



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



2024-4082

Officer Involved Critical Incident - (L) 303 S. Main St.,  
Celina, Ohio

**Investigative Activity:** Review of Dash Camera from Dep. Spencer Heinel's  
Cruiser 5440

**Involves:** Dep. Spencer Heinel

**Activity Date:** 01/22/2025

**Activity Location:** BCI Bowling Green Offices

**Authoring Agent:** SA Douglas Burke

**Narrative:**

On Tuesday, January 21, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Douglas Burke (SA Burke) reviewed video footage from Deputy (Dep.) Spencer Heinel's (Heinel) in-car dash camera from his Mercer County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) patrol cruiser 5440 regarding the Officer Involved Critical Incident (OICI) which took place at 303 South Main Street, Celina, OH 45822 on December 31, 2024.

SA Burke reviewed the video recordings and noted the following: The in-car camera from Dep. Heinel's MCSO patrol cruiser 5440 began at 03:00:00, and the length of the footage is twenty (20) minutes and thirty-seven (37) seconds for the time he had been around his MCSO patrol cruiser.

All video footage mentioned above has been placed into Axon Evidence and is available for review upon request. All times are relevant to the video footage from where it was obtained.

- 3:00:00, Dep. Heinel patrolled in the City of Celina in the area of Docksider's Marathon Gas Station assisting Celina Police Department (CPD) who had been looking for a subject [identified as Moses Alik [Moses]] who had apparently got into a car at the gas station and tried to steal the car. Moses possibly had a knife in his possession.
- 03:03:21, Dep. Heinel arrived on scene at a back parking lot/alley slightly southwest of Docksider's Marathon Gas Station. Sergeant (Sgt.) Pat Crosby (Crosby) from CPD had parked just north of Dep. Heinel's location. Moses was standing in Docksider's Marathon Gas Station Parking Lot close to a dumpster on the west side of the parking lot.

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- 03:03:25, Dep. Heintl parked his patrol cruiser in the west alley of Docksider's Marathon Gas Station. Sgt. Crosby is observed exiting his patrol cruiser. Ptl. Kyle Balthis (Balthis) is observed already on the north side of the gas station making verbal contact with Moses.
- 03:03:29, Dep. Heintl and Ptl. Crosby are observed approaching Moses in the parking lot where Ptl. Balthis is located. The audio is now able to be heard.
- 03:03:40, CPD Officers and Dep. Heintl close in on Moses. Unintelligible conversations are heard amongst officers. Dep. Heintl's K-9 partner is heard pacing in his K-9 cage in his cruiser.
- 03:03:45, Moses is observed quickly bending down and appeared to possibly grab an object. Due to the distance of the cruiser from where the incident occurred it is unknown what the specific object is.
- 03:03:46, Dep. Heintl was observed to unholster his patrol service weapon and presented it towards Moses. Moses again appeared to quickly bend down to grab an object.
- 03:03:49, Moses had his arm over his head and turned towards Dep. Heintl, then started to approach Dep. Heintl. There are numerous continual unintelligible conversations being said amongst officers.
- 03:03:50, Dep. Heintl engaged (fired) his patrol service weapon (Glock Model 45 .9mm) five (5) times at Moses as Moses approached Dep. Heintl with his right hand over his head. The five (5) shots are clearly heard from the in-car camera.
- 03:03:52, Moses fell to the ground.
- 03:03:56, Dep. Heintl radioed to Central Dispatch (MCSO), "shots fired."

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- 03:04:01, CPD Officers and Dep. Heintz turned Moses over and appeared to place handcuffs on Moses.
- 03:04:07, Central Dispatch radioed to Dep. Heintz to ask if anyone had been "hit."
- 03:04:27, Dep. Heintz advised Central Dispatch to send a squad.
- 03:04:37, Central Dispatch advised the squad was enroute. Dep. Heintz is observed walking back to his patrol cruiser.
- 03:04:55, Dep. Heintz is observed taking medical supplies to the CPD Officer who had been rendering aid to Moses.
- At 03:05:04, Dep. Heintz radioed, forty (40) to twenty-one (21) you need to head this way.
- 03:05:17, Dep. Heintz handed off the medical supplies to the CPD Officers and stepped away from the incident location.
- 03:05:33, Dep. Heintz overheard the request for further medical supplies from CPD officers and retrieved items from his patrol cruiser for CPD officers.
- 03:05:56, Dep. Heintz was back on scene of the incident location with the requested medical supplies for the CPD Officers.
- 03:06:04, Dep. Heintz again walked away from the incident location.
- 03:06:20, Dep. Heintz walked back to the incident location and assisted in getting medical supplies for the CPD Officers.

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- 03:07:06, The Celina Fire Department (CFD) Squad arrived on scene.
- 03:08:06, Segreant (Sgt.) Darrell Etgen (Etgen) arrived on scene. Dep. Heint's supervisor.
- 03:08:45, Sgt. Etgen is with Dep. Heint
- 03:12:54, Dep. Heint walked back to his patrol cruiser and stood in front of it by himself.
- 03:20:37, Dep. Heint is out of sight of his patrol cruiser.

From this time moving forward, Dep. Heint's patrol Sheriff's Cruiser stayed stationary and unoccupied due to his cruiser being a part of the crime scene. Dep. Heint's in-car camera remained on. Dep. Heint removed his K-9 partner Hex and went back to the MCSO with Sgt. Etgen.

**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.

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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 footage from Dep. Heini's in-car camera was stored by Motorola Solutions on their cloud-based storage system. SA Ryan Emahiser was provided with a copy of this footage from the MCSO.

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**References:**

**Attachments:**

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