



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



2024-2620
 Officer Involved Critical Incident – 4206 Northridge Rd.,
 Alexandria, OH 43001 (L)

Investigative Activity: Body Camera Review
Involves: [REDACTED] Doug Plott (S), Diane Bell (W), Deputy Nicholas Dewitt (W)
Date of Activity: 08/30/2024
Author: SA Craig Call

Narrative:

On August 30, 2024, the Licking County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) requested the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) investigate an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) at 4206 Northridge Road, Alexandria, Ohio, involving officers with the LCSO, the Johnstown Police Department (JPD), and Doug Plott (Plott). Plott was ultimately shot by responding officers and succumbed to his injuries.

There were three initial responding officers. LCSO [REDACTED] and JPD [REDACTED] were identified as officers discharging their firearms during the incident with LCSO Deputy Nicholas Dewitt (Deputy Dewitt) being witness to the incident.

As a part of BCI's investigation, LCSO and JPD provided SA Call with body worn camera (BWC) videos for the above officers. This report will be a synopsis of the footage contained.

LCSO [REDACTED]

BCI was provided with four (4) BWC video files for [REDACTED]. The first three videos are 10 minutes in length with the fourth being seven (7) minutes and 16 seconds.

The first of the videos begins with [REDACTED] serving in her [REDACTED] capacity. [REDACTED] appears to observe an emergency call for service on her computer and initiates an emergency response with her marked patrol cruiser. During this time an officer requests "99" traffic, which is a term commonly used to inform other officers to only use the radio for emergency traffic related to the associated call.

Dispatch [REDACTED]'s response time to the call is approximately five (5) minutes. During the response, dispatch provides updates indicating a female, later identified as Diane Bell (Bell), is barricaded in a bedroom with the male, later identified as Plott, involved armed

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Approved By SAS James A. Mulford on
 10/25/2024

with a firearm (handgun). Dispatch later clarifies the female observed the male outside of the residence with the firearm. [REDACTED] arrives on scene approximately six (6) minutes and 43 seconds into video one. [REDACTED] and Deputy DeWitt are already on scene giving verbal commands for Plott to come outside. Video one concludes with dispatch informing officers Bell can hear the smoke alarm going off inside and [REDACTED] announcing she can see someone through the window.

Video two contains footage of the shooting and events immediately surrounding the shooting, which will be described with specific times as they are observed in the video:

Beginning through one minute six seconds– [REDACTED] are on a porch area in front of an outward opening storm door. [REDACTED] confirms she saw someone through the window nearest the door. [REDACTED] can be observed looking through the storm door and can be heard announcing he observes another door that appears to lead into the house.

One minute six seconds– [REDACTED] can be observed opening the storm door and making entry into a utility room area. Smoke alarms can be heard going off. [REDACTED] have their handguns out during this entire process.

One minute 18 seconds– [REDACTED] can be observed looking through the interior door before announcing he observes someone lighting a fire inside the house.

One minute 23 seconds– [REDACTED] announces he is going to kick in the door and tells [REDACTED] to make herself ready. [REDACTED] radios dispatch they will be making entry and informs [REDACTED] she is ready.

One minute 30 seconds– [REDACTED] kicks the door open. The door is an inward opening wooden door with a long, thin glass panel on the right of the door with the knob and lock on the left. As the door comes open, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] immediately begin giving loud verbal commands for Plott to show his hands. Deputy Dewitt appears to yell "drop the knife" as Plott appears to yell "kill me."

One minute 36 seconds– Plott appears inside the house just to the left of the above described doorway holding two large knives. The knives are being held by the handle with the blades pointed down. Plott is wearing a dark t-shirt, shorts, and sandals. The three officers appear to move back and continue to give Plott commands.

One minute 41 seconds– Plott turns around and appears to go further into the house.

One minute 43 seconds through 50 seconds– A loud, repeated banging noise can be heard coming from inside the house. *A video recovered from an interior security camera shows this to be Plott repeatedly kicking the closed door of the room Bell was barricaded in.*

One minute 51 seconds through 55 seconds– A muffled scream can be heard coming from inside the house. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] respond by entering the house and appear to be searching for Plott. [REDACTED] can be heard yelling "where are you."

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██████████ moves through the house and finds a closed door. Voices can be heard and people appear to be behind the door.

One minute 56 seconds– ██████████ kicks the door open. Plott, still armed with at least one large knife in his right hand, can be observed in an altercation with Bell in a corner of the room. Plott is positioned behind Bell. As she enters the room, ██████████ moves to the left with her firearm indexed towards Plott with a two hand firing grip.

One minute 59 seconds– ██████████ fires one shot towards Plott as he appears to be pulling Bell towards the ground. ██████████ appears to enter to the room to the right of ██████████ and fires two shots toward Plott. ██████████ immediately radios shots fired. Bell can be heard screaming help from underneath an office chair, which ██████████ removes the chair to reveal Bell stuck between Plott and an office desk. ██████████ removes a knife from Plott's hand and pulls Bell up to her feet. Bell appears to be covered in blood on the right side of her body. Plott is unresponsive and appears to be deceased.

