



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



2022-2918

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 500 West Hopocan, Barberton, OH
44203

Investigative Activity: Review of Police Reports and Body-Worn Camera Video
Involves: Akron Police Department (O)
Zachary Zoran (S)
Activity Date: January 17, 2023
Activity Location: BCI - 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, Ohio 44286
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Todd A. Clark #139

Narrative:

On Tuesday, January 17, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Todd Clark (Clark) reviewed documentation and body-worn camera (BWC) video provided by the Akron Police Department (APD) to SA Charles Snyder (Snyder) on December 30, 2022. The files consisted of eight PDF files titled, "2010" (2 pages), "2013" (4 pages), "2014" (3 pages), "2015" (2 pages), "2017" (2 pages), "2019" (8 pages), "2020" (4 pages), and "calls" (3 pages). These files contained APD police reports involving Zachary Zoran (Zoran). In addition to the PDF files, APD provided SA Snyder BWC videos titled, "921_Nathan," "921_Nathan-2," "921_Nathan-3," "921_Nathan-4," "921_Nathan-5," and "921_Nathan-6." The BWC videos showed APD's second interaction with Zoran on December 24, 2022. APD was dispatched to 921 Nathan Street, Akron, Ohio, at 1024 hours.

On January 30, 2023, SA Clark received four additional BWC videos from APD Sergeant Matt Eckart. The BWC videos were titled, "921_Nathan," "921_Nathan-2," "921_Nathan-3," and "921_Nathan-4." The BWC video showed APD's first interaction with Zoran on December 24, 2022. APD was dispatched to 921 Nathan Street, Akron, Ohio, at 0214 hours.

SA Clark reviewed the APD report PDFs and noted the following:

2010

- Zoran was the victim of a burglary in August 2010.

2013

- Zoran was listed as a suspect in a Domestic Violence incident on June 3, 2013. The victim in the report was Brandi Stalnaker (Stalnaker). Stalnaker alleged Zoran held her arms and "flailed" his arms at her. The report indicated Zoran and Stalnaker had a child together.

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- Zoran was listed as a suspect in a Domestic Violence incident on June 4, 2013. Stalnaker was the victim. The report indicated Zoran punched and kicked Stalnaker after an argument over text messages on Zoran's cell phone.

2014

- A Rule 6 Incident Report indicated a male and female were involved in a Domestic Violence incident. The victim and suspect identifications were redacted. The report indicated a male victim was assaulted by a female suspect. Both the victim and suspect claimed they were the victim of a physical attack. The victim suffered a stab wound from a screwdriver to his right eye.

2015

- Zoran was the victim in a Criminal Damaging/Endangering incident on September 15, 2015. The suspect was Theresa Casteel (Casteel). Zoran claimed Casteel damaged property in his home after he let her inside.

2017

- Zoran was a victim in a Domestic Violence incident on September 25, 2017. The suspect was Ashley Lightcap (Lightcap). Zoran claimed a history of abuse during his relationship with Lightcap. Zoran had no visible injuries at the time the report was taken.

2019

- Zoran was a suspect in a Criminal Trespass and Obstructing Official Business report on September 4, 2019. Zoran refused to leave a gas station. The staff at the gas station claimed Zoran was harassing and threatening employees and customers. Zoran attempted to flee the location and was arrested by the APD. Zoran cursed, shouted and attempted to kick APD officers while being placed into a police car.
- On September 13, 2019, the APD responded to a business that Zoran refused to leave after being requested to do so multiple times. The APD conveyed Zoran to Akron General Medical Center for evaluation.

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- On September 20, 2019, the APD responded to the Haven of Rest residential facility for a verbal argument. Officers asked Zoran to leave the facility and he refused. Zoran became aggressive and told officers he would not leave. Officers attempted to escort Zoran from the facility. Zoran threw himself on the ground and had to be restrained by officers. During the altercation, Zoran claimed someone was trying to kill him and officers were injecting him with something. Zoran was transported to Akron City Hospital and was “pink slipped.”
- On September 28, 2019, Zoran was the victim of an Assault and Theft at Grace Park.

