



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



2024-3294

Officer Involved Critical Incident - Portage Hike and Bike  
Trail near North Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

**Investigative Activity:** Review of Body Worn Camera  
**Involves:** Officer Joshua Twigg (S), Matthew Fries (S)  
**Activity Date:** 12/02/2024  
**Activity Location:** BCI - Richfield  
**Authoring Agent:** SA Allison Fletcher

**Narrative:**

On Wednesday, October 23, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Allison Fletcher (Fletcher) received video footage from Ravenna Police Department (RPD) Captain Jason Smallfield (Smallfield). SA Fletcher was informed that the videos contained footage from the body camera worn by RPD Officer Joshua Twigg.

Note that the video times referenced in this report will refer to the elapsed time of the video.

One video file containing video footage from Officer Twigg's BWC was provided, and the title of the file was *BWC\_27\_62542\_102224164328\_7 - Joshua Twigg*.

SA Fletcher reviewed the video recordings and noted the following:

Throughout this report the percussion sounds consistent with the sound of gunfire may be referred to as gunshots or gunfire. It should be noted those references are based on the totality of corroborating information and evidence gathered throughout this investigation. It in no way suggests that the percussion sounds referenced could not have originated from some other unknown source. Screenshots were taken of relevant moments in the video.

**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.



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**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.

**BWC 27\_62542\_102224164328\_7 - Joshua Twigg**

The video was 31 minutes and 23 seconds in duration. The video began with Officer Twigg driving his police cruiser. The audio for the video began at 00:10 and sirens could be heard in the background.

At 01:55 Officer Twigg arrived at the hike and bike trail near North Freedom Street. He parked his police cruiser, exited the vehicle, and approached three subjects standing on the trail. One of the subjects was a male wearing a bike helmet and blue shirt who was later identified as Jack Chandler (Chandler). Chandler instructed Officer Twigg to follow him down the path towards the victim.

At 02:07 The victim (later identified as Larry Burghy (Burghy)) could be heard yelling in the background. Officer Twigg began moving towards Burghy who was lying on the ground (*Twigg BWC 1*).

Officer Twigg could be heard speaking with Chandler as he approached Burghy. Chandler stated he did not see anyone else in the area when he encountered Burghy who was calling for help.

At 02:25 Officer Twigg reached Burghy's location on the trail. Burghy stated he was stabbed by another male while he was in his tent. Burghy did not know who the subject was but stated the unknown male had a double-side axe and a "hook knife."

At 02:46 a small figure could be observed on the trail in the distance. This was likely the involved subject, Matthew Fries (Fries) approaching Officer Twigg's location (*Twigg BWC 2*).

At 02:54 Officer Twigg began examining Burghy's injuries. He appeared to have wounds to his left arm (*Twigg BWC 3*). Burghy also stated he was stabbed in his "butt."

At 03:07 Fries could be seen as a small figure moving toward the officers.



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At 03:39 Officer Twigg utilized his portable radio to notify dispatch that he observed a male on the trail approaching his location. Officer Twigg began to move towards the small figure (Fries).

At 03:59 Officer Twigg continued to move towards the small figure (Fries). [REDACTED] could be heard on the radio stating she observed someone walking towards them on the trail (*Twigg BWC 5*).

At 04:22 Officer Twigg's firearm was visible. He appeared to be pointing it in the direction of Fries who continued walking on the trail towards him. Officer Twigg began giving commands to Fries to get on the ground (*Twigg BWC 6*).

Officer Twigg continued pointing his firearm at Fries and giving commands "to get on the ground." Officer Twigg announced that Fries was carrying a knife or sword of some kind.

At 04:49 a cyclist wearing a yellow shirt could be observed riding on the trail. He appeared to ride past Fries' location. He also passed Officer Twigg on the left (*Twigg BWC 7*).

Fries continued to walk on the trail closer to Officer Twigg. Officer Twigg continued to give verbal commands for Fries to "drop it" and "get on the ground."

At 04:58 someone could be heard in the background (likely Officer Matthew Meyers) stating "put the axe down now." Fries continued to approach Officer Twigg.

At 05:04 Fries briefly stopped walking and appeared to take a "fighting stance" (*Twigg BWC 8*).

Fries continued to approach Officer Twigg. Other Officers could be heard yelling commands at Fries. Fries periodically yelled back at officers stating, "fuck off."

At 05:22 a double-sided axe could be observed in Fries' left hand. He continued walking quickly towards Officer Twigg's location. Officer Twigg appeared to move backwards.

