

Investigative Report

2024-4082 Officer Involved Critical Incident - (L) 303 S. Main St., Celina, Ohio



Investigative Activity: Comprehensive Review of Dep. Spencer Heinl's BWC, Ptl.

Kyle Balthis' BWC, and Docksider's Marathon Gas Station

Surveillance Video

Involves: Dep. Spencer Heinl, Ptl Kyle Balthis, Sgt. Pat Crosby,

Docksider's Marathon Gas Station, Moses Alik

Activity Date: 01/21/2025

Activity Location: BCI Bowling Green Offices

Authoring Agent: SA Douglas Burke #162

Narrative:

On Tuesday, January 21, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Douglas Burke (SA Burke) reviewed Body Worn Camera (BWC) video footage from Deputy (Dep.) Spencer Heinl (Heinl) of the Mercer County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), Patrolman (Ptl.) Kyle Balthis' (Balthis) BWC of Celina Police Department (CPD), and Docksider's Marathon Gas Station Surveillance Video regarding the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which took place at Docksider's Marathon Gas Station, 303 South Main Street, Celina, OH 45822 on December 31, 2024. [Through the course of this investigation, the male subject who officers had dealt with was identified as Moses Alik (Moses)].

All video footage mentioned above has been placed into Axon Evidence and is available for review upon request. All times are relevant to the video footage from where it was obtained.

SA Burke reviewed the video footage and noted the following:

<u>Surveillance and Audio from Northside of Docksider's Marathon Gas Station</u> <u>Parking Lot.</u>

- 02:44:36, Patron Erinn Johnson (Johnson) arrived at the gas station in his car.
- 02:45:13, Johnson gets out of his car.
- 02:47:50, Moses was wearing a "puffer style jacket" in gas station parking lot next to Johnson's car.



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- 02:47:56, Moses attempted to get into Johnson's car (car unlocked). Hear Johnson say, "get the fuck outta my car." Moses never fully entered the car.
- 02:47:59. Moses shut the car door and walked away.
- 02:48:08, Moses walked back up to the car, got inside the passenger side door, crawled across the passenger side seat into the driver's seat.
- 02:48:11, Moses appeared to try to put the car in gear. Did not get the car in gear, opened the driver's side door and got back out of the car.
- 02:48:24, Unintelligible conversation between Moses and Johnson.
- 02:49:02, Johnson drove his car to the east side of the gas station.
- 02:49:47, Moses observed walking away from gas station westbound out of the north side parking lot of the gas station.
- 03:02:08, Moses re-appeared in the north parking lot of the gas station, had a weapon (later identified to be the knife) in his right hand.
- 03:02:19, Moses stabbing himself on the left side of his neck



- 03:02:38, Moses walked to the west side of the gas station parking lot.
- 03:03:19, Patrolman (Ptl.) Kyle Balthis (Balthis) located Moses on the west side of the gas station parking lot and started to order Moses to drop the knife.



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- 03:03:19, Sgt. Pat Crosby (Crosby) and Dep. Heinl arrived on scene. Numerous orders by all officers for Moses to drop the knife.
- 03:03:35, Sgt. Crosby ordered Moses to drop the knife, or he was going to tase Moses.
- 03:03:45, Further orders for Moses to drop the knife by all officers.
- 03:03:47, Dep. Heinl engaged Moses with five (5) shots from his duty weapon.
- 03:03:49, Moses fell to the ground, officers observed securing Moses.
- 03:04:05, Numerous unintelligible comments made by officers after Moses had been shot and Moses is heard groaning.
- 03:05:12, Officers start rendering medical aid to Moses

<u>Surveillance and Audio from Southwest Corner of Docksider's Marathon Gas</u> Station.

- 02:50:05, Moses observed walking westbound (away) from the gas station parking lot. The gas station clerk walked out the back door (west side) of the gas station to observe Moses walking away from the parking lot.
- 03:01:35, Moses observed walking back to the gas station parking lot.
- 03:03:19, Sqt. Crosby and Dep. Heinl arrive on scene and confront Moses.
- 03:03:22, Moses observed making some sort of motion to the left side of his neck.
- 03:03:27, Officers are telling Moses to, "drop it."
- 03:03:30, Sgt. Crosby saying, "get on the ground."
- 03:03:35, Sqt. Crosby said, "get down or I am going to tase you."
- 03:03:39, Sqt. Crosby deployed his taser at Moses.
- 03:03:45, Officers telling Moses to, "drop it, and don't pick it up."
- 03:03:47, Hear five (5) gun shots, obstructed view to observe Dep. Heinl firing his duty weapon.
- 03:03:49, Moses fell to the ground, officers observed securing Moses.
- 03:05:09, Dep. Heinl retrieved Medical Kit from his cruiser and returned to CPD Officer's location where Moses was on the ground.
- 03:07:06, CFD Squad arrived on scene.

