



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



2023-0408

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1680 Stringtown Rd., Grove
City 43123 (L)

Investigative Activity: Body Camera Review
Date of Activity: 02/16/2023
Author: SA Kyle Douglass, #126

Narrative:

On February 12, 2023, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) received electronically the below referenced body worn camera (BWC) footage from Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Sergeant Terry McConnell (Sgt. McConnell). The footage of CPD SWAT Officers James Ashenhurst (Officer Ashenhurst), Robert Cutshall (Officer Cutshall) and Matthew Liford (Officer Liford) was requested by BCI in order to investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which occurred on February 11, 2023, at 1680 Stringtown Road in Grove City, OH (parking lot of Home Depot). It was reported that CPD officers were involved in an encounter with Bret Andrews (Andrews) while executing an arrest warrant in the parking lot of Home Depot. During the encounter, multiple CPD officers discharged their firearms. Andrews was transported to Grant Medical Center with alleged gunshot wounds, where he was pronounced deceased.

The following is a summation of information gathered from the BWC video footage. Please refer to the actual video recordings for complete and specific details of the events.

SA Douglass reviewed the video and the following was noted within CPD Officer James Ashenhurst's BWC footage:

- Video recall begins with Officer Ashenhurst loading his vehicle and leaving the station.
- Radio traffic can be heard of CPD officers attempting to locate and identify Andrews.
- Radio traffic reports Andrews is at Home Depot on Stringtown Road.
- Officer Ashenhurst radio reports he is en route to Home Depot and begins driving.
- Officer Ashenhurst arrives at Home Depot, makes contact with a Grove City police (GCPD) officer and asks them to clear the lot.
- CPD radio traffic reports location and description of Andrews.
- CPD officers discuss a vehicle "take down" of Andrews.
- Officer Ashenhurst moves his vehicle into position, then calls on the radio "Passenger's reaching, passenger keeps reaching."
- Other CPD officers can be heard in the background giving verbal commands.
- Gunshots can be heard as Officer Ashenhurst exits his vehicle, appears to draw his

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weapon as several additional shots can be heard.

- Officer Ashenhurst radio requests EMS medics for assistance.
- CPD officers state "He's down" and continue to give verbal commands to the driver of the vehicle.
- Officer Robert Cutshall states, "He still has the gun next to his right hand."
- Officer Ashenhurst smashes the passenger window and removes Andrews from the vehicle, CPD officers say "gunshot" as they secure Andrews.
- Officer Ashenhurst announces location of the gun which was in Andrews's possession.
- EMS medics are already on scene, Andrews is placed on a gurney and transported for medical attention.

SA Douglass reviewed the video and the following was noted within CPD Officer Robert Cutshall's BWC footage:

- Video begins after shots had been fired by CPD officers.
- Officer Cutshall has his weapon drawn and aimed through the windshield at Andrews, who is seated in the passenger seat.
- Officer Cutshall announces, "He still has the gun right next to his right hand," as Officer Ashenhurst breaks the passenger window to remove Andrews from the vehicle.
- Officer Cutshall announces, "His gun's right there," as Officer Ashenhurst opens the passenger door.
- Officer Ashenhurst can be seen locating and removing the gun from Andrews's lap area and placing it on top of the vehicle.
- CPD officers remove Andrews from the vehicle.
- Officer Cutshall keeps his weapon drawn as the driver is handcuffed.
- EMS medics can be seen in the background.
- Officer Cutshall moves his vehicle and reports the OICI to supervision via radio.

SA Douglass reviewed the video and the following was noted within CPD Officer Matthew Liford's BWC footage:

- Video begins with Officer Liford in his vehicle.
- Radio traffic can be heard, "Let's go ahead and take the car right now."
- Officer Liford moves his vehicle into position, exits with his weapon drawn and verbally commands Andrews, "Get your hands up" several times.
- Officer Liford announces "Hey he's reaching."
- Several gunshots can be heard, ejected cartridge casings can be seen in the air.
- Officer Liford appears to fire three shots at Andrews.
- Officer Liford calls on radio, "Shots fired" and requests EMS medics.
- Officer Liford holsters his weapon and moves his vehicle back for other CPD officers to gain access to Andrews, who is still in the vehicle.
- Andrews can be seen being removed from the vehicle by CPD officers.
- Officer Liford visually searches the passenger area of the vehicle.
- Officer Ashenhurst announces, "Gun's right there."
- EMS medics arrive as Andrews is being secured.
- Andrews is placed on a gurney and transported by EMS for medical attention.

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SA Douglass reviewed the video and the following was noted within CPD Officer Kerry Cibulskas's BWC footage:

- Video begins with Officer Cibulskas in his vehicle, video is dark.
- Officer Cibulskas reports Andrews's physical description and location via radio.
- Radio traffic can be heard, "Let's go ahead and take the car right now."
- Verbal commands from CPD can be heard, followed by several gunshots.
- "Shots fired, shots fired," can be heard on radio traffic.
- Officer Cibulskas appears to start recording on his BWC, he is out of his vehicle with a rifle as several other CPD officers surround Andrews's vehicle.
- Officer Cibulskas returns his rifle to his car, then runs around behind his vehicle to assist Officer Ashenhurst.
- Officer Ashenhurst can be seen removing a gun from Andrews's lap area and placing it on top of the vehicle.
- Officer Ashenhurst and Officer Cibulskas remove Andrews from the vehicle.
- CPD officers announce Andrews has sustained gunshot wounds as they begin to secure him.
- CPD officers lift Andrews onto a gurney, EMS medics take Andrews to their vehicle for medical transport.
- Officer Cibulskas reports he did not fire any shots.

SA Douglass reviewed the video and the following was noted within CPD Officer Steven Shope's BWC footage:

- Video begins with Officer Shope in his vehicle, on scene at the Home Depot parking lot.
- Radio traffic can be heard reporting Andrews's physical description and location.
- Radio traffic can be heard, "Let's go ahead and take the car right now."
- Officer Shope moves his vehicle into position and exits the vehicle.
- Verbal commands from CPD officers can be heard as Officer Shope approaches Andrews's vehicle on the rear driver side and draws his weapon.
- CPD officers announce, "He's reaching," multiple gunshots can be heard.
- "Shots fired, shots fired," can be heard on radio traffic, and requests for EMS medics.
- Officer Shope keeps his weapon drawn and instructs the driver to keep his hands up.
- Officer Shope handcuffs the driver, who states his name is Shawn Griffey (Griffey).
- Officer Shope moves his vehicle.
- Officer Shope removes Griffey from the vehicle and secures him.
- Griffey is searched and places into a GCPD marked cruiser.

BWC video from these officers all appeared consistent with their official statements given to BCI agents after the incident.

On February 24, 2023, SA Douglass copied all video footage to a USB thumb drive and saved it within the physical case file. Please review the video footage in its entirety for specific details.

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References:

USB Thumbdrive – Black SanDisk 32GB

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