



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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

**Investigative Activity:** Body Camera Videos Received and Reviewed

**Involves:** [REDACTED] (S), Detective Aaron Neff (W), Lieutenant Anthony Lee (W), Lieutenant Patrick West (W), Lieutenant Vincent Abt (W), Officer Brad Parker (W), Officer Ian Wilkshire (W), Officer John McGraw (W), Officer John Metzo (W), Officer Michael Gasparini (W), Officer Rudy Ackerman (W)

**Activity Date:** 05/29/2024

**Activity Location:** BCI, 4055 Highlander Parkway, Richfield, OH 44286

**Authoring Agent:** Special Agent Nicholas Valente #139

**Narrative:**

On May 29, 2024, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Nick Valente received a collection of records including fourteen body-worn camera (BWC) recordings captured by members of the North Ridgeville Police Department (NRPD) from the NRPD. SA Valente saved these BWC videos as Reference Item G.

SA Valente reviewed the videos and noted the following:

1. "Lieutenant Anthony Lee"

This BWC recording is 45 minutes and 46 seconds in length and captured the actions of Lieutenant Anthony Lee (Lieutenant Lee). The video recording began as Lieutenant Lee and other NRPD officers approached the subject residence, 4802 James Drive, from the rear of the home (north). As Lieutenant Lee approached the home, an unknown officer can be overheard on Lieutenant Lee's BWC stating "Front door is opening" (2:02). An unknown NRPD officer next exclaimed "North Ridgeville Police. (2:10)" As the officer made that exclamation, the sound of his voice was drowned out by the sound of radio traffic of another NRPD officer stating over the police radio "Block that car in. Block that car in. That car does not leave. (2:12)" An unknown NRPD officer then yelled "Police, do not move. Put your hands on your face. (2:18)" Immediately after the officer made this statement, Lieutenant Lee's BWC picked up audio sounds consistent with gunfire. The first cracking sound occurred at 2:25, the second cracking sound occurred at 2:27, and the third cracking sound occurred at 2:28.

As the sound of apparent gunfire could be heard, Lieutenant Lee himself had just jumped over a chain-link fence separating the home directly east of the subject

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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

residence and the home directly behind it. Lieutenant Lee's BWC view of the subject was blocked by a shed in the backyard of the home directly to the east of the subject home. Lieutenant Lee's BWC did not capture any video of the subject, Jason Norris (Norris), or NRPD officers firing their weapons.

Lieutenant Lee approached the subject who had collapsed on the driveway. Lieutenant Lee was the first officer to reach the subject and did so at the 3:30 mark of the recording.

As Officer Lee reached Norris, a black pistol can be seen on Lieutenant Lee's BWC video lying in the gravel driveway directly behind Norris's ankles.



Lt Lee BWC Still 1

At the 3:40 mark, Lieutenant Lee picked up the pistol lying next to Norris and tossed it into the front yard. Lieutenant Lee was joined by Officer Vincent Macy (Officer Macy) at the 3:45 mark. These two officers then placed Norris in handcuffs. While placing Norris in handcuffs, the officers requested an ambulance respond to the scene and a medical aid bag be brought to their location.

Lieutenant Lee and Officer Macy searched Norris's person for injuries and located an apparent penetrating gunshot wound to Norris's upper right chest. Officer Macy placed a gunshot wound chest seal over the apparent gunshot wound at 5:12.

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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

Lieutenant Lee covered the chest seal with a medical bandage and applied pressure to the dressing. At no point in the video did Norris himself move on his own or make any statements. Norris, however, could be heard gasping for air in what appeared consistent with agonal breathing. Around the 10:30 mark, officers could no longer feel Norris's pulse and began providing CPR chest compressions. A North Ridgeville firefighter arrived and took over CPR at the 12:04 mark. After firefighters arrived on scene and took over medical care of Norris, Lieutenant Lee secured the crime scene with crime scene tape.

2. "Patrolman [REDACTED] [REDACTED]"

This BWC recording was 31:14 in length and captured actions of Officer [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Officer [REDACTED]). The video recording began after the shooting occurred while Officer [REDACTED] provided cover for other NRPD officers as they secured Norris.



Ofc [REDACTED] BWC Still 1

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] approached Donathan Herron (Herron) who was lying on his stomach on the sidewalk leading from the driveway to the front door of the home. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] placed Herron in handcuffs.

