



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



2024-1584
Officer Involved Critical Incident, 27695 Tracy Road, Walbridge,
OH 43465, (L)

Investigative Activity: Body Camera Review
Involves: James D Brazeau (W)
Date of Activity: 05/30/2024
Author: SA Joshua S. Rammel, #175

Narrative:

On May 30, 2024, Special Agent (SA) Josh Rammel (Rammel) reviewed the body camera footage of Perrysburg Township Police Officer James Brazeau (Brazeau) regarding the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which took place on May 23, 2024, at 27695 Tracy Road, Walbridge, Ohio.

The body camera footage was identified as "BrazeauJames125_20240523_2257_BWC2-091774_2424152" and is 32 minutes and 37 seconds in length. The footage begins on May 23, 2024, at 22:57:38.

The footage begins as Brazeau is driving in a cruiser with no audio present. Additional Perrysburg Township Police Officers seen on the camera during the OICI are Ross Wheatley (Wheatley), Tyler Gearig (Gearig), and Hunter Johnson (Johnson).

At the 28 second mark Brazeau parks and exits his vehicle.

Audio begins at the 30 second mark.

Brazeau is seen walking around another cruiser and joining the three other Perrysburg Township Police Officers as they appear to be searching for someone or something in a mobile home park.

At the 1 minute 26 second mark multiple gun shots are heard. The gun shots are not from any of the law enforcement officers present with Brazeau. Approximately five (5) shots are heard.

The orders "back up, back up" are given at the 1 minute 28 second mark.

The decision to "get a rifle" was made at the 1 minute 39 second mark.

Brazeau takes cover around a mobile home and dispatch is alerted to the need for more units

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at the 2 minute 11 second mark. Dispatch is notified that the individual with the gun is in the ditch.

At the 2 minute 30 second mark an additional gunshot (6) is heard as a vehicle is seen driving past on Tracy Road.

At the 2 minute 32 second mark another gunshot (7) is heard.

Additional orders are given to dispatch to block off traffic coming both directions on Tracy Road.

At the 3 minute mark a potential additional gunshot (8) is heard. An individual is also heard yelling in the distance. The yelling continues of and on for a couple of minutes. It is not clear as to what the individual is yelling.

At the 4 minute 50 second mark multiple officers confirm that they can see the individual shooting at the bottom of the ditch, and that he may also have a flashlight with him.

At the 5 minute 13 second mark four additional shots (12) are heard, with a fifth shot (13) heard at the 5 minute 16 second mark and a sixth shot (14) heard at the 5 minute 19 second mark.

At the 5 minute 28 second mark dispatch is alerted to the additional shots fired.

At the 5 minutes 47 second mark dispatch is alerted to put medics on "stand by".

At the 6 minute 10 second mark an officer indicated that the subject in the ditch was still moving.

At the 6 minute and 42 second mark an officer is heard saying "I see him" before an additional gunshot (15) is heard.

Additional yelling is heard in the distance before another shot (16) is heard at the 6 minute 53 second mark.

At the 7 minute 16 second mark an officer is heard saying " I don't see movement".

At the 7 minute 23 second mark an officer is heard saying "I see his leg in the ditch", and "no movement". This is relayed to the other officers present.

Brazeau and the officers continue to hold their positions until the 9 minute 30 second mark when an individual exits one of the mobile homes and confronts the officers from a distance about why they are shooting. The officers order the man back inside as he continues to argue.

At the 9 minute 40 second mark the decision is made to "check around the trailer" which officers were using for cover. Brazeau holds his position at the corner of the trailer and confirms with the other officers if they can see the individual in the ditch. No confirmation is given except that the individuals light can still be seen in the ditch.

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At the 13 minute 5 second mark the officers proceed to move down the ditch towards the location where the individual was believed to have been firing from. Brazeau takes position to "watch our six" before proceeding down the ditch following the other officers.

At the 13 minute 55 second mark an officer is heard saying that "he still has the weapon in his hand, just stand by".

At the 14 minute 21 second mark an officer is heard confirming that the individual is not breathing.

At the 14 minute 37 second mark a body is visible lying motionless in the ditch. Brazeau continues to hold his firearm on the body as cover while another officer checks the individual's vitals.

At the 15 minute 18 second mark an officer advised that he "was not getting anything" pertaining to the vitals. The individual's firearm is moved from the individual's potential reach.

At the 15 minute 50 second mark dispatch is alerted to the subject being down and a call for medics is made.

Discussions continue as the scene is being secured including mention that the individual appears to have a "hole in the side of his head".

At the 18 minute mark a new officer arrived and inquired as to what was needed. It was explained that the individual did not have a pulse and that the officers were holding their position until medics arrive on scene.

At the 18 minute 50 second mark Wheatley advised dispatch to contact supervision and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) due to the OICI.

At the 19 minute 15 second mark Wheatley is requested away from the scene by another officer.

At the 19 minute 30 second mark the medics arrive at the scene and proceed to attend to the individual as Brazeau retains cover with his firearm on the individual.

At the 28 minute mark Brazeau informed the medics on scene that "Ross" (Wheatley) was the only officer that shot at the individual.

At the 31 minute 19 second mark Brazeau is relieved from the scene and begins walking away from the ditch.

At 23:30:15 Brazeau turns off his body camera and the footage ends.

The body camera footage was copied to a USB drive and labeled "Exhibit 1". The USB was placed in an external case file attached to this investigation.

The information contained in this report is only the information on the body camera deemed

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to be important to the investigation. See the USB drive for the complete footage.

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