At 05:29 the first gunshot could be heard (*Twigg BWC 9*).

At 05:30 Fries fell to the ground. Small light-colored clouds could be observed on the trail. This was likely bullets striking the hike and bike trail. Officer Twigg appeared to still have his firearm pointed at Fries (*Twigg BWC 10*).

At 05:32 the gunshots ended. Approximately thirteen (13) gunshots could be heard. Someone could be heard saying "stop." Fries was lying on the ground on his back. The



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axe was lying under Fries' head (*Twigg BWC 11*).

Radio traffic of "shots fired" could be heard in the background. Officer Twigg appeared to move to his right, closer to the train tracks. Officer Twigg then began giving commands to Fries for him to "rollover."

At 06:17 Officer Twigg and another officer (likely Officer Meyers) approached Twigg and began moving the knife and axe away from Fries. A large pool of blood could be observed under Fries' back. Officer Twigg appeared to locate an object from under Fries. This was likely the curved knife that was carried by Fries in his right hand.

The remainder of the video included the rendering of aid to Fries by officers and Ravenna Fire Department personnel and scene management after the critical incident.



*Twigg BWC 1*



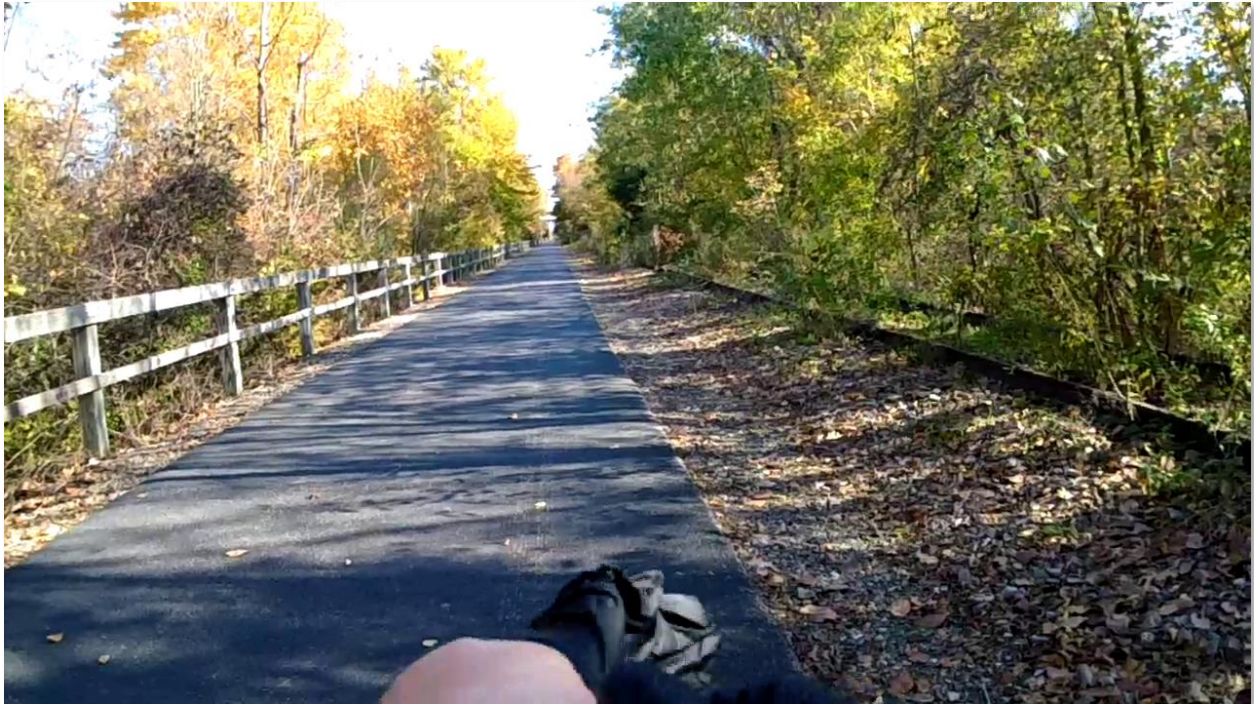


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*Twigg BWC 2*



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*Twigg BWC 3*





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*Twigg BWC 4*



