



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



2023-1792  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – I-70 at Mound Street,  
Columbus, OH

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness, Video Review  
**Involves:** Joseph Andrew Blackburn (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 07/06/2023  
**Activity Location:** Blackburn, Joseph Andrew – Business – 855 West Mound Street,  
Columbus, OH 43223, Franklin County  
**Author:** SA James H Gore, #168

**Narrative:**

On the evening of July 6, 2023 at approximately 1930 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) James Gore met with Joseph Blackburn, the building maintenance supervisor, at Franklin County Children Services (FCCS), 855 W. Mound Street, Columbus. The purpose of the contact was to obtain video footage from the building related to an Officer-Involved Critical Incident which took place earlier on the same date nearby on Interstate 70 (I-70) East.



Overhead reference map

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Mr. Blackburn reported that it was approximately 1606 or 1607 hours when he heard what sounded like firecrackers while he was sitting at his desk. (Note: Blackburn's office was situated on the west side of the building on the ground floor.)



Reference map

Mr. Blackburn said he thought the noise may have been kids throwing firecrackers at the bus stop, since the 4th of July had just passed. Blackburn said he observed a male in a black hooded sweatshirt run south past his office window. Blackburn said he went to look out the north-facing windows of the building which faced toward the freeway, and he saw a commotion. Mr. Blackburn said he then walked out of the door near his office (west end of building), and he saw a black sweatshirt on the ground. He said he looked to his right (north), and he saw officers coming down from the freeway with weapons drawn. Blackburn said the officers told him to go back in the building.

Mr. Blackburn stated he went back to the front of the building to look for a deputy who was assigned to work there, but he had already left for the day. Blackburn said a police officer came to the building searching for subjects from the scene. Blackburn said he led the officer to the loading dock area where the black sweatshirt was located.

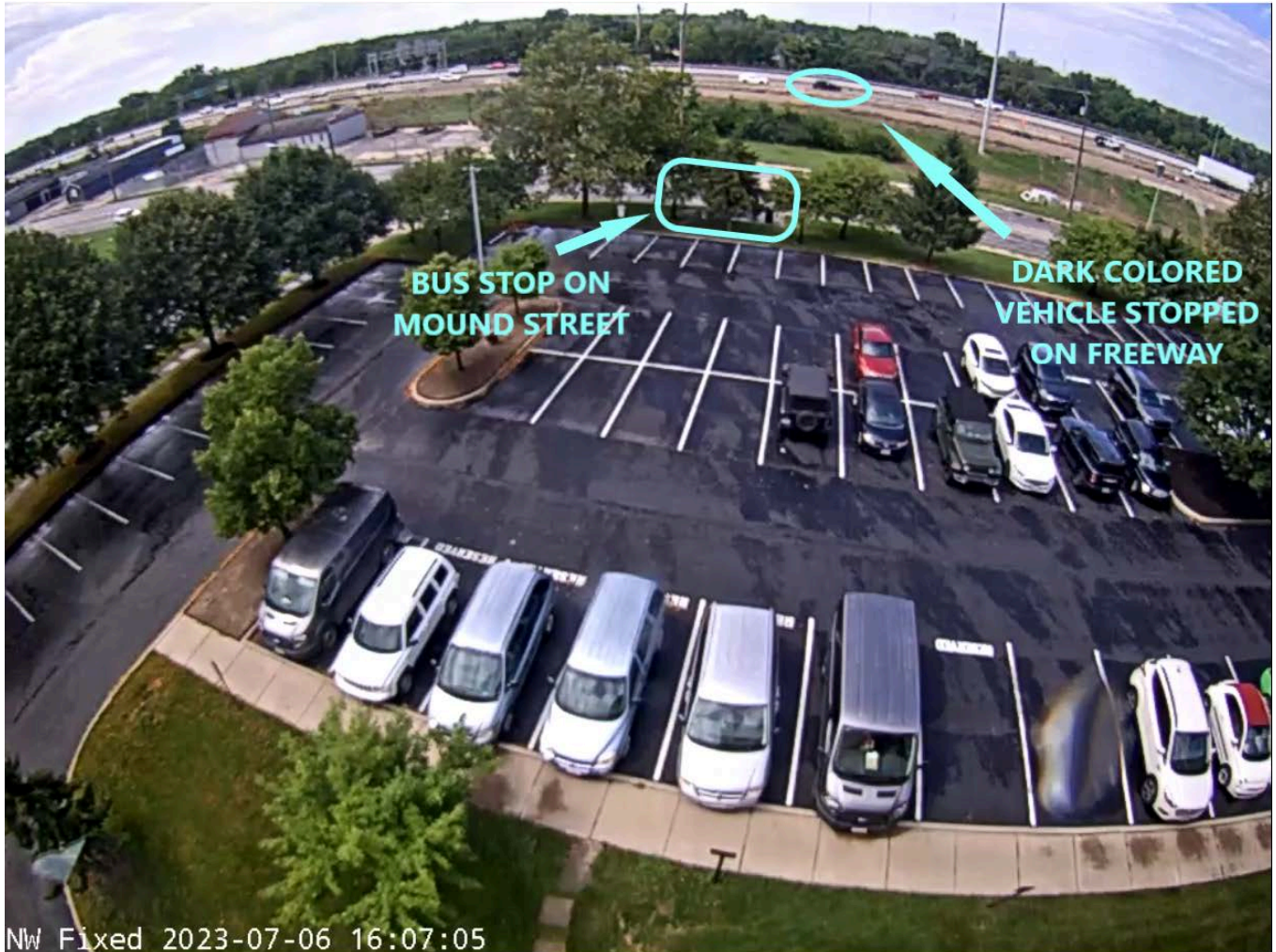
Mr. Blackburn explained that he reviewed footage from the building's cameras, and he concluded that the black sweatshirt was discarded by the subject who ran past his office window.

