



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



2024-2255

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 818 Cherryberry Dr.,
Columbus, OH 43228 (L)

Investigative Activity: Video Review
Date of Activity: 10/30/2024
Activity Location: – 818 Cherry Berry Drive, Columbus, OH
Author: SA Aja Chung, #86

Narrative:

On Monday, August 01, 2024, The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by the Columbus Division of Police (CPD) for assistance in investigating an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) at 818 Cherryberry Drive, Columbus, Ohio. The incident stemmed from a domestic dispute involving Benjamin Wheeler (Wheeler), who had an active felony warrant for child support. Wheeler barricaded himself inside his residence and CPD SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) responded to the barricade situation. After hours of unsuccessful negotiation and multiple non-lethal tactic attempts, CPD SWAT entered the residence to arrest Wheeler. An incident between Wheeler and SWAT officers ensued resulting in Wheeler's death.

On October 30, 2024, SA Chung reviewed Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) drone video recordings that were provided to BCI by CPD. This footage was saved electronically within evidence.com. Please review the videos in their entirety for specific details.

Upon review of the footage recorded by FCSO, the conditions were nighttime with some light provided by two (2) CPD BearCats parked on the front lawn of 818 Cherryberry Drive. There is no sound in the video.

Prior to the two (2) FCSO drones taking flight, CPD SWAT made numerous attempts to diffuse the situation with negotiation commands, communication attempts (throw-bot and providing a telephone number for Wheeler to call), as well as CS gas and knocker deployments. The first drone was knocked out of flight when Wheeler threw an object at it. No video footage was recorded with the first drone.

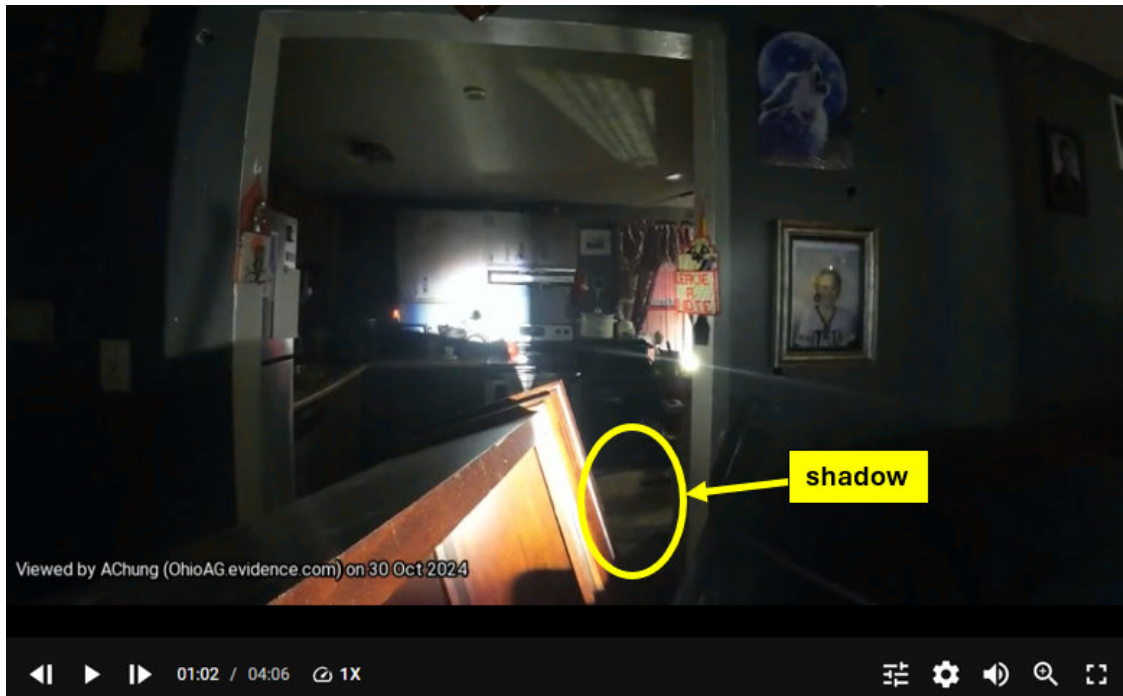
SA Chung reviewed the video, and the following was noted within the case folder, FCSO Drone, "DJI_0086.MP4".