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*Twigg BWC 5*



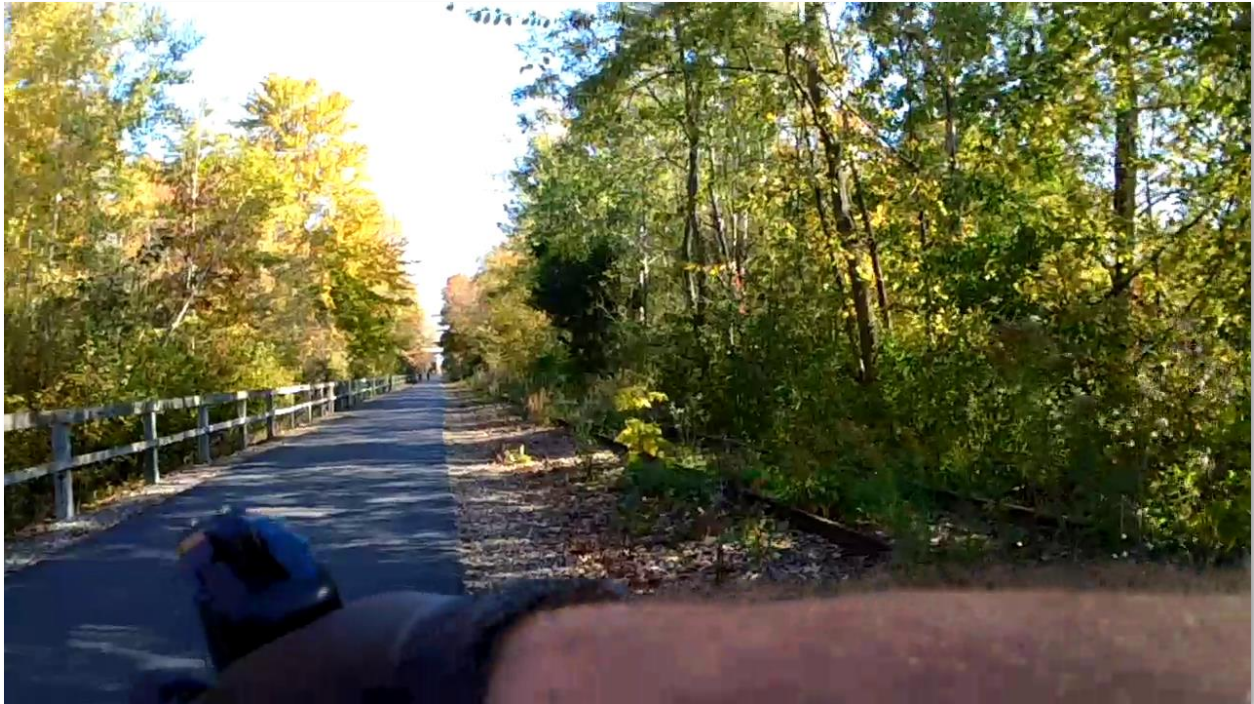


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*Twigg BWC 6*



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*Twigg BWC 7*



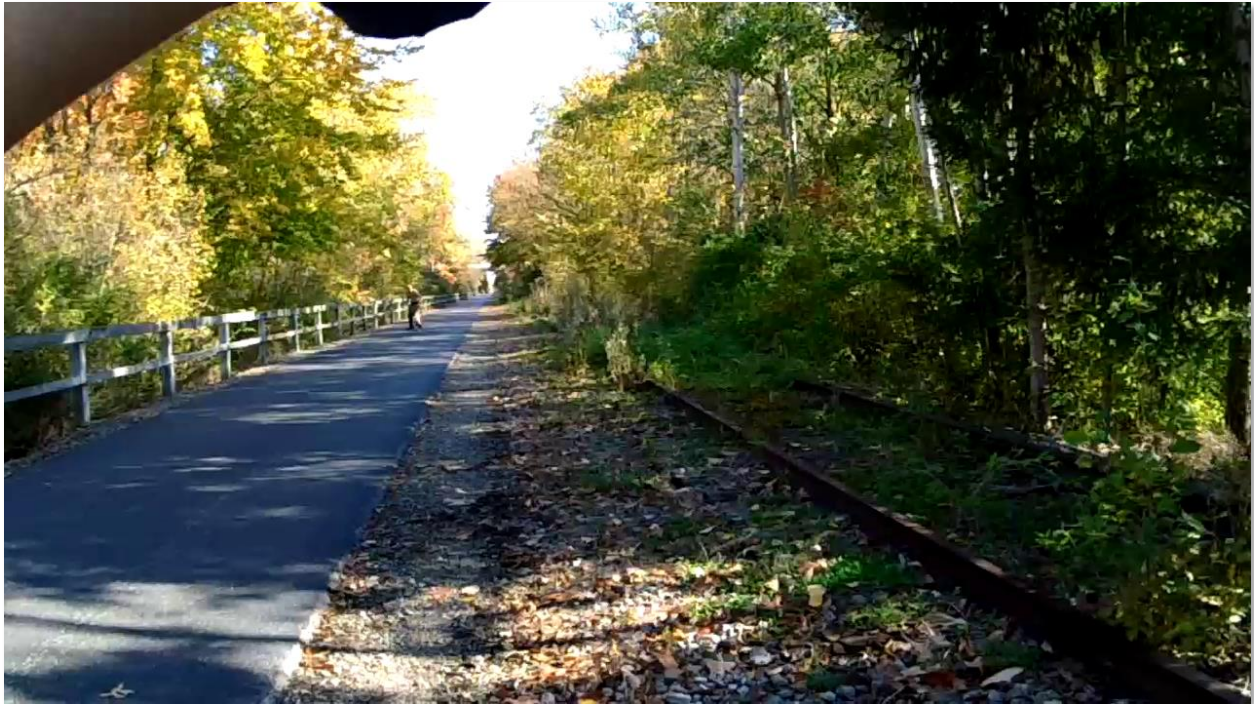


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*Twigg BWC 8*



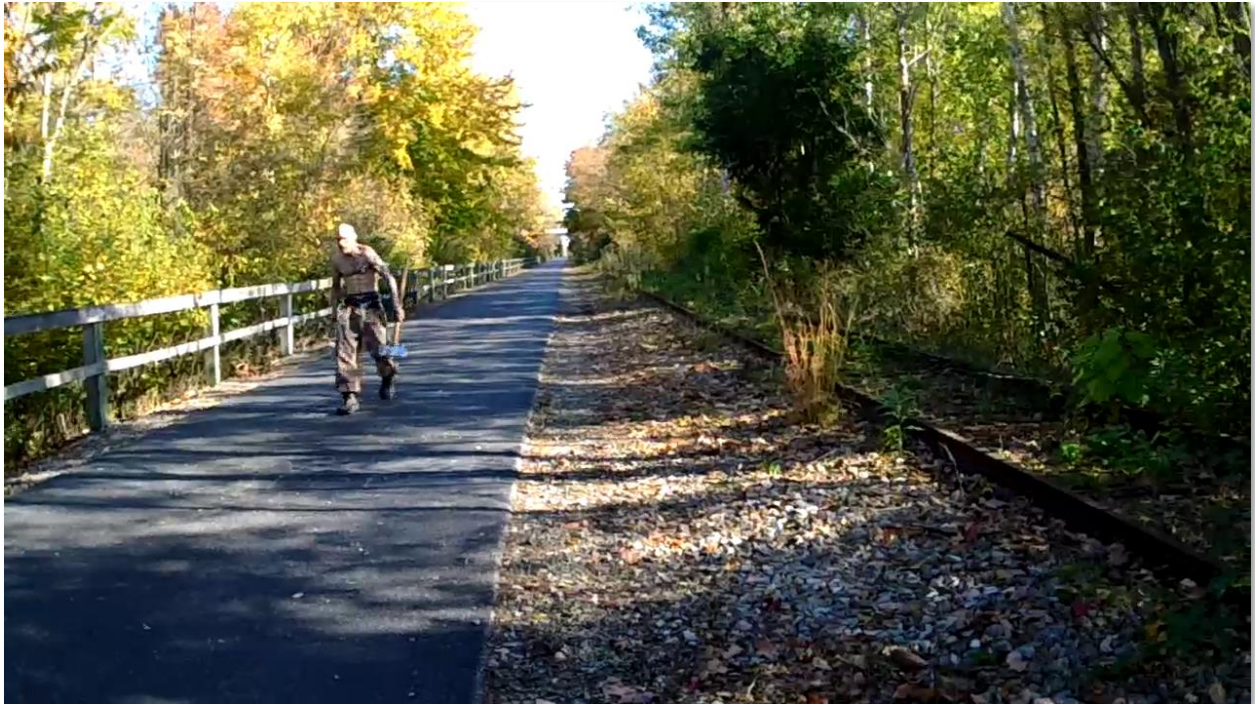


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*Twigg BWC 9*



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*Twigg BWC 10*

The thumb drive containing the video footage was submitted to the physical BCI case file as item E for reference only.

**References:**

Reference Item E – BWC Ravenna PD

**Attachments:**

1. Twigg BWC 1-10