2020

- On April 8, 2020, the APD responded to a gas station parking lot. Zoran was yelling and screaming. Zoran claimed a police officer stole a police car. When officers approached Zoran, he wanted them to stay away because he thought he would be killed. Zoran would run away from officers, then approach them, before running away again. Zoran continued this behavior and refused EMS. Zoran claimed a deputy placed a bag inside of a vehicle and wanted to see what was inside the bag. Zoran insisted the APD was going to kill him and cut off his penis. Zoran became combative when officers attempted to retrieve a knife from Zoran's pocket.

Zoran was conveyed by EMS to Akron City Hospital. At the hospital, Zoran believed the hospital was going to give him a sex change and cut his penis off.

- On September 23, 2020, the APD responded to 921 Nathan Street, Akron, Ohio. Steve Pierce (Pierce), the group home coordinator, claimed Zoran was acting paranoid, saying people were trying to hurt him. Pierce claimed Zoran had been in his room without food or medication for two days. Zoran told officers he believed there were dead bodies and cameras in his room. Officers conveyed Zoran to Akron General Medical Center for evaluation.

Calls

A report titled, “Incident,” documented the APD's response to 921 Nathan Street, Akron, Ohio.

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SA Clark noted the following:

- On December 24, 2022, at 0214 hours, APD officers responded to the residence. Zoran told the officers someone was digging a hole at his neighbor's house. Zoran told the officers the other neighbor was shining a light on him and playing mind games. Zoran claimed a male left a shovel on his porch. Zoran claimed people were leaving nails, screws and mail in his room. Zoran said the items were not his.

Officers checked the area where Zoran claimed a hole was dug and were not able to locate anything.

- On December 24, 2022, at 1024 hours, the APD responded to the residence for a male (Zoran) walking around the home with a bat. The occupants of the residence were uneasy due to Zoran's behavior. The caller was Christle Stephens (Stephens). Stephens told officers that Zoran has a history of drug use and is on "meth." Officers observed Zoran pacing with a knife. Zoran was "pink slipped."
- On December 25, 2022, Pamela Stratford (Stratford) contacted the APD to check on Zoran. Stratford advised the APD she was receiving threats from him and he sounded crazy. Stratford was advised Zoran was discharged from Akron General Medical Center and was at his apartment in Barberton. The APD learned this information from residents at 921 Nathan Street, Akron, Ohio.

SA Clark reviewed six APD BWC videos provided to SA Snyder on December 28, 2022, and four APD BWC videos provided to SA Clark on January 30, 2023. The BWC videos show the APD's response to 921 Nathan Street, Akron, Ohio on December 24, 2022, at 0214 hours and 1024 hours. SA Clark noted the following:

APD interaction with Zoran at 921 Nathan Street, Akron, Ohio, on December 24, 2022, at 0214 hours (4 videos):

BWC Video 921_Nathan and 921_Nathan-2

The videos showed nothing of additional value to the investigation.

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BWC Video 921_Nathan-3 and 921_Nathan-4

The two videos showed APD officers arrived at the residence and met Zoran, who answered the door. Zoran was carrying a bat. After putting the bat down at the request of APD officers, Zoran claimed a resident of the home, who Zoran identified as "Chris," had brought a shovel to the house, marked his bedroom walls with green marker and put holes in his bedroom wall. Zoran claimed someone left the kitchen door open when he checked. Zoran told the officers someone dug a hole at a house across the street and he wanted them to go and dig up the hole and check it. Zoran claimed he had "evidence" on his phone. Officers attempted to get additional information from Zoran, but he refused.

The officers spoke with "Chris," who indicated he was upstairs sleeping and was unaware of what Zoran was talking about. The call was completed and officers left the scene.

SA Clark took a screenshot of BWC video, which SA Clark believed was relevant to the investigation:

- **BWC Video: 921_Nathan-4 2022-12-24 2:32:25 -0500**

Zoran answered the door holding a bat.



