer Veeneman began his canine track at 19:57:09 hours.
- At 20:07:28 hours, Officer Veeneman and his canine neared the roadway on Tara Brooke Court. A single gunshot could be heard. After approximately three seconds, three more gunshots are heard. Officer Veeneman and his canine then ran toward the sound of the gunshots.
- At 20:09:19 hours, Officer Veeneman and his canine reached the scene.
- At 20:09:45 hours, Officer Veeneman spoke with Butler County Deputy Duane Monroe (Deputy Monroe), who was with Jones. Jones was handcuffed and lying on his stomach. Officer Veeneman provided Deputy Monroe with a pair of scissors to cut Jones' clothes.
- At 20:12:33, someone could be heard saying, "I think he [Jones] stopped breathing."
- At 20:12:47, officers initiated CPR.
- At 20:13:29, someone could be heard saying, "There we go. We've got some breaths."
- At 20:14:38, West Chester Township Police Lieutenant Paul Brent Lovell (Lt. Lovell) removed Officer Veeneman's body-worn camera and wore it for the remainder of the video.
- At 20:15:26, the Fairfield Township ambulance arrived. Lt. Lovell briefed the medics.
- At 20:21:21 hours, Jones was loaded into the Fairfield Township ambulance.
- The video was terminated at 20:21:48 hours.

The body-worn and cruiser camera filenames are matched to the officers below.

- Fairfield Township Police Officer Adam Green's (Officer Green) body-worn camera footage:
 - 00_0096246167_96_0d_55_7b-0094369886_0096242878_0096242933_video0
 - 00_0096247176_96_0d_55_7b-0096246244_0096246274_0096246311_video0
- Officer Green's cruiser camera footage:
 - tick2106261325-tick2106280022-video0 (HD camera)
 - tick2106261325-tick2106280022-video2 (panoramic camera)
 - tick2106261325-tick2106280022-video3 (rear seat camera)
- Bartlett's body-worn camera footage:
 - 00_0094018956_96_0d_56_6c-0091951003_0094002712_0094002727_video0
- Bartlett's cruiser camera footage:
 - tick63176652-tick63195374-video0 (HD camera)
 - tick63176652-tick63195374-video2 (panoramic camera)
 - tick63176652-tick63195374-video3 (rear seat camera)
- Officer Singleton's body-worn camera footage:
- 00_0101482788_96_0d_58_fe-0100976957_0101478965_0101478984_video0
- Officer Singleton's cruiser camera footage:
 - tick48609239-tick48613196-video0 (HD camera)
 - tick48609239-tick48613196-video2 (panoramic camera)

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- tick48609239-tick48613196-video3 (rear seat camera)
- Reed's body-worn camera footage:
 - 00_0096188855_96_0d_66_0f-0095805228_0096184861_0096184894_video0
 - 00_0096190166_96_0d_66_0f-0095805229_0096188890_0096188914_video0
 - 00_0096191980_96_0d_66_0f-0095805230_0096190339_0096190346_video0
- Reed's cruiser camera footage:
 - tick63941829-tick63949269-video0 (HD camera)
 - tick63941829-tick63949269-video2 (panoramic camera)
 - tick63941829-tick63949269-video3 (rear seat camera)
- West Chester body-worn camera:
 - Officer Anthony Hetzer
 - WCPD_Assist_10-8-22
 - WCPD_Assist_10-8-22-2
 - Officer Popplewell
 - WCPD_Assist_10-8-22-3
 - WCPD_Assist_10-8-22-4
 - Officer Veeneman
 - WCPD_Assist_10-8-22-5

All the aforementioned videos were placed on a thumb drive to be added to the permanent case file.

References:

USB Thumbdrive