<u>Surveillance and Audio from Underneath Overhang of Docksider's Marathon Gas Station.</u>

 02:47:56, Hear complainant Erinn Johnson (Johnson) say, "get the fuck out of my car."



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- 02:48:17, Johnson approached Moses in his "puffer style coat." Moses observed to be unsteady on his feet.
- 02:50:46, Hear Johnson telling gas station clerk to call the cops.
- 02:56:51, CPD arrived on scene at the gas station.
- 02:59:08, Patrolman (Ptl.) Balthis contacted Johnson. (Conversation with Johnson unintelligible.)

03:00:17, On December 31, 2024, Ptl. Balthis BWC footage begins BWL 7-020330.

- 03:00:17, Ptl. Balthis interviewed the initial complainant Johnson, at Docksider's Marathon Gas Station about his car almost being stolen by Moses.
- 03:01:21, Johnson requested charges filed against Moses if located.
- 03:01:23, Johnson told Ptl. Balthis, Moses was "jacked out of his mind on something and is a danger to anyone he (Moses) comes across."
- 03:01:55, Ptl. Balthis gets description of Moses, wearing a "puffer-style coat." Johnson said "you cannot miss him" (Moses).
- 03:02:14, Johnson said, "he (Moses) was out of his mind, there were invisible people Moses said he was seeing." Moses told Johnson, "If you smoke you can see them too."
- 03:02:20, Ptl. Balthis, "sounds like he is on Meth."
- 03:02:35, Ptl. Balthis and Cadet Issac Daniel (Cadet Daniel) enter the gas station to look at surveillance footage and attempt to identify Moses.
- 03:04:00, Ptl. Balthis sees Moses on camera in the parking lot (northwest side) of the gas station, Ptl. Balthis exited the gas station to speak with Moses.
- 03:04:16, Ptl. Balthis confronted Moses in the parking lot, un-holstered his duty weapon and told Moses, "get your hands up now." Told Moses to "drop the knife buddy."
- 03:04:22, Sgt. Pat Crosby (Crosby) and Dep. Heinl on scene. Ptl. Balthis told the other units, "Moses is stabbing himself in the neck."
- 03:04:24, Moses observed stabbing himself in the neck, Ptl. Balthis again says, "drop the knife."
- 03:04:30, Ptl. Balthis said, "he dropped the knife."
- 03:04:32, Sgt. Crosby heard saying, "get on the ground."
- 03:04:39, Ptl. Balthis told Dep. Heinl to walk to him, it can be heard; Sgt. Crosby deploying his taser towards Moses.



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- 03:04:41, Moses observed bending down to pick the knife up after the taser deployment was ineffective. Ptl. Balthis yelled at Moses, "don't pick it up," referring to the knife.
- 03:04:45, It is not readily visible on the BWC, but based on officer's comments it is apparent Moses regained possession of the knife. Ptl. Balthis continued to yell to Moses, "drop it."
- 03:04:46, Moses had the knife in his right hand, raised above his head approaching Dep. Heinl. As Moses continued to approach Dep. Heinl, Dep. Heinl discharged his patrol service weapon five (5) times at Moses.
- 03:04:48, Moses fell to the ground, officers observed securing Moses.
- 03:04:51, Ptl. Balthis, "I got the knife, I got the knife." Ptl. Balthis got the knife out of the reach of Moses.
- 03:04:57, Moses turned over and handcuffed, Sgt. Crosby heard radioing to dispatch, "shots fired."
- 03:05:22, Ptl. Balthis asked Dep. Heinl for a Medical Kit.
- 03:05:24, Dep. Heinl radioed to dispatch for a squad.
- 03:05:40, Ptl. Balthis, "he is bleeding pretty bad" and Ptl. Balthis checked to see where Moses had been struck by gunfire.
- 03:05:54, Moses rolled onto his back.
- 03:06:18, Dep. Heinl handed Ptl. Balthis his Medical Kit.
- 03:06:55, Ptl. Balthis and Sgt. Crosby removed clothing from Moses to identify gunshot wound location.
- 03:08:03, Moses said, "kill me."
- 03:08:11, Celina Fire Department (CFD) Squad on scene. Sgt. Crosby heard telling medics where injuries are located on Moses.
- 03:08:33, Ptl. Balthis told medics Moses had stabbed himself in the neck prior to being shot.
- 03:09:04, Moses said, "I wanna die."
- 03:09:07, Moses said, "I wanna die," "I wanna die," I wanna die."
- 03:09:45, Sgt. Crosby removed handcuffs from Moses so further medical attention could be provided to Moses.
- 03:10:49, Moses placed on gurney.
- 03:11:28, Moses placed into CFD Squad.
- 03:11:58, Ptl. Balthis walked around the scene, approached Dep. Heinl to make sure he was ok. Dep. Heinl replied, "I am fine a little close for my comfort."
- 03:12:10, Ptl. Balthis stated, "why did he (Moses) pick it back up."
- 03:12:26, Ptl. Balthis entered CFD Squad as medics worked on Moses. Ptl. Balthis restrained Moses due to Moses being uncooperative while being treated by medics.