Blackburn provided four video clips to SA Gore. The following images are screenshots from the

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footage. Labels and/or captions were added for context.

The first clip was from a north-facing camera positioned on the northwest corner of the building. At approximately the 16:07:05 mark in the video, a dark colored vehicle appeared to come to a stop on the freeway.



16:07:05 mark in video; vehicle appeared to abruptly stop on I-70 East

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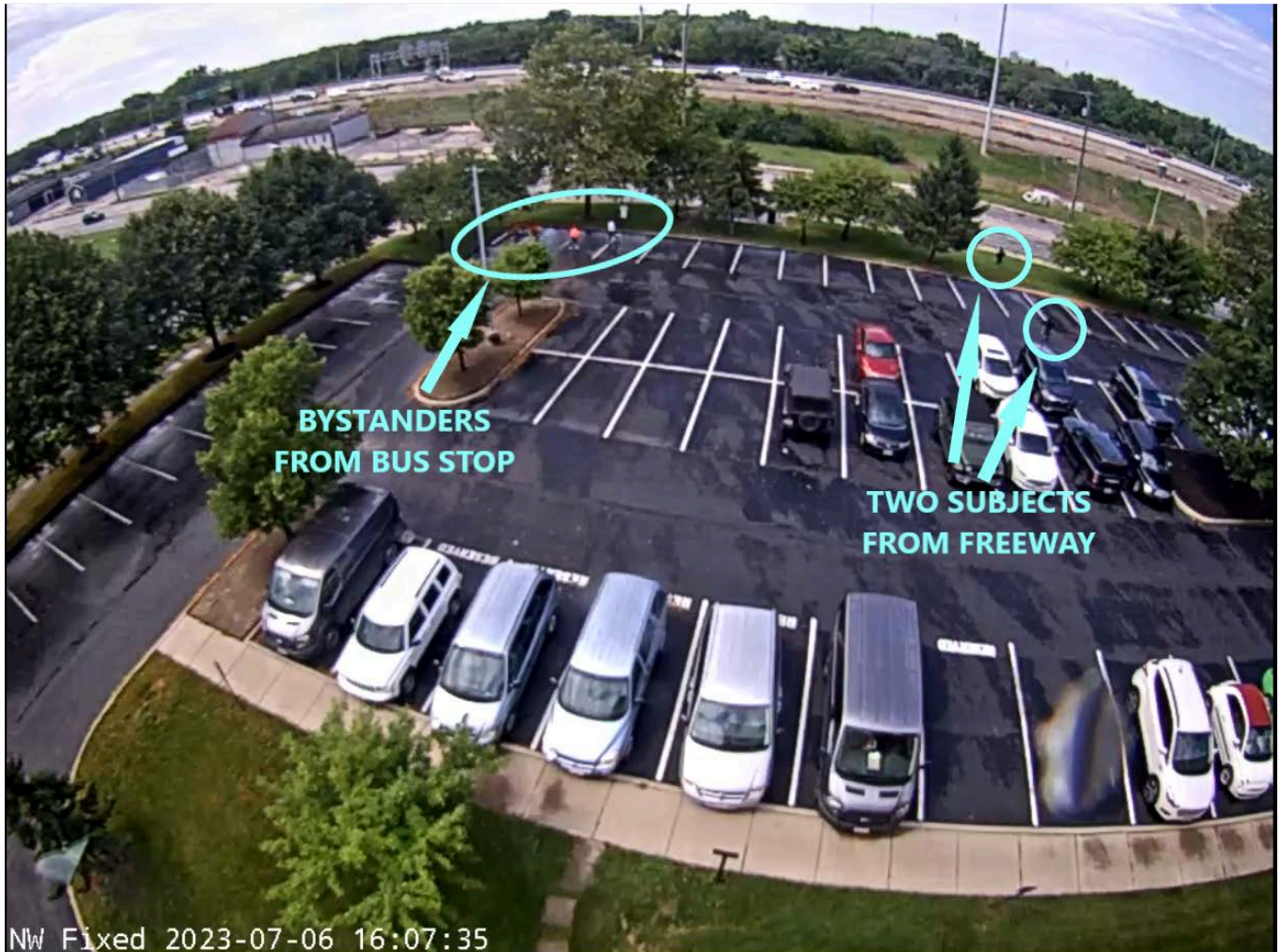
At approximately the 16:07:19 mark in the same clip, two subjects appeared to run downhill from the dark colored vehicle on the freeway.