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APD interaction with Zoran at 921 Nathan Street, Akron, Ohio on December 24, 2022 at 1024 hours (6 videos):

BWC Video: 921_Nathan

There was nothing on the BWC video of additional value to the investigation.

BWC Videos: 921_Nathan-2 through 921_Nathan-6

Zoran was standing in the kitchen of the residence holding a bat. Zoran told APD officers he pulled a fire alarm because he didn't feel safe. Zoran wanted the fire department to come to the home to assist him because he believed the fire alarm did not work. Zoran indicated he was not being threatened by other people in the home and he did not want to harm himself or anyone else. Officers learned from other people in the home that Zoran was threatening with the bat. The BWC videos show officers attempted to reason with Zoran, in order to get him to put the bat down and allow them to help him. Zoran refused.

Zoran insisted the items on a freezer were "evidence." Zoran told the officers they could take the items on the freezer, if they wanted to, because the items were not his. Zoran would not tell the officers what crime the "evidence" was from. Officers asked Zoran said if he would put the bat down so they could get the "evidence." Zoran refused.

The officers told Zoran they wanted to take him to the hospital. Zoran told them he would not go because there was nothing wrong with him. APD officers attempted to learn what medications Zoran took and whether Zoran had eaten or slept recently. Zoran would not provide the officers with any information. Zoran claimed he felt unsafe because the officers continued to ask him questions.

Once the fire department was staged at the residence, officers removed Zoran from the residence and had him transported to the hospital. As the officers secured Zoran for transport, Zoran said he believed the officers were going to kill him and were using excessive force. Officers removed a knife from Zoran's person.



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SA Clark took screenshots of BWC video, which SA Clark believed were relevant to the investigation:

BWC Video: 921_Nathan-3

- **2022-12-24 11:05:40 -0500**

Zoran in the kitchen with a bat in his hand pointing to the “evidence.”



- **2022-12-24 11:22:56 -0500**

A burnt tablet on the freezer which Zoran referred to as “evidence.”



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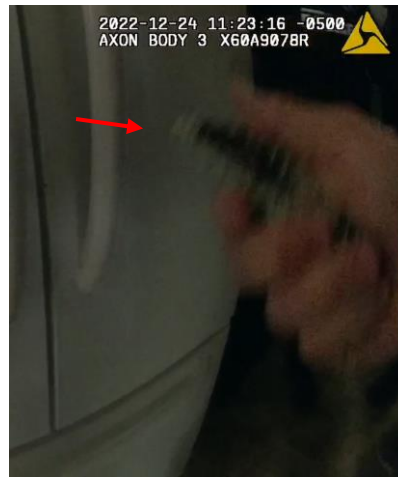


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- **2022-12-24 11:23:15 -0500**

A knife which was removed from Zoran's person.



BWC Video: 921_Nathan-4

- **2022-12-24 11:23:16 -0500**

Officer removed a knife from Zoran's person and handed it to another officer.



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BWC Video: 921_Nathan-5

- 2022-12-24 11:27:09 -0500

Officer holding the knife removed from Zoran's person.



BWC Video: 921_Nathan-6

- 2022-12-24 11:23:13

Officer removing a knife from Zoran's person.



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The APD BWC videos were placed into the BCI SIU case file as Reference Item G. The screenshots from the BWC are attached to this report.

Attachments:

APD BWC Video from 12-24-22 at 0214 hours

1. 2023-01-30: Email Sergeant Matt Eckart Akron PD BWC Videos
2. Screenshot 921_Nathan-4 2022-12-24 2_32_25 -0500

APD BWC Video from 12-24-22 at 1024 hours

1. Screenshot 921_Nathan-3 2022-12-24 11_05_40 -0500
2. Screenshot 921_Nathan-3 2022-12-24 11_22_56 -0500
3. Screenshot 921_Nathan-3 2022-12-24 11_23_15 -0500
4. Screenshot 921_Nathan-4 2022-12-24 11_23_16 -0500
5. Screenshot 921_Nathan-5 2022-12-24 11_27_09 -0500
6. Screenshot 921_Nathan-6 2022-12-21 11_23_13 -0500

