



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



2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,
Whitehall

Investigative Activity: BWC Video Review of Non-Shooting Officers
Involves: Sgt. Brett Biggs, Ofc. Brooke Cano, Ofc. Bruce Stephen,
Ofc. Spencer Grace & Deputy Chief Chad Wilder
Activity Date: 05/01/2024
Authoring Agent: SA Chad Holcomb, #61

Narrative:

On Friday, April 19, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chad Holcomb (SA Holcomb) received video footage from Whitehall Police Department (WPD) SA Holcomb was informed that the videos contained footage from the body cameras recorded by the WPD Officers who were involved or responded to the scene. All the BWC reviewed in this report consisted of non-shooting officers.

SA Holcomb documented the portions of the audio/video he believed to be the most relevant in obtaining facts necessary to provide an understanding of the events that took place during the incident. SA Holcomb documented what he believed each subject was saying. For both reasons mentioned, the reader is encouraged to review the video in its entirety.

All times are reflective of the times within the video clips and not the time of day.

BrettBiggs_20240410207_v39-0 - (Sergeant Brett Biggs BWC)

The video begins with Sgt. Biggs driving his police cruiser, #3, with its emergency lights and siren activated. At 00:46 into the recording, Sgt. Biggs arrived on scene and retrieves a ballistic shield from his trunk. Other officers can be seen approaching the subject's vehicle from the passenger side.

At 01:34 into the recording, a voice can be heard stating the vehicle is secure and one person is down, who was later identified as Santiago Alfaromunoz (Alfaromunoz). An officer was heard saying, "The gun should be towards the center console area". Ofc. Bruce Stephen was seen performing first aid to Alfaromunoz.

Sgt. Biggs asked Columbus Division of Police officers who responded to start putting out crime scene tape. Sgt. Biggs approached [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) and [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) and asked if any subjects were outstanding. They replied with no.

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



2024-1219

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At 04:36 into the recording, a medic was seen arriving on scene. At 07:32, Alfaramunoz was moved to the medic on scene.

BrookeCano_202404190207_v16-0 - (Officer Brooke Cano BWC)

The video begins with Ofc. Cano driving her cruiser with the emergency lights and siren activated. At 00:55 into the recording, Ofc. Cano arrives on scene. Officers are seen approaching the subject's vehicle from the passenger side. Commands in Spanish were heard being yelled. The command, "Manos Arriba" is translated to "Put your hands up". Officers stated that the car is secure and there is one person, Alfaramunoz, down.

At 03:14 into the recording, Ofc. Stephen and Deputy Chief Chad Wilder (DC Wilder) can be seen performing first-aid to Alfaramunoz. At 04:28 into the recording, a medic can be seen approaching the vehicle. Ofc. Cano later provides officer support.

BruceStephen_202404190205_v28-0 - (Officer Bruce Stephen BWC)

The video begins with Ofc. Stephen driving in his patrol vehicle towards the scene. At 00:31 into the recording, a voice over the radio can be heard stating there was a '33' [firearm] in the vehicle. Ofc. Stephen asked if other officers should 'step it up'; a male voice confirmed. At 00:41 into the recording, Ofc. Stephen activated his emergency lights and siren.

At 00:57 into the recording "shots fired, shots fired, 10-3" is heard over the radio. At 01:48 into the recording, Ofc. Stephen arrives on scene and retrieves his long gun. He then moves over to DC Wilder who is holding a ballistic shield. At 03:25 officers moved toward the vehicle. The command "Show me your hands" was yelled in English and Spanish.

At 03:55 into the recording officers reach Alfaramunoz, who is seen slumped over to the side in his seat. Ofc. Stephen asks someone to grab his medical bag. He then climbs into the driver's side of the vehicle and begins to perform first aid. Ofc. Stephen observes a gunshot wound to the head. Alfaramunoz is seen breathing and making noises.

At 09:35 into the recording, Alfaramunoz is seen being placed on a medical gurney.

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Investigative Report**



2024-1219

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BruceStephen_202404190220_v28-0 - (Officer Bruce Stephen BWC)

The recording starts with Ofc. Stephen inside of an empty medic retrieving gloves. At 01:23 into the recording, Ofc. Stephen attempts to identify the other male, later identified as William Morales Villatoro (Villatoro). Ofc. Stephen uses Language Line as an interpreter to identify Villatoro.

