



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



2023-1835
 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 114 North Ninth St, Byesville,
 OH (L)

Investigative Activity: Body Camera Review, Dash Camera Review
Date of Activity: 07/11/2023
Activity Location: Wise, Jeremiah – Home – 114 North Ninth St, Byesville, OH 43723, Guernsey County
Author: SA Craig Call

Narrative:

On July 11, 2023, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Investigations and Crime Scene Units were requested by the Guernsey County Sheriff’s Office (GCSO) to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (shooting) involving members of the Byesville Police Department (BPD), GCSO, and Jeremiah Wise (Wise). It was reported to BCI the incident occurred at Wise’s residence, 114 North 9th Street, Byesville, Ohio, and resulted in Wise being shot by officers and transported to a nearby hospital where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries. BCI Special Agent Craig Call (SA Call) was designated as the lead investigator.

BCI was informed BPD [REDACTED], [REDACTED], BPD Auxiliary Officer [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED], and GCSO Deputy [REDACTED] Deputy [REDACTED] were the officers that fired weapons during the incident.

As a part of the investigation, SA Call was provided with multiple body worn camera (bwc) and patrol cruiser dash camera (dash cam) footage of the incident. The amount of video footage provided is extensive and contains a large amount of footage with no information related to the shooting and events immediately surrounding the shooting. The following report will be a summation of the events surrounding the shooting incident as observed by SA Call.

The shooting and events immediately surrounding the shooting are best captured on Deputy [REDACTED]’s (Deputy [REDACTED] bwc and dash cam of GCSO cruiser number [REDACTED] operated by Deputy [REDACTED]. These videos are the only provided that display Wise’s actions immediately prior to and during the shooting. BPD [REDACTED] initially had a bwc on his person at the start of the incident, however he changed his body armor to a heavier rated set up which was not equipped with a bwc leaving him without a bwc on his person during the shooting. Officer [REDACTED] was equipped with a bwc, but it was not activated at the time of the shooting. Several members of the GCSO SWAT were indirectly involved with the incident after the shooting and SA Call was informed they were not equipped with bwc.

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 10/06/2023

Deputy [REDACTED] Dash Cam

Deputy [REDACTED]'s dash cam video of the incident is approximately four hours and two seconds long. The cruiser cam displays the cruiser arriving on scene and parking in the intersection of North 9th and Pearl Street where it remains for the entirety incident and is only repositioned within the intersection at certain times. The cruiser cam clearly captures all of the radio traffic pertaining to the incident and should be referenced for any specific quotes. The cruiser cam does pick up audio of the surrounding area, however it is muffled and difficult to understand.

Deputy [REDACTED]'s dash cam is initially positioned to view a small portion of the 114 North 9th Street residence and side yard, however at approximately one hour 47 minutes and 40 seconds in the video the dash cam is repositioned within the intersection to fully view the front of the residence.

The timeline below is a summation of the events surrounding the shooting observed by SA Call on Deputy [REDACTED]'s dash cam. The times listed are approximate and are referenced from the time of the video itself and not the time of day.

2 hours 33 minutes 56 seconds– Radio traffic comes across indicating GCSO deputies will be in the process of relieving BPD officers of their perimeter positions. This radio traffic is shortly followed up with additional traffic assigning Sgt. Keith Rogers (Sgt. Rogers), Deputy [REDACTED] and Deputy Adam Castor (Deputy Castor) as the officers taking over the perimeter assignment.

2 hours 36 minutes 40 seconds– A GCSO cruiser can be observed taking the perimeter position of a BPD cruiser parked near the rear of the residence on Pearl Street.

2 hours 38 minutes 15 seconds– Wise exits the front door of the residence wearing no shirt and gym shorts. Wise appears to have a dark rectangular shaped object in his left hand. Wise appears to be gesturing with his arms at the perimeter officers.

2 hours 39 minutes 6 seconds– Wise goes back inside the residence.