- The footage is 4:06 minutes long and begins with the drone taking flight outside on the west side of the house.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

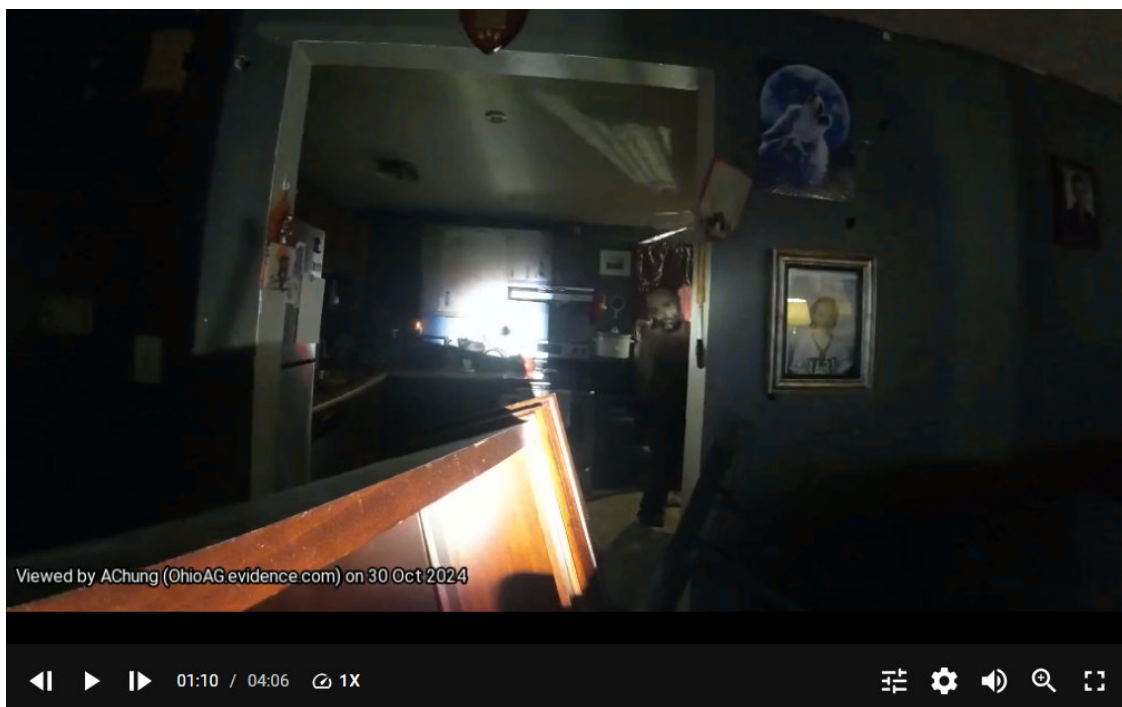
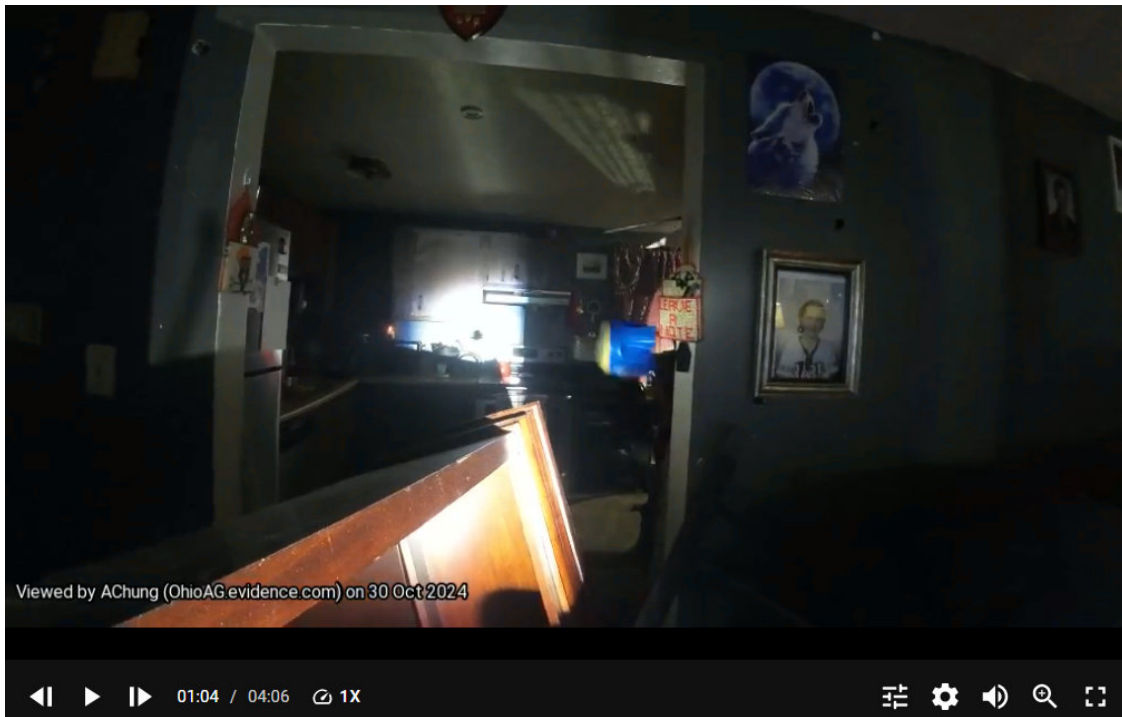
Approved By SAS James A. Mulford on
11/13/2024