16:07:19 mark; subjects appeared to run downhill from vehicle on I-70

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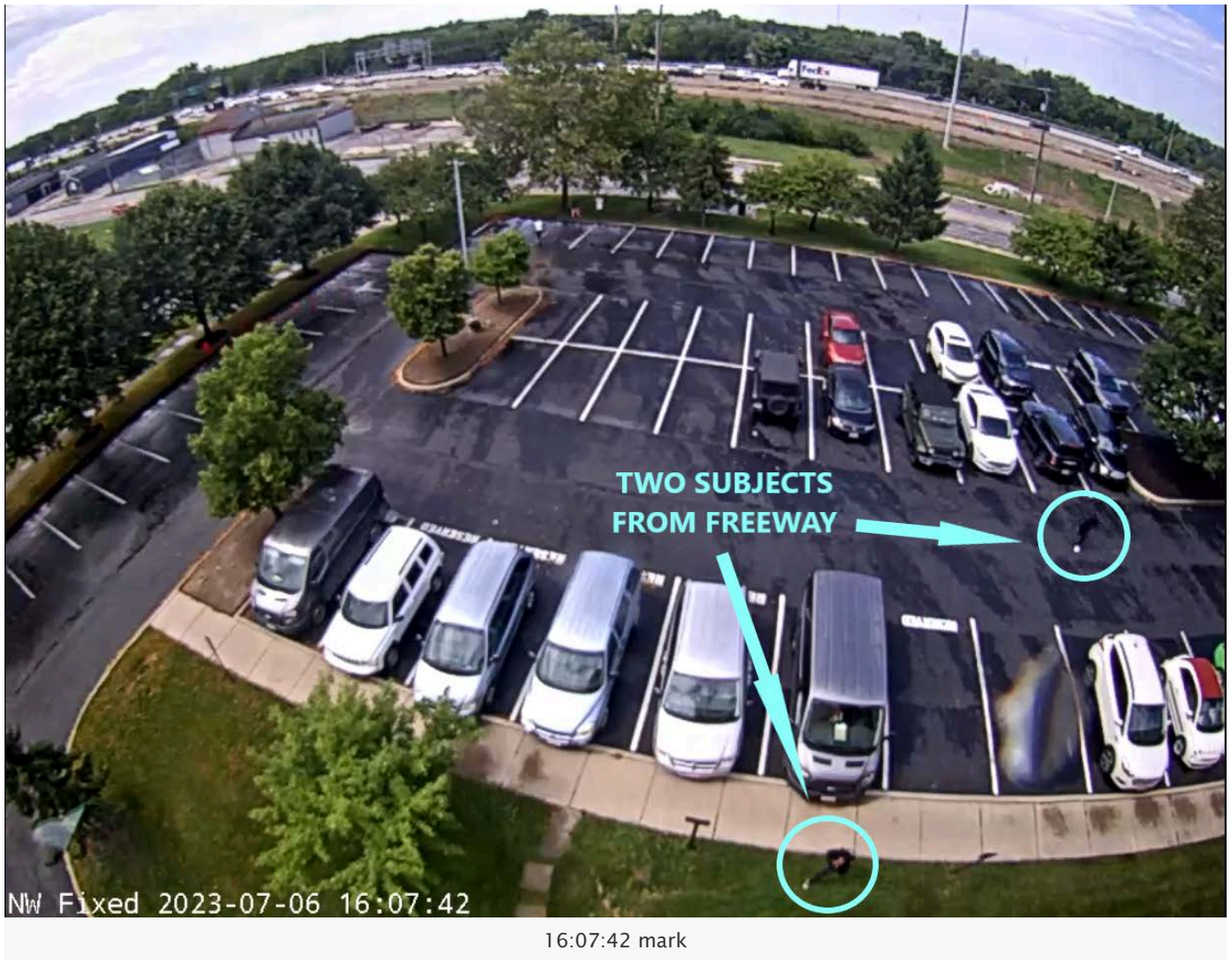
At approximately the 16:07:35 mark on the same clip, the two subjects from the dark colored vehicle appeared in the front parking lot of the FCCS building. Bystanders from the bus stop on Mound St. scattered.