2 hours 39 minutes 24 seconds– Sgt. Rogers can be heard giving a description of the encounter over the radio indicating Wise came out wearing gym shorts and a cell phone in his hand. Sgt. Rogers appeared to describe Wise appearing agitated, yelling, and showed officers his middle finger.

2 hours 40 minutes 43 seconds– The front door of the residence opens and Wise can be observed exiting with what appears to be a black handgun in his right hand. Radio traffic can be heard indicating Wise has a gun. Wise appears to have the handgun in his right hand with his right arm fully extended with the gun level with his eye line.

2 hours 40 minutes 47 seconds– A loud yell of “Put the gun down” can be heard with the sound of a gunshot following shortly after. Sounds of multiple gunshots follow and Wise appears to fall to the ground near the threshold of the residence. Deputy [REDACTED] can be observed firing his handgun while moving in front of the dash cam. No other officers can be observed

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firing a weapon from the dash cam.

2 hours 40 minutes 55 seconds– “Shots fired” came over the radio.

2 hours 40 minutes 59 seconds– “He’s down” came over the radio. Deputy ██████████ can be observed approaching a dark 4-door sedan parked immediately in front of the residence with his handgun up and in his eye line.

2 hours 41 minutes 24 seconds– Several officers respond on foot to the front of the residence from multiple directions.

2 hours 41 minutes 34 seconds– Sgt. Rogers can be heard over the radio indicating Wise is down in the front doorway.

2 hours 42 minutes 4 seconds– Armored vehicle arrives and pulls into the yard of the residence.

2 hours 43 minutes 32 seconds– Radio traffic can be heard requesting a ballistic shield indicating Wise is down in the front doorway with the gun between his legs.

2 hours 44 minutes 19 seconds– Several officers appear to make entry into the residence.

2 hours 44 minutes 38 seconds– “Get the squad down here now” came over the radio.

2 hours 46 minutes 16 seconds– EMS squad arrives on scene.

2 hours 48 minutes 22 seconds– Officers begin putting crime scene tape up around the residence while other officers appear to be assisting squad personnel with placing Wise into the squad.

Deputy ██████████’s cruiser was briefly moved to another location within the intersection of North 9th and Pearl Street to allow the squad to move through the intersection. The cruiser was later returned to approximately the same position it was in at the time of the shooting.

The dash cam footage continues until just after the 4-hour time mark and shows officers establish crime scene as radio traffic requested BCI to be contacted.

Deputy ██████████ BWC

The timeline below is a summation of the events surrounding the shooting observed by SA Call on Deputy ██████████’s bwc. The times listed are approximate and are referenced from the time of the video itself and not the time of day. The bwc video provided is approximately 10 minutes and 30 in length.

32 seconds– Deputy ██████████ appears to be positioned at the passenger side rear of his cruiser while Wise appears to be on the front porch of the residence. Deputy ██████████ attempts to engage Wise in conversation by calling out to Wise by name and indicating the police just need to talk to him. Wise yells obscenities at the officers and challenges them to a physical altercation.

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1 minute 13 seconds– Wise goes back inside the residence. Deputy [REDACTED] and other officers appear to communicate the above encounter over the radio. Deputy [REDACTED] proceeds to the driver’s side door of his cruiser.

2 minutes 51 seconds– Deputy [REDACTED] radios that Wise is coming back out. Immediately after, Deputy [REDACTED] draws his sidearm and appears to yell “Hey. Put the gun down.” Wise can be observed on the front porch of the residence with his right arm raised and a dark object in his right hand leveled with his eye line.

2 minutes 55 seconds– A single gunshot can be heard followed up by multiple additional gunshots. Wise appears to turn and fall into the threshold of the residence at this time.

3 minutes 2 seconds– Deputy [REDACTED] begins towards the vehicles in front of the residence and the call of “shots fired” can be heard over the radio.