- The drone entered the house before any CPD SWAT officers. A knocker and flash grenade were observed being thrown into the house.
- At the 1:02 minute mark, Wheeler's shadow appeared on the kitchen floor near the basement stairs.
- Throughout the video, CPD SWAT [REDACTED] are seen interacting directly with Wheeler.



- Wheeler was inside the kitchen at this time and began throwing objects at the drone and SWAT officers.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

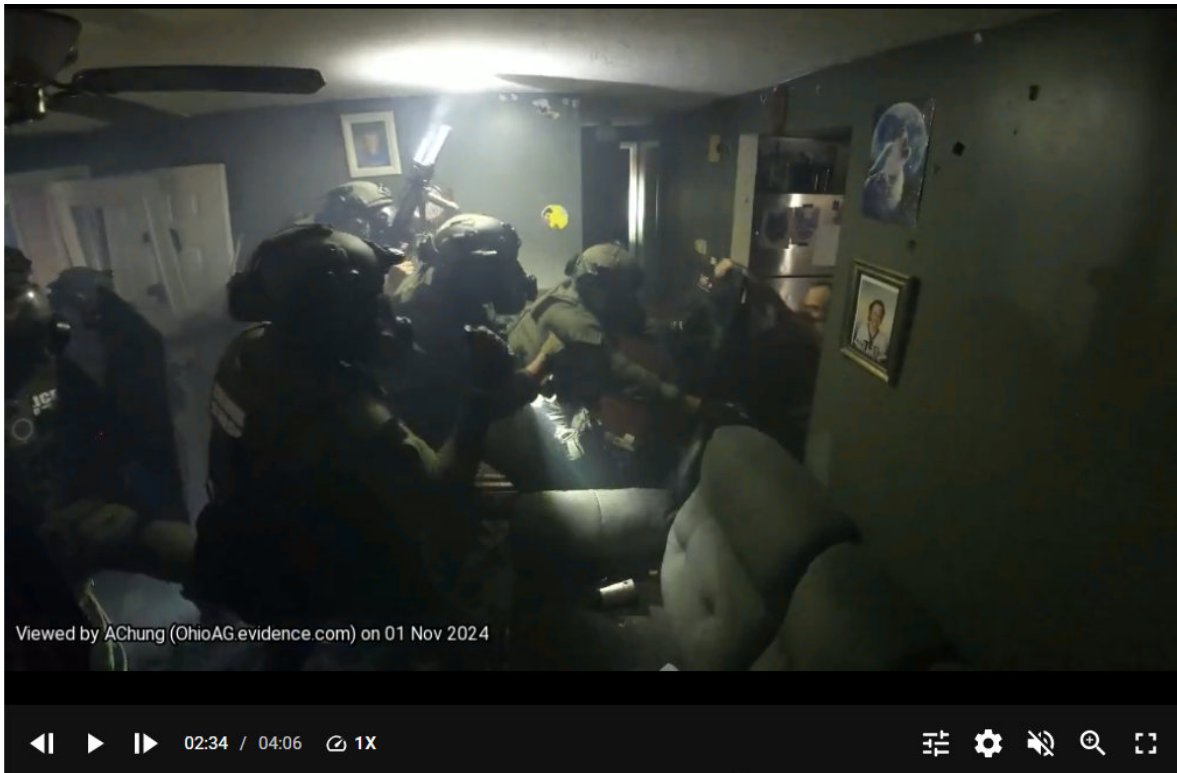


- Wheeler is seen peeking around the kitchen wall.
- As SWAT officers got closer to the kitchen, a flashbang is seen being thrown into the kitchen and detonated.
- SWAT officers can be seen moving objects from their pathway.
- At the 2:30 minute mark and the seconds that follow, [REDACTED] approaches the