SpencerGrace_202404190205_v15-0 - (Officer Spencer Grace BWC)

The video begins with Ofc. Grace driving his patrol vehicle. At 00:15 into the recording, a voice over the radio can be heard saying that there are two people and a '33' [firearm] in the vehicle. Officers were asked to 'pick it up' on their response. Ofc. Grace then activated his emergency lights and siren. At 00:43 into the recording, DC Wilder can be heard over the radio saying, "Shots fired, shots, fired, 10-3".

At 01:06 into the recording, Ofc. Grace arrives on scene and covers the vehicle as a shield is being obtained. At 02:36 into the recording, Ofc. Grace takes the shield from DC Wilder. Ofc. Stephen is heard giving a quick briefing on how they are going to approach the vehicle. At 03:12 into the recording, they began to approach the vehicle. "Show me your hands" was announced in English and Spanish.

At 03:43 into the recording officers reached Alfaromunoz inside the vehicle. Ofc. Stephen asks for his medical bag and Ofc. Grace retrieves it. At 04:40 into the recording, Ofc. Grace assists Ofc. Stephen with first aid.

At 06:36 into the recording, a medic is seen standing next to DC Wilder and the vehicle. At 07:39 into the recording, Ofc. Grace was assigned to start a crime scene log.

ChadWilder_202404190201_v56-0 - (Deputy Chief Chad Wilder BWC)

The BWC is black from the start of the video until 04:10 into the recording. Audio however is heard

The video begins in black but with audio music. An officer is heard over the radio stating that he just heard two 43 [gunshots] near Simpson and Hamilton. DC Wilder asked if they thought the gunshots would be near Stonecrest Apartments; the officer confirmed. DC Wilder states he was at Hamilton and Main and would head to that area.

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2024-1219

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Whitehall

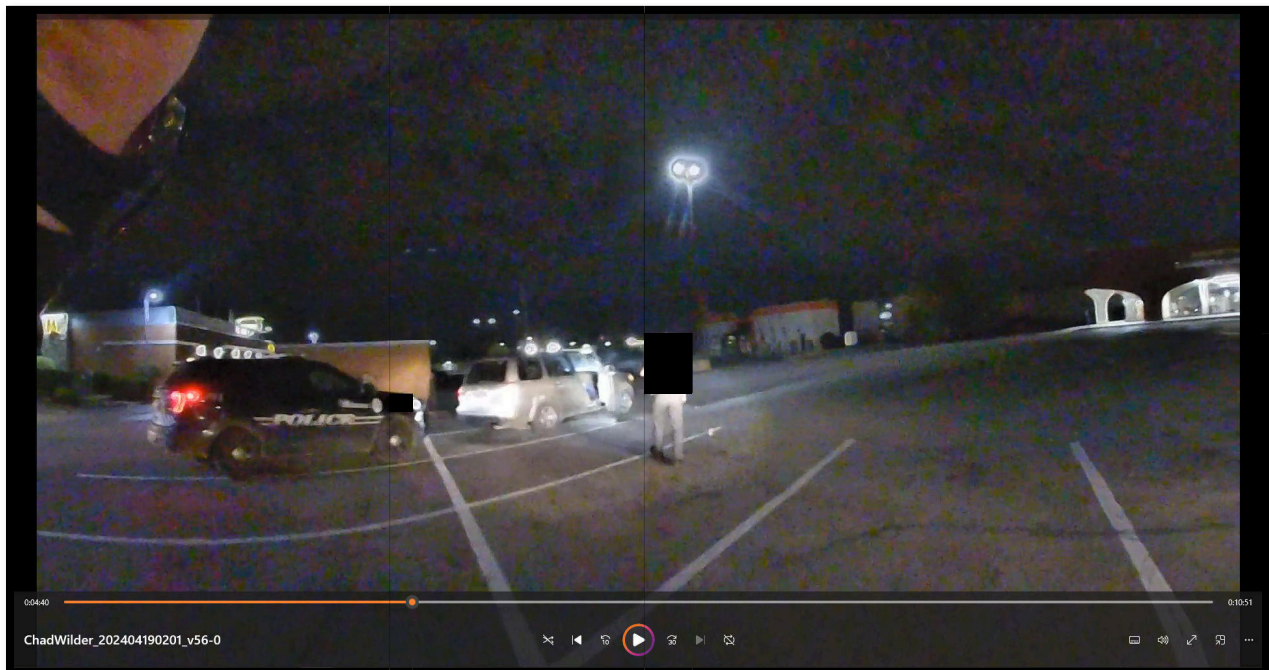
At 01:00 into the recording, dispatch airs that ShotSpotter data shows that the gunshots were around Roses Discount Store and another data point near 488 Burnhart Road.