3 minutes 7 seconds– Deputy [REDACTED] can be heard indicating he can see Wise still moving and begins yelling commands for Wise to show his hands.

3 minutes 26 seconds– Several additional officers respond to the front of the residence as Deputy [REDACTED] communicates he can observe Wise on his side.

4 minutes 50 seconds– Several officers have continued to give Wise commands to show his hands and appear to begin discussing their observations of a firearm near Wise.

5 minutes 14 seconds– Sgt. Rogers appears to communicate he believes he sees a firearm behind Wise’s right foot.

5 minutes 23 seconds– Officers communicate over the radio indicating they need a ballistic shield to make entry and inform other officers Wise is down with what they believe to be a firearm between Wise’s legs.

6 minutes 30 seconds– Deputy [REDACTED] remains in the roadway while it appears other officers make entry into the residence while continually giving Wise commands to show his hands and not move.

6 minutes 44 seconds– A squad is requested to respond immediately over the radio.

6 minutes 49 seconds– Deputy [REDACTED] appears to throw a pair of gloves to an officer standing in the doorway of the residence.

6 minutes 57 seconds– GCSO TEMS Courtney Ryan enters the residence which is announced “Courtney coming in” by several officers.

7 minutes 28 seconds– Deputy [REDACTED] appears to step inside the threshold of the front door and Wise can briefly be observed lying on the floor of what appears to be a living room area. GCSO TEMS Ryan can be observed in the process of applying what appears to be chest seal to Wise during this time.

9 minutes 7 seconds– EMS squad personnel arrive at the residence as GCSO TEMS Ryan

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continues to render aid to Wise.

10 minutes 9 seconds– Squad personnel remove Wise from the residence and Deputy [REDACTED] communicates he has a “code 40” beneath his foot. Code 40 is a common police code used for firearm.

The bwc footage concludes at 10 minutes 30 seconds.

Sergeant Rogers BWC

The timeline below is a summation of the events surrounding the shooting observed by SA Call on Sgt. Keith Rogers (Sgt. Rogers) bwc. The times listed are approximate and are referenced from the time of the video itself and not the time of day. The bwc video provided is approximately 19 minutes and 59 seconds in length. Sgt. Rogers bwc footage appears to begin after the shooting took place.

0–15 seconds– Sgt. Rogers appears to be running with a rifle towards the residence on North 9th Street before briefly stopping at a nearby vehicle parked along the roadway.

24 seconds– Sgt. Rogers begins communicating with Deputy [REDACTED] about the location of a weapon and several other officers begin responding to the area on foot.

1 minute 15 seconds– Wise can be observed on the floor immediately inside the front door of the residence.

During this time frame Sgt. Rogers is stationed on the roadway near Deputy [REDACTED] with the same vantage point and information obtained from Deputy [REDACTED]s above bwc review

3 minutes 32 seconds– Sgt. Rogers makes entry into the residence with members of the GCSO SWAT team and communicates they have located a firearm. A SWAT team member appears to kick the firearm towards to Sgt. Rogers. Sgt. Rogers appears to communicate he has the gun beneath his foot shortly after.

4 minutes 2 seconds– GCSO TEMS Ryan enters the residence and appears to begin rendering aid to Wise. Wise continues to lay on the floor not communicating throughout this process.

5 minutes 33 seconds– “Squads on scene” is announced and Sgt. Rogers appears to continue to maintain security on the residence.

6 minutes 20 seconds– EMS squad personnel arrive inside the residence. Sgt. Rogers assists the squad personnel with loading Wise onto a disposable litter device for transport to the squad.

7 minutes 19 seconds– Sgt. Rogers continues to assist squad personnel and helps place Wise on a portable stretcher.

8 minutes 20 seconds– A GCSO deputy asks which officers were involved. Sgt. Rogers responded he knew that Deputy [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in the area, but indicated he was not for sure.