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

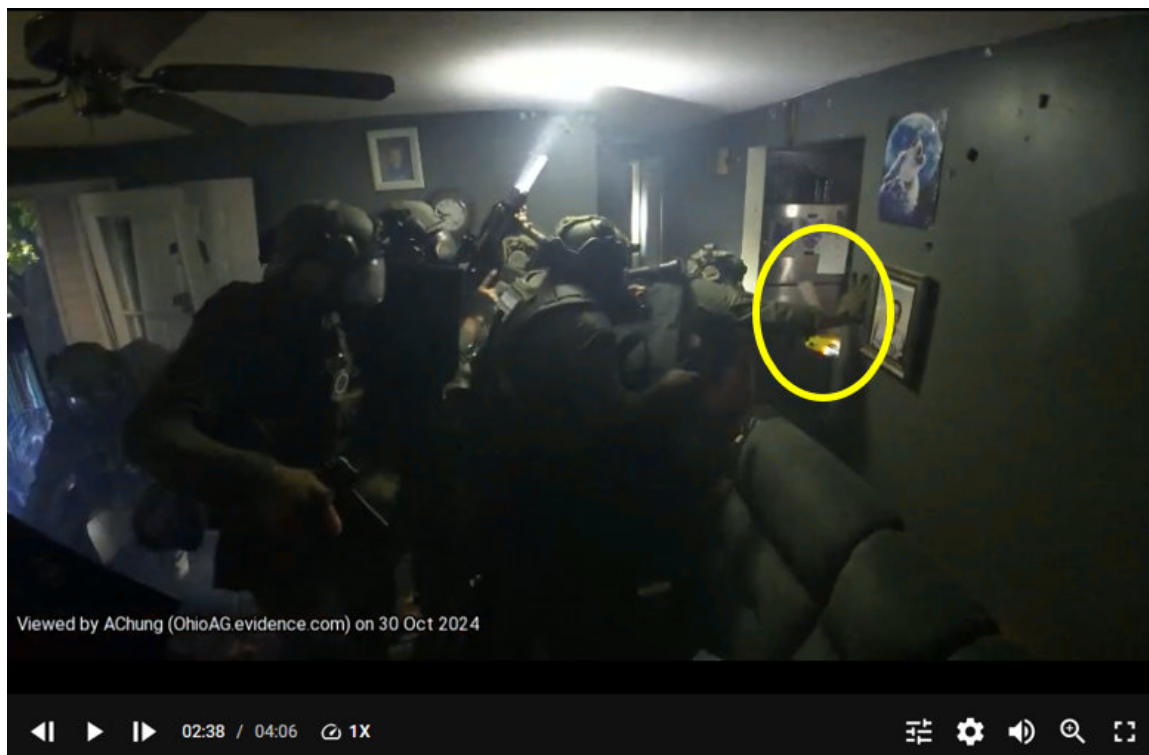
Approved By SAS James A. Mulford on
11/13/2024

- kitchen wall and reacts to something that caused him to bend over and move away.
- At the 2:34 minute mark, Wheeler comes into view as he grabs the top of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] bunker and pulls it away from [REDACTED]