At 02:31 into the recording, an officer is heard asking if that is DC Wilder driving in the parking lot; he confirms it is him. DC Wilder states that there is a vehicle in the parking lot with their blinkers on and another one just left. The officer airs back that he will get out with the car with its blinkers on in the parking lot.

At 03:59 into the recording, an officer is heard saying that there are two people and a '33' [firearm] inside the car. The officer asks for the other officers to 'pick it up'.

At 04:10 into the recording, the BWC begins to show video. At 04:23 into the recording, gunshots are heard and DC Wilder airs, "Shots fired, shots fired, 10-3".

At 04:35 into the recording, DC Wilder arrives on scene and airs to start medics.



(04:40 into the recording, DC Wilder's view once arriving on scene)

At 04:49 into the recording, DC Wilder asks if the suspect is hit; [REDACTED] states he isn't sure. "Show me your hands" in Spanish was being yelled. DC Wilder tells [REDACTED] to back up and get a shield. DC Wilder then gets a shield from the trunk of his vehicle.

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Investigative Report**

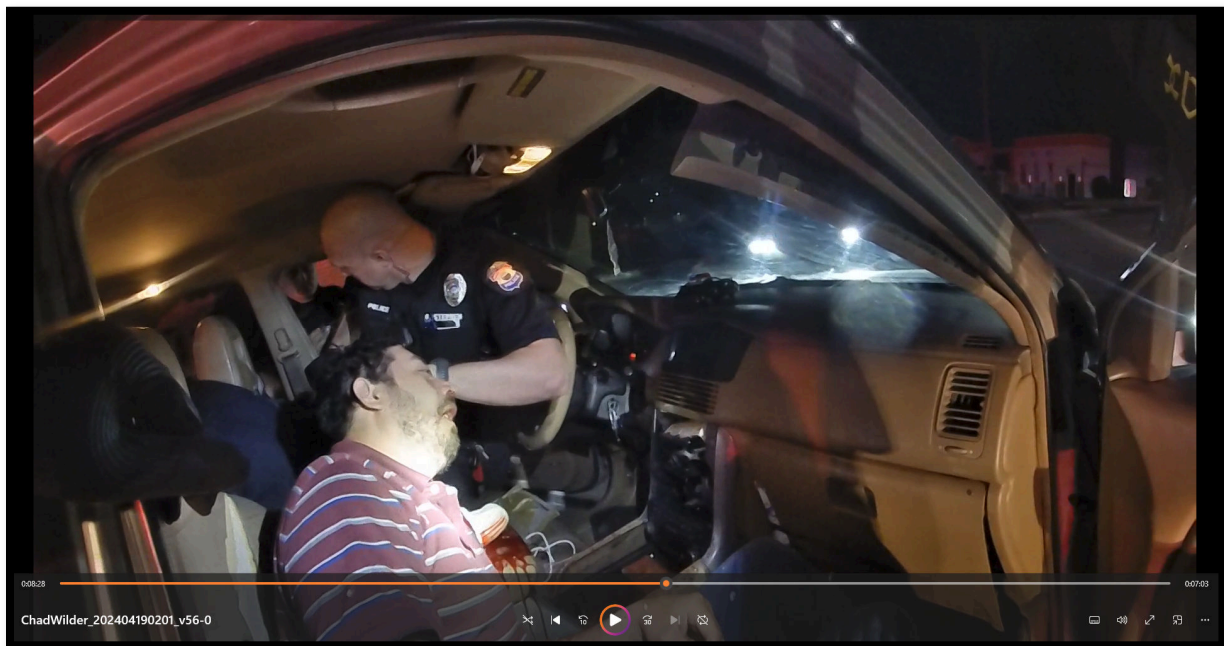


2024-1219

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4632 East Main Street,
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At 06:12 into the recording, DC Wilder gives Ofc. Grace the shield. They briefly talk about how they are going to approach the vehicle. They then approach the vehicle at 06:56 into the recording. "Show me your hands" is yelled in English and Spanish. After approaching the vehicle and seeing Alfaramunoz, Ofc. Stephen then asks someone to get his medical bag.

At 07:50 into the recording, first aid is seen being administered to Alfaramunoz.



(08:28 into the recording, Ofc. Stephen administering first aid)

At 10:38 into the recording, a medic takes over first aid.

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 any one particular party. It captures the action but not the perception, decision making, focus, or intent of the parties involved. Video recordings can 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.

References:

The thumb drive containing the video footage was submitted to the physical BCI case file as item A for reference only. Please review the videos for further information.

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