



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



2024-1385

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 121 W. Perry St., Tiffin,  
OH, 44883 (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Comprehensive Tiffin Police Body Worn Camera, Cruiser Camera, and Resident Doorbell Camera Review

**Involves:** Blake Fleure

**Activity Date:** 03/16/2024

**Activity Location:** Tiffin, Ohio

**Authoring Agent:** SA Ryan Emahiser #36

**Narrative:**

Over the course of this investigation, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Ryan Emahiser received video footage from Tiffin Police Department (TPD) regarding the officer involved critical incident that occurred on May 3, 2024. SA Emahiser was informed that the videos contained footage from TPD dash cameras, TPD body worn cameras (BWC), TPD parking and exterior surveillance footage, and a Tiffin citizen's home surveillance video obtained by the TPD. SA Emahiser was also provided TPD dispatch audio files which have been uploaded to this case file for review and attached to this report for reference.

SA Emahiser reviewed the video recordings, which all take place on the date of the incident, May 3, 2024, and noted the following:

***The video files reviewed will be summarized in a chronological format, and all the named videos can be found in Exhibit #1 of the hard case file which are available upon request. To aid in the chronology of the following summary, dispatch logs and times provided by TPD, and the Seneca County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) have also been utilized to provide a continuum of the events detailed in the video reviewed. This summary is also comprised of those points of interest believed to be of relevance to the investigation. It is encouraged that all the supporting videos, audio files, and documents be reviewed in their entirety for full comprehension of the recorded events.***

- 11:38:11 Hours – Eric Fleure (Eric) calls SCSO 911 to advise that his 19-year-old son Blake Fleure is driving a red 2000 Chevy pickup in the Tiffin area. Blake informed Eric that Blake had cut his wrists. (SCSO provided files and 911 recordings)
- 11:38:47 Hours – The red 2000 Chevy pickup truck being driven by Blake pulls into the west side of the TPD patrol vehicle parking lot from South Monroe St. Blake backs into a

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parking space at the very north back end of the lot, facing the TPD appearing to be waiting for TPD law enforcement to enter the parking lot. (TPD Parking Lot Surveillance Footage)

- 11:45:15 Hours – TPD Dispatch advises over the radio that a father (Eric) called in to the SCSO advising that his 19-year-old son, Blake, was driving a red 2000 Chevy pickup somewhere in the Tiffin area, and that Blake had cut his wrists. Dispatch advised the units that Blake's location was unknown and frequents several parking locations in Tiffin.
- 11:47:20 Hours – The red 2000 Chevy pickup driven by Blake exits the parking lot west towards South Monroe St. and turns south on South Monroe St. As Blake passes the TPD main entrance he can be seen driving the red 2000 Chevy pickup truck with his right hand, consistent with his left wrist already being cut as he told Eric and was later found in the investigation. (TPD Parking Lot Surveillance Footage).



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Investigative Report**



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Officer Involved Critical Incident - 121 W. Perry St., Tiffin,  
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- 11:47:38 Hours – TPD Chief David Pauly exits the TPD and enters a TPD patrol vehicle that was parked directly in front of the location that the red 2000 Chevy pickup driven by Blake was parked in, missing a potential encounter with Blake by seconds.



- 11:49:49 Hours – TPD Officer (Ofc.) Drew Westenbarger (Westenbarger) can be seen entering the TPD patrol vehicle parking lot, does a customary inspection of his patrol vehicle, enters his patrol vehicle, and exits the lot to Monroe St. at 11:53:00 Hours.
- 11:54:15 Hours – Ofc. Westenbarger's patrol vehicle dash camera begins recording as the patrol vehicle is turning west on West Perry St. from South Monroe St. Initially there is no audio as is typical for the initiating of dash cam recording upon activating emergency lights. Audio is present at 11:54:45 upon Ofc. Westenbarger activating the emergency lights, which is displayed on the dash cam player "L".

