



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



2022-1090
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 8643 Werger Road, Windham
Township, OH

Investigative Activity: Body Camera Review
Involves: Sgt. Keith Whan (S)
Date of Activity: 05/14/2022
Author: SA Arvin E. Clar, #127

Narrative:

Note: This report summarizes information deemed by the author to be most relevant to the investigation and does not purport to contain all questions and answers from the received report prepared by the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission Forensic Video Analyst.

This report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the Forensic Analyst examination and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of all reviewed events.

It is suggested that the full audio and video recordings be reviewed to clarify any content or contextual questions regarding the information from the forensic examination.

On May 14, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Arvin Clar (Clar) responded to an officer-involved critical incident that occurred at approximately 0933 hours, at 8643 Werger Rd., Garrettsville, Ohio. The request for assistance by BCI originated by the Portage County Sheriff's Office (PCSO).

Subsequently, SA Clar received a copy of Garrettsville Police Sergeant (Sgt.) Keith Whan's body-worn camera (BWC) video from the PCSO. Sgt. Keith Whan (Whan) was on the scene at the time of the incident but did not fire his weapon. (Please refer to IR-11 for additional details.)

Also obtained were video copies of the activity obtained from the "Ring" doorbell of the May 14, incident minutes prior to the officer-involved critical incident that occurred in the garage of 8643 Werger Rd. (Please refer to IR-4 for additional details.)

The address of 8643 Werger Rd. was shown to be owned and occupied by Richard and Barbara Knerem.

On May 26, 2022, SA Clar presented copies of Garrettsville Police Sgt. Whan's BWC and video

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footage of the May 14, activity captured on the “Ring” doorbell from the front entrance of 8643 Werger Rd. to Forensic Video Analyst Dustin Oddo (Oddo).

At the time of the incident, May 14, the PCSO received a 911 call from Richard Knerem (Knerem) of 8643 Werger Rd., at 0915 hours, reporting that a female was attempting to gain access at their front door into their house.

Knerem then called the PCSO again at 0920 hours and informed the dispatcher the female was in their garage and she is “pointing a gun” at Knerem.

Deputy ██████ (████, #████) of the PCSO responded and was also assisted by Garrettsville Sgt. Whan.

Upon both officers responding and arriving at 8643 Werger Rd., they both exited their vehicles and proceeded to walk down the driveway to approach the house and attached garage. (As reported, Sgt. Whan is the only officer wearing a BWC.)

SA Clar requested Analyst Oddo to review and amplify 90 seconds of Garrettsville Police Sgt. Whan's BWC video. The entire recorded activity is 52.02 minutes in duration. The activity reviewed consisted of the two officer(s) confrontation with the subject, Cora Baughman.

Analyst Oddo prepared a BCI Timeline Presentation that is shown to be a four-minute video presentation consisting of the subject, Cora Baughman, on the front porch of 8643 Werger Rd., that is captured on “Door Bell” recorded video. The second part of the four-minute presentation consists of the BWC video of Garrettsville Sgt. Whan and Deputy ██████s interactions with the subject, Cora Baughman.

The review of the BWC video begins at video mark #2.10 and shows Sgt. Whan and Deputy ██████ proceeding down the driveway of 8643 Werger Rd. A dark-colored pickup truck is parked in front of the first garage door that is open and closest to the house.

As the officers begin to walk down the driveway of 8643 Werger Rd., Sgt. Whan's BWC records the following activity that is shown in the BCI Timeline Presentation of the time entries:

- 2.09.21–Officers exit their vehicles and begin to walk down the driveway. The garage door closest to the house is shown to be open. Deputy ██████ is heard giving the command “stop” and then asking “which house?”
- 2.22.02–Deputy ██████ gives the commands to the subject, “Come out here.”
- 2.23.00–Deputy ██████ gives the commands for the subject to show her hands.
- 2.23.06–The subject, Cora Baughman, can be observed standing in the opening of the garage.
- 2.26.26–Deputy ██████ gives the commands to drop the gun now.
- 2.29.13–Deputy ██████ gives commands to drop the gun and can be observed on the video with his weapon drawn and raised to eye level as he approaches the garage.

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- 2.31–Deputy ■■■ gives commands to drop it and orders the subject to show her hands.
- 2.35.15–The subject can be observed in the garage.
- 2.39–Deputy ■■■ gives the commands to drop the weapon. Deputy ■■■ can be seen responding quickly to the garage with his weapon pointed towards the open garage. Deputy ■■■ continues to give commands to drop the gun.
- 2.43.17–The subject can be seen standing in front of the open garage door.
- 2.46.13–Deputy ■■■ continues to give commands to the subject to drop the weapon. Deputy ■■■ takes cover at the rear of the parked pickup truck, located in front of the open garage door.
- 2.48.27–Deputy ■■■ gives commands to the subject, ordering her to drop the gun or she will be shot.
- 2.50.07–Sgt. Whan gives commands to the subject to drop the gun.
- 2.52.21–The subject can be heard uttering words (unintelligible).
- 2.53.05–Deputy ■■■ gives commands for the subject to show her hands.
- 2.55.21–The subject retreats back into the garage.
- 2.56.06–Deputy ■■■ again gives commands, “ma’am drop it.”
- 3.01.06–On a split-screen view of the “Door Bell” camera and the BWC of Sgt. Whan, both officers can be seen quickly approaching the area. Deputy ■■■ can be heard yelling out commands for the subject to drop the gun.
- 3.02.16–Deputy ■■■ gives commands to drop the gun. The subject can be heard saying, “No.”
- 3.3.17–Deputy ■■■ gives commands, “Drop that,” then 14 shots are fired (sound distortion is heard in the final shot).
- 3.10.18–Deputy ■■■ says, “Shots fired, shots fired.”
- 3.17.15–Sgt. Whan can be heard informing the dispatcher that shots have been fired and to dispatch a squad.
- 3.20.18–Sgt. Whan can be heard asking Deputy ■■■ does he have the gun.
- 3.45.00–Deputy ■■■ also requests a squad for the subject.

During the course of the actual shooting incident, Sgt. Whan is staged behind the rear portion of the parked SUV vehicle in the garage. No visual activity of Deputy ■■■ can be observed.

The remaining BWC video shows officers administering first aid to the subject until emergency

medical assistance arrives on scene.

The three MP4 video files prepared and provided by Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission Analyst Oddo have been placed in this file and marked as Reference Item #A for further review.