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- 03:17:32, Ptl. Balthis walked out of CFD Squad.
- 03:18:57, Ptl. Balthis re-positioned his cruiser to secure the scene.
- 03:19:26, Ptl. Balthis re-entered CFD Squad, spoke with Sgt. Crosby about taping off crime scene
- 03:19:37, Ptl. Balthis walked out of CFD Squad.
- 03:26:37, Sgt. Crosby walked up to Ptl. Balthis and said, "he was not rolling." (Sgt. Crosby did not have his BWC activated during the OICI). Also, CFD Squad observed leaving the scene with Moses enroute to Coldwater Hospital.
- 03:29:57, Sgt. Crosby on phone with Assistant Chief Dan Harting, said Moses "flat lined as squad was leaving with Moses for hospital."

03:03:26, On December 31, 2024, Dep. Heinl's BWC footage begins BWC2-138212 (It should be noted that Dep. Heinl's BWC time stamp is approximately fifty-seven (57) seconds behind Ptl. Balthis' BWC Footage).

- 03:03:26, Dep. Heinl parked his patrol cruiser and exited his vehicle on foot. The footage and audio begin immediately. Dep. Heinl was on foot, jumped a guardrail separating the alley and Docksider's parking.
- 03:03:30, Celina Police Department (CPD) Officers said, "drop the knife" as Dep. Heinl approached the incident.
- 03:03:35, CPD Officers told Moses, "get on the ground, get on the ground." Dep. Heinl in Docksider's Marathon Gas Station Parking Lot with two (2) CPD Officers and Moses in the middle of CPD Officers and Dep. Heinl.
- 03:03:36, CPD Officers told Moses, "drop the knife and get down."
- 03:03:39, CPD Sgt. Crosby said, "get down or I am going to tase you." The knife was out of Moses' hand at this time.
- 03:03:42, Ptl. Balthis instructed Dep. Heinl to walk around to his location, north side of parking lot.
- 03:03:45, Moses reached down to pick the knife back up after an unsuccessful taser contact with Moses by Sqt. Crosby. Ptl Balthis stated, "don't pick it up."
- 03:03:47, Moses reached back down to grab the knife, CPD Officers and Dep. Heinl yelled, "drop it." Dep. Heinl had his service weapon drawn and gave further orders for Moses to drop the knife without success.



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- 03:03:49, Dep Heinl said, "drop it now" as Moses had turned towards Dep. Heinl's direction. Moses had a knife in his right hand above his head.
- 03:03:50, The knife still in Moses' right hand, raised above his head approaching Dep. Heinl, Moses continued to approach Dep. Heinl. Dep. Heinl discharged his patrol service weapon (Glock 45 .9mm semi-automatic pistol) five (5) times at Moses.