16:07:35 mark

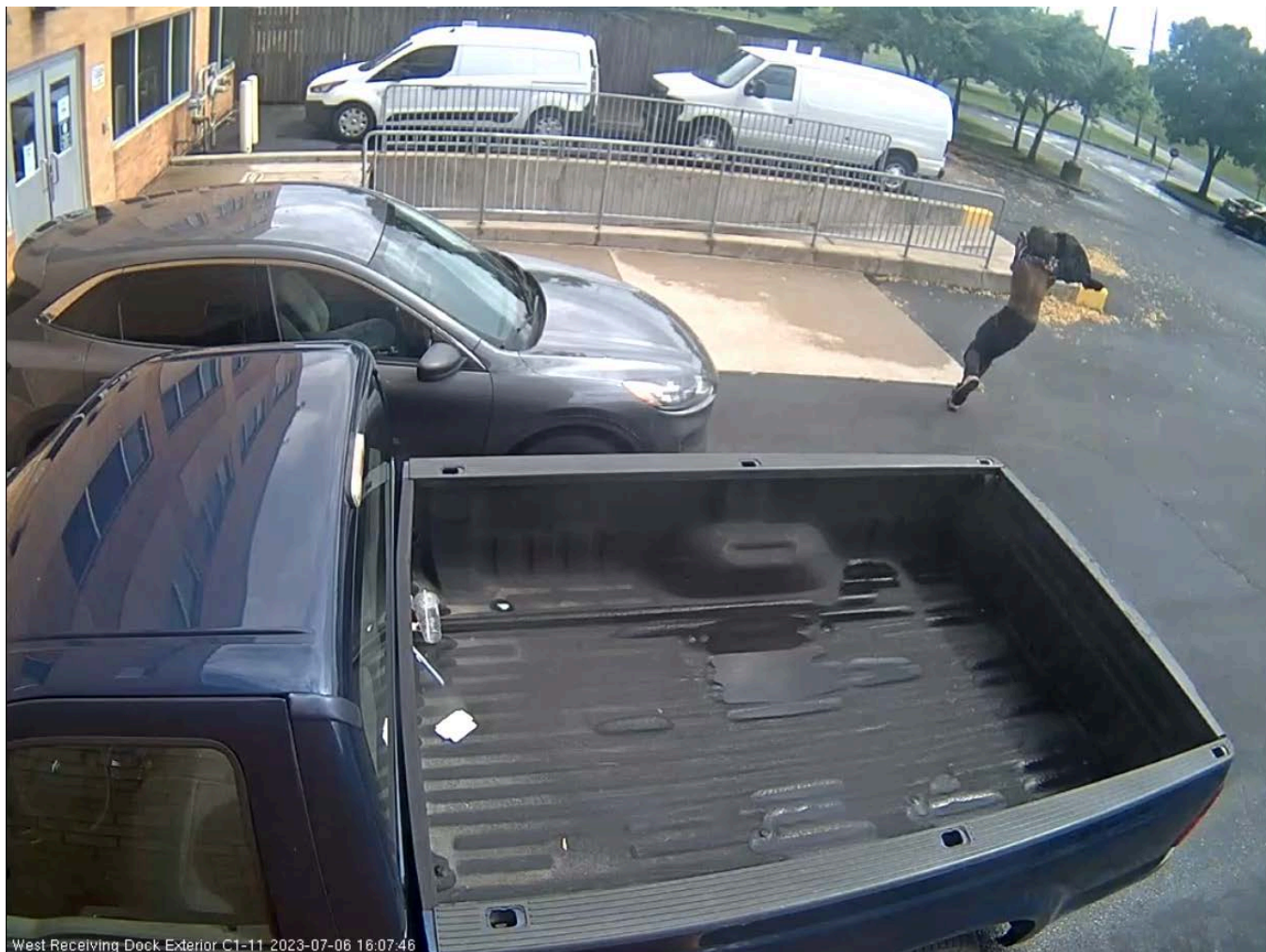
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At approximately the 16:07:42 mark, the two subjects from the freeway appeared to run toward the northwest corner of the FCCS building, and then out of view of the first camera angle.



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The second video clip was from a south-facing camera on the west side of the building near Mr. Blackburn's office and the dock area. At approximately the 16:07:46 mark, the first subject appeared to shed his outer garment as he ran southward.



16:07:46 mark

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Moments later, the second subject appeared to follow southward.



16:07:49 mark

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The third video clip was from a west-facing camera overlooking the dumpster pen on the west side of the building, which was adjacent to the loading dock area. There did not appear to be any time stamps on the footage. The first subject appeared to run east or southeast around the south side of the FCCS building.



Image from dumpster pen camera footage

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The second subject followed east –southeastward, and out of the camera's view.



Image from dumpster pen camera footage

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The fourth video was from a pan-tilt-zoom camera mounted on the southwest corner of the FCCS building. The camera appeared to face southeastward toward the rear entrance of the building and a portion of the back parking lot. The first subject appeared running in a southward direction in the bottom right portion of the footage.