Two minutes and 30 seconds– ██████████ leads Bell from the room back through the house to the door the officers originally entered. Bell can be heard screaming "he set my house on fire."

Two minutes and 42 seconds– ██████████ and Bell are now outside the house. ██████████ announces to an additional responding/approaching officer that Plott is inside and "head shot."

Two minutes and 49 seconds– Deputy Dewitt appears to check Bell for wounds. Bell states "You guys got here just in time." She reiterates this several times throughout the remaining footage.

██████████ escorts/stays with Bell throughout the remainder of the video footage. Bell does make several statements during this period indicating she observed Plott shot in the head and believes him to be dead. Bell tells ██████████ Plott threatened to kill her and then himself prior to their arrival.

The remaining footage associated with ██████████ BWC contains footage of Bell receiving treatment from responding squad members and various brief conversations other responding officers. ██████████ does verbally acknowledge she fired her weapon during the incident.

LCSO Deputy Nicholas Dewitt

Deputy Dewitt was the first responding officer on scene. BCI was provided with six (6) BWC video files for Deputy Dewitt. The first five (5) videos are 10 minutes in length with the sixth being one (1) minutes and 46 seconds. The first video contains the initial dispatch and response with the second video containing the shooting and events immediately surrounding the shooting from Deputy Dewitt's BWC perspective.

Video one begins with Deputy Dewitt driving a patrol cruiser in emergency response. The

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original dispatch is not heard in the video footage. Deputy Dewitt appears to be monitoring his in-car computer during this time. During his response, radio traffic from dispatch can be heard asking [REDACTED] assist Deputy Dewitt with a mutual aid response at 4206 Northridge Road. Dispatch updates responding officers indicating Bell is in a locked room while Plott is in the house with a knife. Deputy Dewitt arrives on scene and exits his patrol cruiser approximately seven (7) minutes and 20 seconds into video one. Video one ends with Deputy Dewitt conducting a slow search of the exterior of the house.

Video two contains footage of the shooting and events immediately surrounding the shooting, which will be described with specific times as they are observed in the video:

Beginning through 50 seconds– Deputy Dewitt appears to continue checking the exterior of the house. Dispatch updates that Bell observed Plott with a handgun. [REDACTED] arrives on scene. Deputy Dewitt informs [REDACTED] he will be getting his rifle.

One minute 15 seconds– Deputy Dewitt retrieves his rifle from his patrol cruiser.

Two minutes 26 seconds– Deputy Dewitt and [REDACTED] continue to search the exterior of the house due to dispatch indicating Plott may be outside. [REDACTED] arrives on scene.

Two minutes 47 seconds– [REDACTED] begins making loud announcements identifying himself as a police officer ordering Plott to come out of the house. The officers are positioned in the driveway on the east side of the house.

Three minutes– Dispatch radios Deputy Dewitt indicating it is possible Bell may have seen Deputy Dewitt outside with a firearm and not Plott.

Three minutes 20 seconds– Deputy Dewitt radios dispatch requesting Bell open the window of the room she is in.

Four minutes 21 seconds– [REDACTED] and Deputy Dewitt appear to be checking the windows on the exterior of the house. Dispatch radios indicating Bell is unable to open the window due to an air conditioner blocking it.

Four minutes 38 seconds– Dispatch radios Bell informed them the smoke alarms are going off.

Five minutes 38 seconds– Dispatch radio Bell informed them Plott drives an older model Buick, silver in color. Deputy Dewitt can be heard confirming the vehicle is on the north side of the house.

Six minutes 23 seconds– While on the northeast corner of the house, Deputy Dewitt yells he smells smoke and can hear the smoke alarms going off.

Six minutes 55 seconds– Deputy Dewitt appears to be moving back towards the entrance of the house as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] can be observed opening the storm door.

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Seven minutes 10 seconds– [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have entered a utility room immediately inside. Deputy Dewitt is standing near the threshold. [REDACTED] can be heard announcing someone is inside starting a fire.

Seven minutes 21 seconds– All three officers have moved up to the wooden door leading inside the house from the utility room. [REDACTED] announces "ready" and kicks the door in immediately after. Plott can initially be seen appearing to be hiding against the wall immediately inside doorway to the left. Deputy Dewitt appears to be the only officer with a vantage point to see this. [REDACTED] steps in the threshold and Plott appears to turn towards him with one large knife in each hand. All officers initially retreat a few steps as Plott can be heard yelling "kill me." All three officers gave continual verbal commands during this time period for Plott to either "show his hands" or "get on the ground."

Seven minutes 32 seconds– Plott can be seen retreating further into the house.