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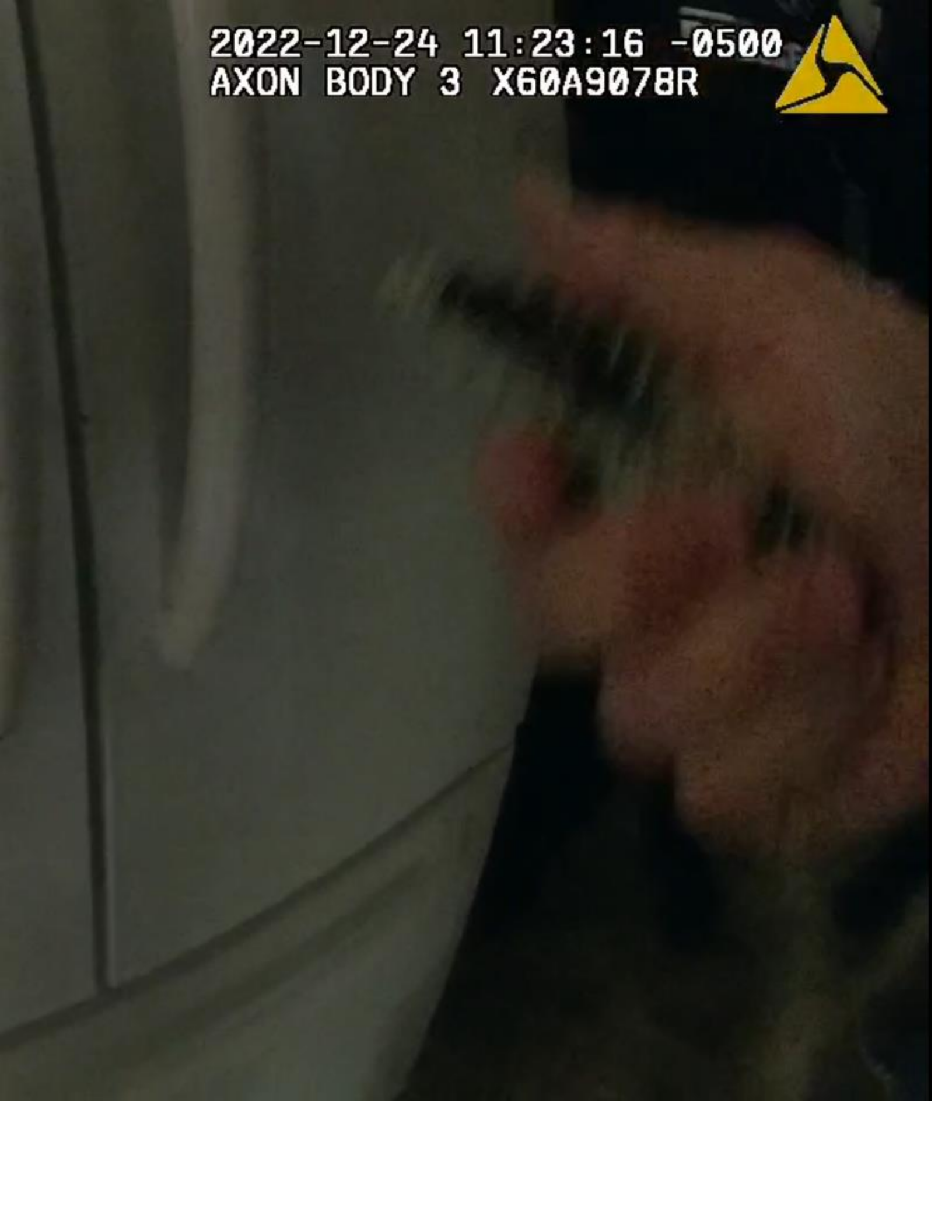
2022-12-24 11:05:40 -0500
AXON BODY 3 X60A9078R