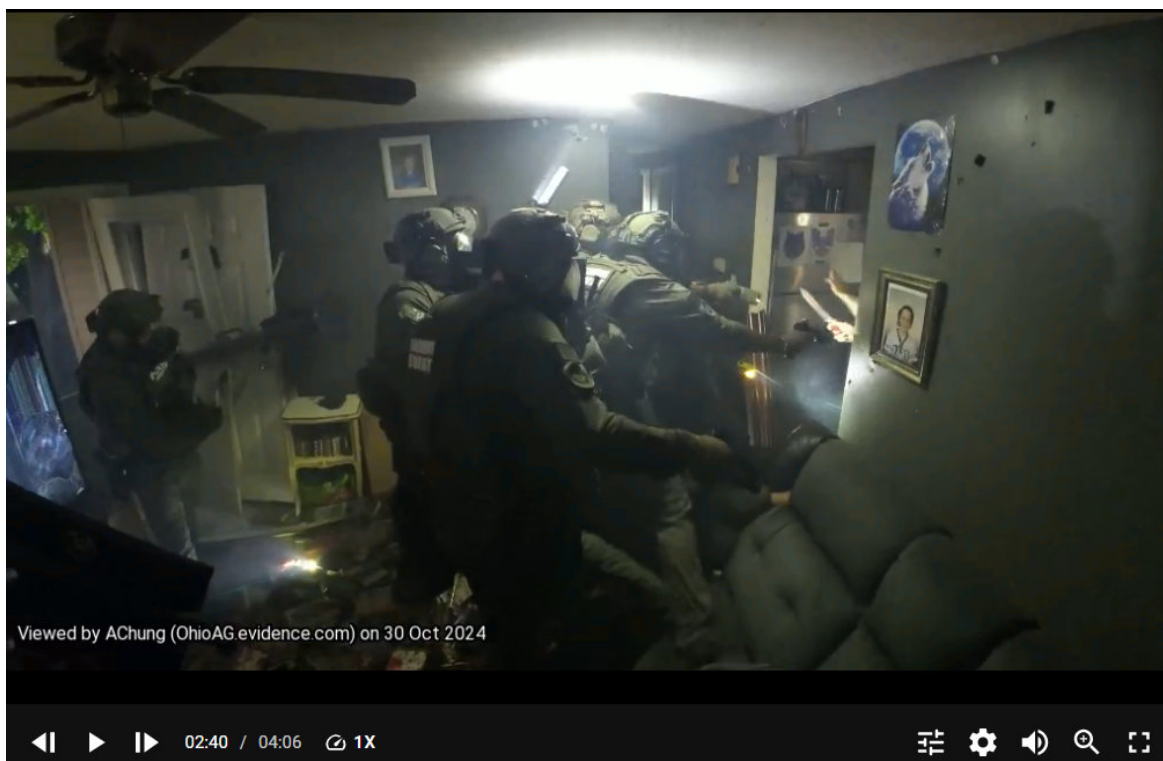


- [REDACTED] is seen throwing a flash grenade into the kitchen.
- [REDACTED] simultaneously extends his left arm with his taser, as he posts his right hand on the kitchen wall. When this occurs, Wheeler is seen slashing a knife at [REDACTED] left hand.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



- At the 2:38 minute mark, [REDACTED] can be seen unholstering his pistol and aiming at it towards Wheeler. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are both observed on the floor. ·



This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Approved By SAS James A. Mulford on
11/13/2024

- At the 2:40 minute mark, [REDACTED] can be seen firing his pistol at Wheeler and [REDACTED] falls to the ground.



- Wheeler exits the drone's view, and four SWAT officers are observed climbing over the couch and into the kitchen.
- The drone repositioned to view [REDACTED] being dragged out of the house by other SWAT members. [REDACTED] can then be seen standing up and following the other officers outside of the residence.
- At the 3:44 minute mark, [REDACTED] is seen entering the kitchen.
- The footage ends with the drone flying out of the house and back to the landing point.

References:

F – Drone footage (Evidence.com)

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 1-drone
 Attachment # 02: 2-drone
 Attachment # 03: 3-drone
 Attachment # 04: 44-Drone
 Attachment # 05: 4-drone
 Attachment # 06: 5-drone

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Approved By SAS James A. Mulford on
 11/13/2024

Attachment # 07: 6-drone

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.



Viewed by AChung (OhioAG.evidence.com) on 30 Oct 2024

◀ ▶ ⏸ 01:02 / 04:06 🔗 1X





Viewed by AChung (OhioAG.evidence.com) on 30 Oct 2024



Viewed by AChung (OhioAG.evidence.com) on 30 Oct 2024



Viewed by AChung (OhioAG.evidence.com) on 01 Nov 2024

◀▶⏸02:34 / 04:06🔗 1X

⌵⚙️🔇🔍🗲



Viewed by AChung (OhioAG.evidence.com) on 30 Oct 2024

◀ ▶ ⏸ 02:38 / 04:06 🔗 1X





Viewed by AChung (OhioAG.evidence.com) on 30 Oct 2024

◀ ▶ ⏸ 02:40 / 04:06 🔗 1X

⌵ ⚙ 🔊 🔍 🗲



Viewed by AChung (OhioAG.evidence.com) on 30 Oct 2024