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8 minutes 40 seconds– Sgt. Rogers approaches [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] confirms he fired his weapon along Deputy [REDACTED] and Officer [REDACTED]

Throughout the rest of the footage Sgt. Rogers assumes a role as evidence and scene security with the footage concluding at the 19 minutes 59 second mark.

Deputy Adam Castor

Deputy Adam Castor (Deputy Castor) was positioned near the rear of the residence on Pearl Street behind a patrol cruiser which did not allow him to observe the area the shooting took place. The bwc provided is approximately 10 minutes and 3 seconds in length.

Deputy Castor can be observed running to the residence after the shooting and assisting with scene security. Deputy Castor does not enter the residence on the footage provided and the rest of the content does not add additional information in regard to the shooting.

Officer Andrew Stewart

Ten bwc videos were provided for BPD Officer Andrew Stewart (Officer Stewart) with the majority of the footage containing information surrounding the initial call for service.

Officer Stewart was positioned by Deputy Castor during the time of the shooting and was unable to observe the events surrounding the shooting. Officer Stewart assisted with scene security after the shooting.

[REDACTED] Dash Cam

Fourteen (14) dash cam and in car cruiser videos were provided for [REDACTED] with each being approximately one hour in length. One of the dash cam videos contains footage of the shooting and events surrounding the shooting. The dash cam footage referenced appears to begin at approximately 1900 hours and end at approximately 2000 hours, according to the timestamps on the video. The footage does not contain audio.

The footage appears to show [REDACTED]'s cruiser positioned on North 9th Street to the West of 114 North 9th Street (involved residence) positioning the vehicle approximately two residences away in front of 118 North 9th Street. The front of the involved residence is visible throughout the footage, however it is partially obstructed by vehicles parked along the roadway.

The times referenced below are approximate and referenced from the time the events occurred on the video.

38 minutes 40 seconds– The front door of the involved residence appears to open and Sgt. Rogers can be observed walking in front of [REDACTED]'s cruiser. Sgt. Rogers can be observed gesturing with hands and begins to advance upon the residence. Sgt. Rogers advances several feet towards Wise during this interaction and Wise does not appear to leave the front porch.

Due to poor video quality and the distance from the cruiser, Wise's actions are difficult to observe.

39 minutes 30 seconds– Wise appears to go back inside the residence and Sgt. Rogers falls

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back to [REDACTED]'s cruiser and leaves the frame of the video.

41 minutes 06 seconds– The front door of the involved residence appears to open and the apparent rapport of gunfire crosses the dash cam from the area behind [REDACTED]'s cruiser.

41 minutes 10 seconds– Sgt. Rogers and [REDACTED] enter the frame and begin advancing towards the residence with rifles.

41 minutes 18 seconds– Deputy [REDACTED] established from previous videos described above, can be observed moving up to the vehicles in front of the involved residence.

41 minutes 34 seconds– Several additional officers respond to the area on foot.

The rest of the footage contained in this video does not add additional information in regard to the shooting.

[REDACTED] BWC

Eight (8) bwc videos were provided for [REDACTED] [REDACTED]; bwc was activated during the time of the shooting, however it was located in what appeared to be the back of his patrol cruiser. The does contain audio of the shooting incident. There is additional audio dialogue captured on the bwc, however the below will be focused on the time immediately surrounding the shooting.

The times referenced below are approximate and referenced from the time the events occurred on the video.

26 minutes 58 seconds– "He's got a gun in his hand" is yelled.

27 minutes– "Drop the gun" is yelled loudly followed up with the sound of several gunshots.

27 minutes 6 seconds– "Shots fired" is put out over the radio.

The rest of the audio contained is of radio traffic surrounding the incident after the fact.

Additional Footage

While there are several additional videos provided to BCI which have been reviewed and are in the case file, however the above contain the most relevant information pertinent to the shooting and the events surrounding the shooting.

References:

evidence.com video

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