2022-12-24 11:22:56 -0500
AXON BODY 3 X60A9078R



2022-12-24 11:23:16 -0500
AXON BODY 3 X60A9078R



2022-12-24 11:23:16 -0500
AXON BODY 3 X60A9660Y



FOR MOTOR

2022-12-24 11:27:09 -0500
AXON BODY 3 X60A9179Y



2022-12-24 11:23:13 -0500
AXON BODY 3 X60A9951Y



From: Eckart, Matthew [MEckart@akronohio.gov]
To: Todd Clark [Todd.Clark@OhioAGO.gov], BWC [BWC@akronohio.gov]
Cc: Nicholas Valente [Nicholas.Valente@OhioAGO.gov]
Subject: RE: Ohio BCI#2022-2918 - Zachary Zoran - Officer Involved Critical Incident
Sent: Mon 1/30/2023 1:40 PM GMT-05:00
Importance: Normal

Some people who received this message don't often get email from meckart@akronohio.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Todd... There were 4 body cam videos from that call. I sent a download link to your listed email on this thread. You should receive an email from Axon with the link. It may take a few minutes to get it, and check your spam/junk folders if you don't see it.

Matt

Sgt. Matt Eckart 1198
Akron Police Department Crime Scene Unit
217 S. High St, Akron, OH 44308
330-375-2790
meckart@akronohio.gov

From: Todd Clark <Todd.Clark@OhioAGO.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 1:35 PM
To: BWC <BWC@akronohio.gov>
Cc: Nicholas Valente <Nicholas.Valente@OhioAGO.gov>
Subject: FW: Ohio BCI#2022-2918 - Zachary Zoran - Officer Involved Critical Incident

This email originated outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

In connection with the below request, I am inquiring if there was any video from APD's response to 921 Nathan Street at approximately 0214 hours. I have attached a copy of the incident:

INCIDENT			
INCIDENT# 22152729	DATE/TIME 12/24/2022 02:14	ADDRESS 921 NATHAN ST	NATURE Meet a
COMPLAINANT NAME ZERAN, ZACHERY	COMPLAINANT PHONE	CALL TAKER nswank	DISPATCHER nswank
Unit	Dispatch	Enroute	Arrived
A10	02:21:55	02:22:01	02:31:28
A8	02:33:14	02:33:17	02:33:17

Please let me know if you need anything further on our end.

Thanks,



Todd A. Clark
 Special Agent, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigaiton
 Office of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost
 Office number: 234-400-3615
 Cell number: 614-264-3200
 Fax: 877-589-5607
Todd.Clark@OhioAGO.gov

From: Charles Snyder <Charles.Snyder@OhioAGO.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 12:18 PM
To: Todd Clark <Todd.Clark@OhioAGO.gov>
Subject: RE: Ohio BCI#2022-2918 - Zachary Zoran - Officer Involved Critical Incident

Per your request

S/A Charlie Snyder
 Cell: 330-233-0532
Charles.Snyder@OhioAGO.gov

From: Charles Snyder
Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2022 1:45 PM
To: 'BWC@akronohio.gov' <BWC@akronohio.gov>

Cc: Jonathan Lieber <Jonathan.Lieber@OhioAGO.gov>; Charles Moran <Charles.Moran@OhioAGO.gov>
Subject: Ohio BCI#2022-2918 - Zachary Zoran - Officer Involved Critical Incident

Hello Akron P.D. – B.W.C. Unit

On 12/26/2022, Barberton P.D. personnel were involved in a fatal officer involved critical incident involving subject Zachary Dennis Zoran. During the preceding few days, Zoran had been involved in several contacts with Akron P.D. (see attachment). Ohio BCI has been requested to investigate this matter and is requesting any/all body worn camera digital data that APD may have been captured during those indicated contacts. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at your earliest convenience through the below listed points.



Special Agent Charlie Snyder
Ohio Attorney General's
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Cold-Case Investigations
Office: 330-884-7529
Cell: 330-233-0532
Fax: 866-679-2056