- 03:03:52, Moses fell to the ground, Ptl Balthis yelled, "shit." Officers secure Moses and the knife.
- 03:03:56, Dep. Heinl radioed to dispatch, "shots fired, shots fired."
- 03:04:01, Officers place handcuffs on Moses behind his back.
- 03:04:04, CPD officer radioed dispatch, "shots fired, shots fired."
- 03:04:25, CPD Officer asked Dep. Heinl if he had a medical kit.
- 03:04:27, Dep. Heinl radioed central dispatch for a squad.
- 03:04:30, Dep. Heinl proceeded to his patrol cruiser and retrieved medical supplies to render aid to Moses.
- 03:05:05, Dep. Heinl radioed, "forty (40) to twenty-one (21), you need to head this way.
- 03:05:11, Dep. Heinl handed off medical supplies to Sgt. Crosby and Ptl. Balthis rendering aid to Moses.
- 03:05:14, Ptl. Crosby to Dep. Heinl, "sit down we got it."
- 03:05:20, Dep. Heinl walked back to patrol cruiser.
- 03:05:35, Dep. Heinl overheard Ptl. Balthis yell for further medical supplies. Dep. Heinl retrieved those items from his patrol cruiser.
- 03:05:43, Dep. Heinl re-approached the scene with other CPD Officers as they administered first aid to Moses.



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- 03:05:58, Dep. Heinl handed Ptl. Balthis medical gloves before briefly walked away.
- 03:06:22, Dep. Heinl re-entered the incident location to assist in getting medical supplies for the CPD Officers who were rendering first aid to Moses.
- 03:06:53, Dep. Heinl handed CPD Officers a chest seal to administer to Moses.
- 03:06:59, Dep. Heinl walked back from the location of the incident and CFD arrived on location.
- 03:07:37, Medics started working with CPD Officers administering first aid to Moses. Dep. Heinl stood back from the incident location.
- 03:08:45, Sgt. Darrell Etgen (Etgen) on scene and contacted Dep. Heinl. Dep. Heinl told Sgt. Etgen, "I did the shoot." Sgt. Etgen said, "ok."
- 03:08:55, Sgt. Etgen asked Dep. Heinl, "did he have a gun?" Dep. Heinl said, "he had a knife and was about three (3) to four (4) feet from me maybe." Dep. Heinl added, "the taser was attempted by Pat (Sgt. Crosby), and Moses started coming at me." Dep. Heinl told Sgt Etgen, Balthis and himself had firearms on Moses and Pat (Sgt. Crosby) had his taser on Moses. Dep. Heinl said Moses flipped and was right in front of him."
- 03:09:44, Dep. Heinl asked Sgt. Etgen if he had contacted the bosses. Dep. Heinl told Sgt. Etgen the call came in as a subject with a knife trying to get into a male's car at the gas station.
- 03:09:52, Dep. Heinl told Sgt. Etgen, he did not realize Balthis had been looking for Moses until he arrived in the back parking lot/alley of the gas station. Dep. Heinl explained his route to the incident location to Sgt. Etgen.
- 03:10:01, Dep. Heinl told Sgt. Etgen, Balthis had Moses at gunpoint. Dep. Heinl explained how himself and Sgt. Crosby got out of their patrol vehicles and approached Moses.
- 03:10:58, Ptl. Balthis approached Dep. Heinl and asked him if he was "ok." Dep. Heinl responded, "I am fine, was just a little close for my comfort."
- 03:11:05, Sgt. Crosby approached Dep. Heinl and asked him if he was "ok," and Dep. Heinl said "ya, ya."
- 03:11:09, Dep. Heinl told Sgt. Crosby "four (4) feet with a knife is too close for me." Ptl. Balthis stated, "he did not know why Moses picked the knife back up." Dep. Heinl said, "I do not know why he picked it back up."
- 03:11:19, There was discussion amongst the officers about the taser and Sgt. Crosby stated Moses said three (3) times while rendering aid, "I wanna die, I wanna die." Dep. Heinl stated "that was not re-assuring."
- 03:12:17, Dep. Heinl turned off his BWC and the footage ended. No additional BWC related to Dep. Heinl was taken.



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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.

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 footage from Dep. Heinl's BWC/Dash Cam was stored by Motorola Solutions on their cloud-based storage system. SA Ryan Emahiser was provided with a copy of this footage from the MCSO. SA Burke received surveillance footage from Harsh Patel (Harsh) of Docksider's marathon Gas Station. The footage from Ptl. Balthis' BWC/Dash Cam was stored by Motorola Solutions on their cloud-based storage system. SA Tiffany Najmulski was provided with a copy of this footage from CPD. All video footage mentioned above has been placed into Axon Evidence.com and is available for review upon request.