



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



2022-0727

Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 914 Salt Springs Road, Youngstown,
Ohio 44509

Investigative Activity: Video Review
Activity Date: April 1, 2022
Activity Location: BCI Youngstown Office
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Al Banksy #115

Narrative:

On May 2, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Al Banksy (Banksy) received video footage from Struthers Police Department (SPD) Chief Tim Roddy. SA Banksy was informed that the videos contained footage from the Wild Cat Drive Thru located in the city of Struthers. Video also shows Struthers Police Captain (Capt.) Matt Haus (Haus) attempting a traffic stop on a tan-colored Chevrolet Malibu driven by James Sheets (Sheets) on April 1, 2022, on the property of the Wild Cat Drive Thru.

SA Banksy reviewed the video recordings and noted the following:

Wild Cat video recording is labeled Tru-Nav-Plyer. Player # INVYOU244614L.

The following times listed came from the video time bar, dated April 1, 2022.

- Approximately 5:06:26, video shows Sheets' tan-colored Chevrolet Malibu traveling south on Short Street and then turns left into the Wildcat Drive Thru.
- Approximately 5:06:29, video shows Capt. Haus also traveling south on Short Street, pulling directly behind Sheets' vehicle, with his emergency overhead lights activated. Note: At this time, video shows Capt. Haus' cruiser still on the roadway, starting to turn left into the Wildcat Drive Thru. Sheets' vehicle can be seen just off the roadway, just entering the payment of the drive thru.
- Approximately 5:06:37, video shows Capt. Haus still following Sheets' vehicle with his emergency overhead lights still activated. Sheets' vehicle is still moving forward.
- Approximately 5:06:37, video shows Sheets' vehicle starts moving backwards toward Capt. Haus' cruiser. Capt. Haus' emergency overhead lights are still activated.
- Approximately 5:06:40, video shows Sheets' vehicle is still moving backward, alongside of Capt. Haus' driver's side of his cruiser.
- Approximately 5:05:41, video shows Sheets' vehicle still moving backwards, passing Capt. Haus' cruiser and approaching Short Street.
- Approximately 5:06:41, video shows Sheets' vehicle continue moving backwards onto Short Street. Sheets can be seen turning his vehicle, facing north.
- Approximately 5:06:42, video shows Capt. Haus' cruiser backing up in the direction of Short Street.



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- Approximately 5:06:43, video shows both Capt. Haus' cruiser and Sheets' vehicle completely on roadway of Short Street. Capt. Haus' cruiser was directly behind Sheets' vehicle, with his emergency overhead lights still activated.
- Approximately 5:06:44, video shows Sheets' vehicle driving off, north on Short Street.
- Approximately 5:06:48, video shows Capt. Haus taking off after Sheets. Capt. Haus' emergency overhead lights still activated.
- Approximately 5:06:49, video shows both vehicles outside the camera area; video ended.

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 thumb drive containing the video footage was submitted to the physical BCI case file as item #78 for reference only.