



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



2024-3564
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 5050 Eastpointe Drive,
Medina, Ohio 44256, Medina County

Investigative Activity: Video Review
Involves: Charles Alexander (S), [REDACTED] (S), Montville
Township Police Department (O)
Activity Date: 12/12/2024
Activity Location: BCI – Richfield – 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, OH
Authoring Agent: SA Jesse Bynum

Narrative:

On Friday, November 15, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Jesse Bynum (SA Bynum) received video footage from the Montville Township Police Department (Montville). SA Bynum was informed that the videos contained footage from the dash and body cameras recorded by the Montville Township Police Department.

Montville

1. Montville Unit 6 Front
2. Montville Unit 6 Panorama
3. Montville Officer Percy Body Cam
4. Montville Unit 3 Front
5. Montville Unit 3 Panorama

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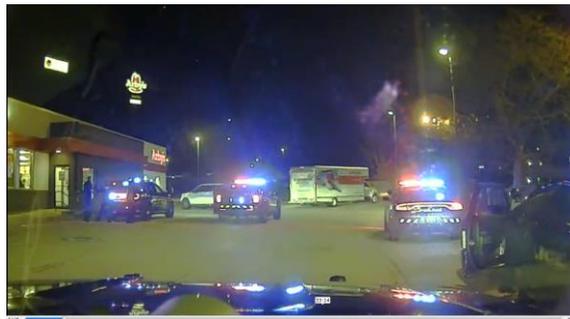
SA Bynum reviewed the video recordings and noted the following:

The file "Montville Unit 6 Front" is a video that is 59:59 in length and is from a Montville Township Police Department cruiser Unit 6 being driven by Officer Rich Percy (Percy). Audio is not present until the 01:00 mark of the video. At the 01:24 mark of the video, the U-Haul was observed exiting Interstate 71 to Route 18 with a flat front tire and seven cruisers following behind with lights and sirens on (Image 1).



(Image 1)

At the 04:25 mark of the video, Officer Percy was observed parking his cruiser in the Arby's parking lot (Image 2). At the 04:39 mark of the video, a gunshot was heard.



(Image 2)

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At the 05:59 mark of the video, the passenger door of the U-Haul was observed opening and then closing (Image 3). At the 06:07 mark of the video, a second gunshot was heard.



(Image 3)

At the 33:32 mark of the video, Ohio State Highway Patrol [REDACTED] unmarked Durango was observed parking on the Interstate 71 off-ramp (Image 4).



(Image 4)

At the 41:07 mark of the video, [REDACTED]'s gunshot was heard. At the 41:36-mark, SWAT and Officers were observed approaching the U-Haul (Image 5). Nothing further of evidentiary value was noted.



(Image 5)

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The file "Montville Unit 6 Panorama" is a video that is 59:59 in length and is from a Montville Township Police Department cruiser Unit 6 being driven by Officer Percy. Audio is not present until the 01:00 mark of the video. The video was reviewed in its entirety and found to contain the same point of view as the previous Unit 6 video with a wider view. Nothing of additional evidentiary value was noted.

The file "RichPercy_202411112020_WFC1032078_87509599" is a video that is 45:28 in length and is a body camera assigned to Officer Percy from the Montville Township Police Department. At the 03:27 mark of the video, Officer Percy was observed exiting his cruiser after parking in the Arby's parking lot (Image 6). At the 05:05 mark of the video, a gunshot was heard.



(Image 6)

At the 08:19 mark of the video, Officer Percy told the Arby's employees to leave the restaurant and stay away from the windows. At the 18:00 mark of the video, Officer Percy was heard speaking to Medina Township Police Department Chief John Minek (Minek) about Charles Alexander requesting to speak with his ex-wife. Chief Minek advised Officer Percy to tell dispatch to not let Charles talk to her, as it could provide closure to him. At the 20:55 mark of the video, Chief Minek was observed making a telephone call to dispatch in order to be connected to Charles Alexander. At the 22:58 mark of the video, Chief Minek was connected to Charles and was heard leaving a message to call him back on his cell phone. At the 30:43 mark of the video, Chief Minek was heard stating that an attempt to contact Charles the phone call went to voicemail again.

At the 33:00 mark of the video, Chief Minek was heard on the phone with Charles. At the 37:21 mark, the call was disconnected. Chief Minek asked if Charles called back into dispatch and then was observed attempting to call Charles again with it appearing to go to voicemail. At the 40:24 mark, Officer Percy was heard telling Medina Township

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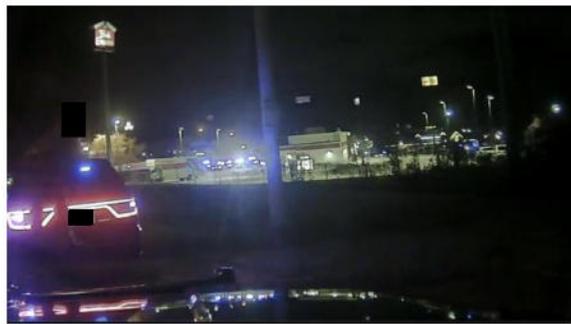
Lieutenant Todd Zieja (Zieja) that there was another shot fired. Nothing further of evidentiary value was noted.

The file "Montville Unit 3 Front" is a video that is 28:26 in length and is from a Montville Township Police Department cruiser Unit 3 being driven by Officer Joel Eckstine (Eckstine). Audio is not present until the 01:00 mark of the video. At the 04:05 mark of the video, [REDACTED] Durango was observed parked on the 71 / 18 Off-ramp (Image 7).



(Image 7)

At the 05:06 mark of the video, [REDACTED] was observed using the Durango roof as a platform for his rifle (Image 8).



(Image 8)

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At the 08:31 mark of the video, [REDACTED]'s gunshot was heard. Due to the angle of Officer Eckstine's cruiser and the narrow view of the front camera nothing further of evidentiary value was noted.

The file "Montville Unit 4 Panorama" is a video that is 59:59 in length and is from a Montville Township Police Department cruiser Unit 3 being driven by Officer Eckstine. Audio is not present until the 01:00 mark of the video. The panorama video was the same as the front with the exception of a wider field of view. At the 08:31 mark of the video, the U-Haul was observed at the time of [REDACTED]'s gunshot (Image 9). Nothing of additional evidentiary value was noted.



(Image 9)

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.

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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 video footage was submitted to the physical BCI case file as item Reference Item C - Aviation_Drone_Dash_and_Body_Camera_Video for reference only. The images in this report are for demonstrative purposes only.

References:

Reference Item C - Aviation_Drone_Dash_and_Body_Camera_Video

Attachments:

1. 2024-11-11 Montville Twp Camera Screenshots

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