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- 11:54:21 Hours – TPD Ofc. Westenbarger advises dispatch that he has located the red 2000 Chevy pickup ***“Perry just passing Frost parkway, Rob (Sgt Bour) do you want me to pull it over? I’m just coming into this.”*** Sgt Bour advised Ofc. Westenbarger ***“Affirmative”*** acknowledging that he wanted Ofc. Westenbarger to stop the 2000 red Chevy pickup that matched the description given.
- 11:54:55 Hours – Ofc. Westenbarger advises TPD dispatch that he will be stopping the vehicle in front of 121 West Perry St. and gives the vehicle plate of HDP 8749, that matched the vehicle description given by the SCSO believed to be driven by Blake.  
**The Following Information Obtained from Provided TPD Cruiser Camera Footage and Doorbell Camera Footage provided by 121 W Perry Resident**
- 11:55:00 Hours – The red 2000 Chevy truck, driven by Blake, pulls over to the left side of the two-lane, one-way West Perry St., in front of 123 W. Perry St.



- 11:55:07 Hours – Ofc. Westenbarger exits his patrol vehicle and starts to approach the red 2000 Chevy pickup truck.
- 11:55:10 Hours - Blake opens the driver door of the red 2000 Chevy pickup truck.

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Investigative Report



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Officer Involved Critical Incident - 121 W. Perry St., Tiffin,  
OH, 44883 (L)



- 11:55:11 Hours – Immediately upon Blake exiting the truck, Ofc. Westenbarger tells Blake, while motioning Blake to stop with his left hand extended, “**STAY IN THE VEHICLE**”. Blake does not stop, displays and points a knife in Blake’s right hand at Ofc. Westenbarger and begins to quickly move toward Ofc. Westenbarger. Ofc. Westenbarger immediately draws his duty weapon pointing it at Blake again yelling “**Stay in your vehicle.**” Blake yells “**Shoot me, Shoot me**” as Blake runs at Ofc. Westenbarger while pointing the knife at Ofc. Westenbarger.

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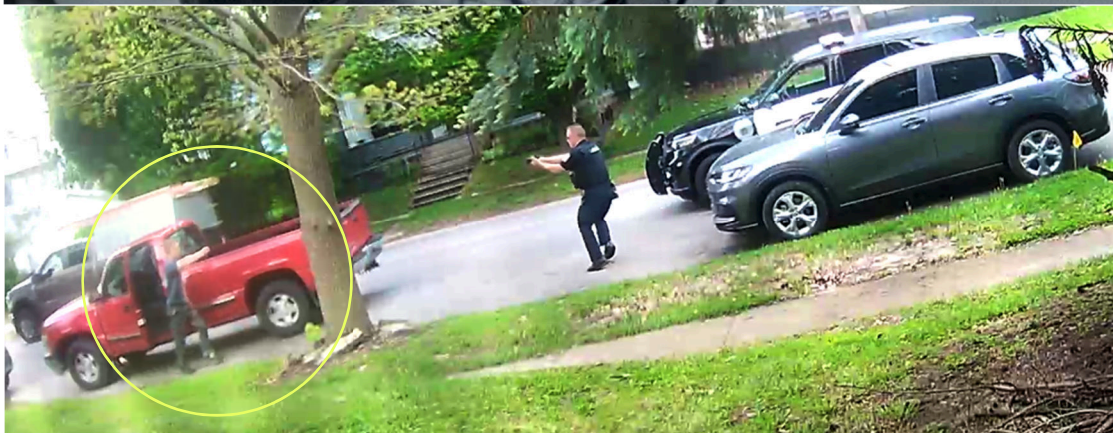


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Investigative Report**



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*121 W Perry Doorbell video ends on this frame*

- 11:55:15 Hours – As Ofc. Westenbarger retreats from Blake, who is running at Ofc. Westenbarger with a knife pointed at Ofc. Westenbarger and keeps yelling “**SHOOT ME**”, Ofc.. Westenbarger and Blake are no longer visible on the cruiser dash cam video because of running toward the rear of the patrol cruiser. Utilizing Ofc. Westenbarger’s patrol cruiser rear prisoner holding camera footage, Blake can be seen still running toward Ofc. Westenbarger while Ofc. Westenbarger is retreating as fast as he is able. Blake can be heard still saying “**SHOOT ME, SHOOT ME!**” In the still photo below Blake is barely visible on the right, and Ofc.. Westenbarger can be seen on the left retreating from Blake.