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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio



Ofc [REDACTED] BWC Still 2

After placing Herron in handcuffs, Officer [REDACTED] moved to a position of cover along a shed behind the home. From there, Officer [REDACTED] watched the rear of the home as other NRPD officers conducted a protective sweep of the home. Once the home was deemed safe, Officer [REDACTED] returned to the front yard and stood near the pistol that was found next to Norris. At the 13:09 mark, an unknown member of the North Ridgeville Fire Department (NRF) approached Officer [REDACTED] and asked, "So, what happened as far as, he was coming at you guys and, and, somebody just put him down? (13:08)" Officer [REDACTED] responded. "He was, he drew his weapon, fired in that direction (Officer [REDACTED] pointed in the direction of where Officer [REDACTED] was known to be standing during the shooting). The NRFD member replied, "Oh, he did fire, okay." Officer [REDACTED] then called out "LT" in an apparent attempt to have an NRPD Lieutenant speak with the NRFD member. The NRFD member told Officer [REDACTED] that was all he needed to know and walked away to speak with someone else.

At the 15:02 mark of the recording, Officer [REDACTED] was standing in the front yard and his BWC picked up audio of a conversation between Lieutenant Pat West

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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio

(Lieutenant West) and an unknown NRPD officer. While discussing the incident, the unknown officer stated to the Lieutenant "I saw him (Norris) raise the gun."

At the 16:36 mark, Officer [REDACTED] called out for Lieutenant West who was nearby in the front yard and stated, "If somebody can watch this (appeared to motion to his rifle), I fired two rounds at him too." Officer [REDACTED] then handed his rifle to Lieutenant West. Moments later, Officer [REDACTED] pointed out to Lieutenant Lee where he was when he fired his rifle.

Around the 27:00 mark, Officer [REDACTED] and a group of officers met with NRPD Chief Michael Freeman (Chief Freeman) in the roadway in front of the home. Chief Freeman advised both involved officers not to communicate with each other and to be driven back to the police station separately by other officers.

Beginning around the 27:45 mark of the recording, while Officer [REDACTED] was seated in the passenger seat of Officer Vincent Macy's (Officer Macy's) patrol car, Officer [REDACTED]'s BWC began to capture audio of a conversation between Chief Freeman and Herron. Herron told Chief Freeman "All I heard was yelling. I heard, I heard him (Norris) say get in the house to me because I guess he saw y'all. And then, then, I seen, I seen him (Norris) pulling a gun out. Then I heard shots fired from both (unintelligible). One more then another then he was on the ground. Then (unintelligible). (28:11)" Chief Freeman asked Herron "Did you see him (Norris) shoot?" Herron replied, "Yes. I seen him shoot." Chief Freeman asked, "What direction did he shoot in?" Herron replied, "Towards the back of the shed (28:40)." Herron then explained that he did not see anything else relevant and was distraught.

### 3. "Patrolman John Metzo"

This BWC recording was 28:36 in length and captured the actions of Officer John Metzo (Officer Metzo). The recording began as Officer Metzo stood in the front yard of 4802 James Drive, as Officer [REDACTED] detained Herron and other officers tended to Norris.

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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio



*Ofc Metzto BWC Still*

Officer Metzto quickly joined Officer Macy and Officer ██████ in conducting a protective sweep of the home. Once the home was cleared, Officer Metzto returned to the front yard. Officer Metzto, Officer ██████, and Officer Macy then walked to the telephone pole where Officer ██████ had fired his rifle from and appeared to look for a cartridge casing. While searching the area, Officer ██████ stated "Yeah, I was here. I was here, and then he shot at me, and I shot from here. (11:11)"

The three officers then briefly discussed what had just transpired. Officer ██████ demonstrated his position and stated "I saw the gun come up and then he shot. And I was like whew, and just, I mean. (11:34)" The officers then returned to look for a cartridge casing in the area.

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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North Ridgeville, Ohio



*Ofc Metzo BWC Still 2 - Officer [REDACTED]'s Face Covered*

Around the 24:00 mark, NRPD Chief Freeman arrived on scene and asked Officer [REDACTED] to briefly explain what happened. SA Valente stopped the review of this BWC recording at that point to avoid any potential Garrity issues.

4. "Patrolman Michael Gasparini"

This BWC recording was 30:49 in length and captured the actions of Officer Michael Gasparini (Officer Gasparini). The recording began as Officer Gasparini ran towards 4802 James Drive from the west, just after the shooting occurred. Officer Gasparini took cover behind a pick-up truck in the roadway approximately three houses to the right of 4802 James, as the other officers can be heard in the distance giving verbal commands. Officer Gasparini approached the subject residence, as officers were detaining Herron and rendering aid to Norris. This recording did not capture any additional information relevant to the investigation not already known or detailed above.

5. "Patrolman Brad Parker 1"

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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North  
Ridgeville, Ohio

This BWC recording was 14:13 in length and captured the actions of Officer Brad Parker (Officer Parker). The recording began as Officer Parker appeared to be using his patrol vehicle as cover, while he directed a rifle in the direction of the subject residence. The recording began moments after the officer-involved shooting occurred. After Officer ██████ handcuffed Herron, Officer Parker temporarily placed Herron in his patrol vehicle. This recording did not capture any additional information relevant to the investigation not already known or detailed above.