Seven minutes 35 seconds– A loud, repeated banging noise can be heard coming from inside the house. *A video recovered from an interior security camera shows this to be Plott repeatedly kicking the closed door of the room Bell was barricaded in.*

Seven minutes 40 seconds– Muffled yelling can be heard coming from within the house. All three officers respond by entering the house. A fire can be observed in the living room area.

Seven minutes 46 seconds– [REDACTED] can be heard yelling "where are you."

Seven minutes 48 seconds– [REDACTED] kicks an interior open, enters the room followed by [REDACTED] and can be heard yelling "drop the knife."

Seven minutes 50 seconds through 52 seconds– A total of three (3) shots can be heard coming from inside the above room. One of the shots appears to be fired by [REDACTED] however Deputy Dewitt's BWC was partially obstructed during this time due to positioning. [REDACTED] immediately radios "shots fired."

Seven minutes 57 seconds– Deputy Dewitt enters the room and [REDACTED] can be observed attempting to remove an office chair from on top of Bell and Plott. Bell can be heard repeatedly yelling for help.

Eight minutes 22 seconds– [REDACTED] can be observed leading Bell out of the room. [REDACTED] appears to check Plott for weapons. Plott is unresponsive. Deputy Dewitt leaves the room and exits the house. Deputy Dewitt assists [REDACTED] with checking Bell for injuries. During this process Bell indicates she is not physically hurt and states "you guys got here just in time."

Eight minutes 50 seconds– Deputy Dewitt goes back inside with Sgt. Snodgrass, who just arrived on scene. After making an initial assessment, the officers decide to remove Plott's body from the house due to the fire growing. Sgt. Snodgrass and [REDACTED] drag Plott from the house, while Deputy Dewitt appears to video the scene of the shooting with his BWC prior to leaving the room. A large butcher knife can be observed before video two concludes.

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Video three

Deputy Dewitt video three begins with Deputy Dewitt dictating the presence of blood on the wall and floor area of the room the shooting occurred. This takes place for approximately 20 seconds before Deputy Dewitt quickly leaves the house which is now heavily smoke filled. Fire and EMS services arrive and begin dealing with the house fire. Deputy Dewitt along with other responding officers give Plott chest compressions during this time, however he appears to be deceased with gunshot wounds to the forehead area. Compressions are stopped once Plott is assessed by responding squad members.

Deputy Dewitt and [REDACTED] briefly discuss the shooting incident during this video. The observations described are consistent with the video footage described above. [REDACTED] does confirm he fired and indicates he is unsure if he fired one or two rounds.

Videos four through six

Deputy Dewitt remains on scene and is treated for smoke inhalation. Deputy Dewitt's BWC footage concludes when he is separated from the scene in a patrol cruiser after being treated for smoke inhalation.

JPD [REDACTED]

BCI was provided with one BWC video file for his involvement in this incident. The footage is approximately 37 minutes and 46 seconds in length. There appear to be inconsistent delays in the footage related to when an action happens and the related sound is heard. An example of this occurring would be when [REDACTED] kicks the interior door in, the sound comes approximately two seconds before the door is kicked. The radio traffic in this BWC is the same as described above and will not be repeated in this synopsis.

6 minutes 36 seconds– [REDACTED] appears to receive the initial dispatch and initiates an emergency response.

15 minutes one second– [REDACTED] arrives on scene and exits his vehicle. Deputy Dewitt is already on scene.

Prior to making entry into the house, the visual and audible observations of [REDACTED] BWC contain similar information to that of [REDACTED] and Deputy Dewitt.

21 minutes 50 seconds– [REDACTED] has kicked in the interior door leading to house from the utility room. None of Plott's actions are captured by this footage due to body positioning and other visual obstructions.

22 minutes 2 seconds– A loud, repeated banging noise can be heard coming from inside the house. *A video recovered from an interior security camera shows this to be Plott repeatedly kicking the closed door of the room Bell was barricaded in.*

22 minutes 8 seconds– [REDACTED] enters the house with [REDACTED] passing in front of him.

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22 minutes 12 seconds- [REDACTED] can be heard yelling "where are you."

22 minutes 15 seconds- [REDACTED] kicks in an interior door and immediately enters the room yelling "drop the knife."

22 minutes 17 seconds through 19 seconds- Three fired rounds can be heard with [REDACTED] appearing to fire two rounds. Much of the scene is obstructed by [REDACTED] body positioning as he entered the room, however Plott can be observed slumping down against the wall with apparent gun shot wounds to the head area.

23 minutes- Bell has been taken from the room by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] moves towards Plott who appears to be unresponsive.

The remaining footage is similar to the above described footage in video two and three of Deputy Dewitt. [REDACTED] does confirm he fired his weapon and briefly discusses the incident. This discussion is consistent with what is observed on all of the above BWCs.

There were additional BWC videos provided to BCI, however they do not capture the shooting and the events immediately surrounding.

References:

Video Footage stored on evidence.com

Attachments:

No attachments.

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