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In the next still photo taken from the rear prisoner holding camera video footage Ofc.. Westenbarger, in dark blue pants, is on the right in the picture and can be seen retreating backwards south moving off the roadway from Blake.



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Officer Involved Critical Incident - 121 W. Perry St., Tiffin,  
OH, 44883 (L)

- 11:55:17 Hours – Ofc. Westenbarger can be heard on the cruiser dash cam video audio feed saying, **“DON’T DO IT!!”** and two gunshots are heard. These two gunshots were later found in the investigation to be fired by Ofc. Westenbarger with his duty weapon. On the rear prisoner holding camera video footage it is barely visible that Ofc. Westenbarger retreated to the area of the green trash receptacle when he fired the two shots which can be heard, and it is also barely visible to see Blake drop to the pavement appearing to sustain gunshot wounds causing him to fall backwards. *(SA Emahiser attempted to produce a still photo that was visible of this occurring, however the video footage already had to be adjusted due to the brightness of the sun that day, and no still shot was able to be produced that would have been beneficial. The complete running of the enhanced video would allow seeing all the recorded events as described above.)*
- 11:55:24 Hours – Ofc. Westenbarger radioed **“6 station SHOTS FIRED, SHOTS FIRED.”**
- 11:55:29 Hours – A female, later identified as Blake’s mother Denice Fleure (Denice), can be heard in the background screaming, and saying several times **“my son, my son, you could have tasered.”**
- 11:55:40 Hours – Ofc. Westenbarger radioed **“6 station send the medics.”**
- 11:55:55 Hours – TPD Ofc. Shawn Vallery radioed **“you got information if he took off?”** Ofc. Westenbarger responded on the radio **“no I got him, he’s laying on the ground.”**
- 11:56:00 Hours – TPD dispatcher dispatches Tiffin Fire to 121 West Perry St., **“have an officer out with a suicidal subject, advising shots fired...Officer advises shots fired subject is down.”**
- 11:56:50 Hours – Additional TPD units arrive on scene, Ofc. Perry approaches Ofc. Westenbarger, who is in the proximity of Blake and where the shooting occurred, and Ofc. Westenbarger holsters his duty weapon.

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Ofc. Perry BWC #60

Ofc. Westenbarger appears upset and tells Ofc. Perry, motioning to Blake, **“just take care of him, he needs help.”** TPD Officers begin rendering aid to Blake.

- 11:57:00 Hours – Ofc. Beutler and Sgt. Bour arrive on scene, and immediately attend to Denice asking her if she is okay. Denice, understandably upset, said **“I just saw my son get shot, I am not ok.”** Ofc. Beutler asked Denice if she was involved in the incident other than witnessing it, and Denice said **“My son said he slit his wrists while he was driving around Tiffin, my husband called 911 for a wellness check. A wellness check! You should freaking know if he had a knife and he was coming at you, you should use a taser. Why would you shoot him? WHY?!”** Denice later told Ofc. Beutler **“he wouldn’t have hurt him, he wanted himself hurt.”** TPD Officers shortly after transported Denice to the Tiffin Mercy Hospital (TMH).
- 11:59:00 Hours (approximate) – TFRD arrives on scene, and shortly after assumes care of Blake.
- 12:03:26 Hours – Blake is loaded into the TFRD vehicle, and no longer viewed on BWC’s.
- 12:05:56 Hours – Chief Pauly, who was already on scene, requested dispatch to contact BCI and have them respond.

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OH, 44883 (L)

- 12:24:00 Hours – Ofc. Beutler arrived at the TMH with Denice. While in the TMH lobby Denice told a hospital worker that Blake wasn't going to hurt anyone and that **"he did it on purpose 'cause he wanted to be shot."** Shortly after, Eric arrived at the hospital and Denice told Eric that she had found Blake, and that she never should have had him call 911. Eric told officers that were present that Blake had mental health issues that began around the Covid timeframe, and they tried to get Blake the help he needed but they did not get it.

SA Emahiser reviewed all the TPD BWC and Cruiser camera video footage provided, and the above information was found to be relevant to this investigation. This concludes the review of the provided video footage, and dispatch audio.

### 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 disks containing the video footage was submitted to the physical BCI case file as Exhibit item #1 for reference only.

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