Subject running southward, 16:07:59 mark

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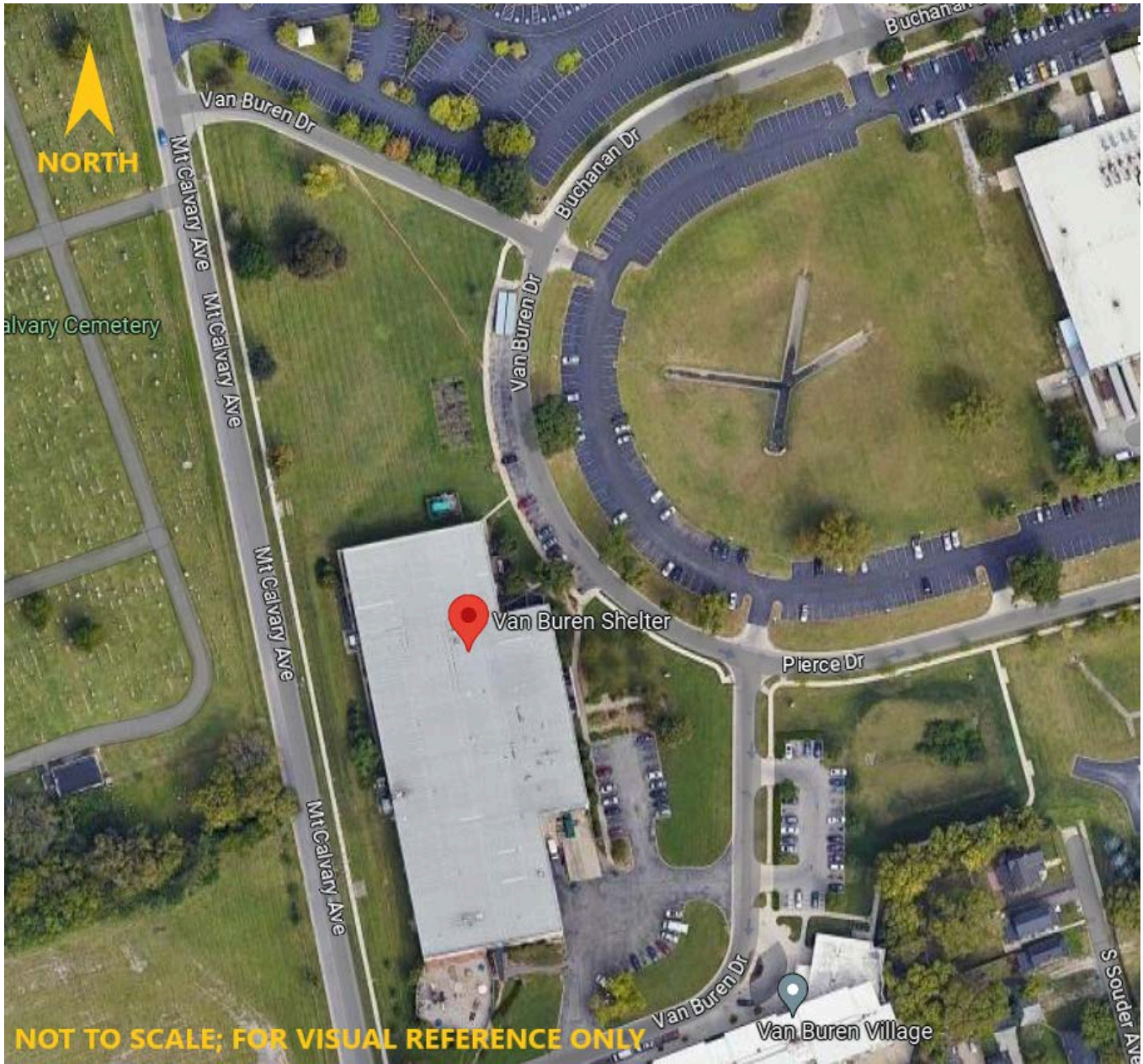
The second subject appeared to follow the same route as the first subject, southward and out of the camera's view.



Second subject running southward, 16:08:02 mark

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It was determined that the two subjects briefly entered and exited the Van Buren homeless shelter at 595 Van Buren Drive. The subjects' whereabouts after leaving the shelter was unknown to officers at the time.



Reference map

An audio copy of Joseph Blackburn's interview, along with copies of the four video files provided by Mr. Blackburn were attached to this report for reference.

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**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2023-0706-18-43-37 Joseph Blackburn Interview – SA Gore

Attachment # 02: Freeway

Attachment # 03: Exterior Dock

Attachment # 04: Dumpster pen

Attachment # 05: SW PTZ

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