### 6. "Patrolman Brad Parker 2"

This BWC recording was 41:13 seconds in length and captured the actions of Officer Parker at Saint John Medical Center, 29000 Center Ridge Road, Westlake, Ohio. The recording began as Officer Parker stood at the doorway to the emergency room where Norris had received treatment. Norris was clearly deceased prior to the beginning of this recording. Officer Parker's BWC captured Detective Neff as he photographed Norris's person, clothing, wallet and contents of the wallet. At the 5:20 mark of the recording, an unknown nurse can be heard telling the detective she located a firearm Norris possessed while in the hospital and found the gun in Norris's left front pants pocket. After photographing Norris, his clothing, and possessions, the officers placed the clothing and property in evidence bags.

### 7. "Patrolman Brad Parker 3"

This BWC recording was 50:02 in length and appeared to begin shortly after the last recording ended. Early into this recording, the audio is muted when medical professionals begin to have a private conversation. At the 25:00 mark, Norris's person is removed from the emergency room by a University Hospital police officer and transferred to the hospital morgue. The audio was unmuted at the 33:51 mark. NRPD officers stood by the hospital morgue until the video ended.

### 8. "Lieutenant Vince Abt"

This BWC recording was 8:24 in length and captured the actions of Lieutenant Vince Abt (Lieutenant Abt). The video began as Lieutenant Abt responded to the scene of the officer-involved shooting. Lieutenant Abt arrived after the shooting had occurred. Another NRPD officer is overheard noting the arrival of the NRPD just prior to the arrival of Lieutenant Abt. Lieutenant Abt briefly provided traffic control and limited access to the public to James Drive before clearing the scene and ending the recording.

### 9. "Patrolman John McGraw"

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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North  
Ridgeville, Ohio

This BWC recording was 41:09 in length and captured the actions of Officer John McGraw (Officer McGraw) while he was at Saint John Medical Center. At the 3:06 mark of the recording, Officer McGraw told Detective Neff he had previously collected the firearm found on Norris's person while at the hospital and turned it over to Lieutenant West. Officer McGraw's BWC otherwise captured the same information previously noted in the review of Officer Parker's BWC recordings.

### 10. "Detective Aaron Neff Removal\_of\_Body\_from\_hospital"

This BWC recording was 7:52 in length and captured the removal of Norris's person from the hospital morgue. The timestamp on the BWC indicated Norris's body was removed at approximately 2353 hours on May 8, 2024.

### 11. "Patrolman Ian Wilkshire 1"

This BWC recording was 4:09 in length and captured the activity of Officer Ian Wilkshire (Officer Wilkshire) after the officer-involved shooting. The recording captured a conversation between Ethyl Cantley and Lieutenant Lee discussing familial relations and next of kin contacts for Norris.

### 12. "Patrolman Ian Wilkshire 2"

This BWC recording was 10:27 in length and captured additional activity of Officer Wilkshire after the previous recording. In this recording, Officer Wilkshire spoke with residents of 4784 James Drive regarding obtaining a copy of their home surveillance video.

### 13. "Lieutenant Pat West Interview\_with\_witness, Donathan\_Herron"

This BWC recording was 12:43 in length and captured an interview Lieutenant West conducted with Herron at NRPD. During the interview, Herron reported Norris arrived at his home approximately 30 minutes before the officer-involved shooting. Norris told Herron "him and his girlfriend got into it, and he was coming to see granny. (1:20)" Herron and Norris made plans to drive to Elyria to sight-see in their old neighborhood. When they walked out the front door, Herron told Norris to go back inside. Herron heard someone yell "put your hands in the air. (1:48)" Herron continued, next stating, "I seen him (Norris) pull a gun out and shoot towards the back of the shed and then I heard another gunshot. And then by that time they had done told me to get on the ground. (1:53)"

Herron stated Norris was recently released from prison and his visit and arrival at Herron's home was unexpected. Norris did not tell Herron he killed his girlfriend during their brief time together.

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



2024-1433

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4802 James Road, North  
Ridgeville, Ohio

When asked, Herron stated he was surprised when he saw Norris pull out a gun. Herron reported Norris was unaware the police were outside the home when the two men opened the front door and walked outside.

When asked how many shots Norris fired, Herron replied "all I heard was one. (7:30)"

14. "Patrolman Rudy Ackerman  
Taking\_witness,\_Donathan\_Herron\_back\_to\_residence"

This BWC recording was 11:04 in length and captured Officer Rudy Ackerman (Officer Ackerman) as he transported Herron back to his home at the conclusion of the above-described interview Herron participated in with Lieutenant West.

**References:**

G - Collection of NRPD BWC Videos

**Attachments:**

1. Lt. Lee BWC Still 1
2. Ofc Metzo BWC Still 1
3. Ofc Metzo BWC Still 2
4. Ofc ██████████ BWC Still 1
5. Ofc ██████████ BWC Still 2

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AXON BODY 3 X60AF1132





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