



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



2024-3996
 Officer Involved Critical Incident - 780 Taylor Road,
 Gahanna, Ohio 43230 (L)

Investigative Activity: Body Worn Camera Video Review
Involves: Gahanna Police Department
Activity Date: 03/10/2025
Authoring Agent: SA Kyle Douglass

Narrative:

On Monday, March 10, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Kyle Douglass (SA Douglass) reviewed video footage from Gahanna Police Department (GPD). SA Douglass was informed that the videos contained footage from the body cameras recorded by the GPD. BWC video footage was obtained for the following officers which was recorded during the Officer Involved Critical Incident involving GPD and subject Alex Russell (Russell) on December 19, 2024:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Sergeant Reuben Hendon (Sgt. Hendon)
- Sergeant Pat Millenbaugh (Sgt. Millenbaugh)

SA Douglass reviewed the video recordings and noted the following:

[REDACTED]

- Video begins with [REDACTED] in the lobby of SpringHill Suites.
- Hotel manager provides information regarding the alleged use of a stolen credit card by a guest.
- Hotel staff request GPD to “trespass” the guest from the property.
- [REDACTED] and other GPD officers approach hotel room 112.
- Sgt. Millenbaugh can be seen knocking on the hotel room door, announcing himself as a police officer, and asking the guest to open the door.
- [REDACTED] uses a master key fob provided by the hotel manager to open the room door, which only opens several inches due to the interior security latch.
- A male voice can be heard from inside the hotel room, GPD officers give several commands for the occupant to open the door.

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- Sgt. Millenbaugh attempts to communicate with the room occupant, who does not come to the door.
- ██████████ states he believes the subject may have escaped via the hotel room window.
- ██████████ runs to the hotel exit and runs through the parking lot, searching for the subject.
- ██████████ announces on the radio, "He's got a gun, he's got a gun."
- ██████████ unholsters his duty weapon and aims at the subject, Alex Russell, who can be seen in the parking lot adjacent to the hotel.
- ██████████ instructs Russell to drop the gun, Russell does not comply and continues walking.
- ██████████ and other GPD officers follow Russell eastbound through the parking lots, continuing to give verbal commands to Russell to drop his weapon.
- ██████████ runs back to his cruiser, enters and drives to another location, and retrieves a rifle.
- ██████████ and other GPD officers continue to follow Russell eastbound through the parking lots, Russell crosses the street northbound into the driveway area of 780 Taylor Road.
- GPD officers continue to give Russell verbal commands, ██████████ is positioned on the south side of Taylor Road.
- Russell is observed with what appears to be a pistol pointed at his own head.
- ██████████ begins running across Taylor Road and yells, "Shoot him!"
- Multiple gunshots can be heard.
- Russell can be seen on the ground, ██████████ aims his rifle and appears to fire one shot towards Russell.
- Several additional gunshots can be heard.
- ██████████ and other GPD officers hold cover on Russell with his rifle and instructs ██████████ to retrieve a medical kit.
- ██████████ and several other GPD officers approach Russell, secure him and begin rendering first aid.

- ██████████
- Video begins with ██████████ in his cruiser.
 - Radio traffic can be heard announcing, "He's got a gun, he's got a gun."
 - Radio traffic can be heard providing a physical description of Russell.
 - ██████████ exits his cruiser with his duty weapon drawn and yells, "Stop!"
 - ██████████ repositions his cruiser and tells bystanders to go inside.

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- Radio traffic can be heard stating Russell is holding a handgun in his right hand.
- [REDACTED] exits his cruiser and crosses Taylor Road northbound.
- GPD officers can be heard giving Russell verbal commands to drop his gun.
- [REDACTED] radio announces they are in the driveway area of 780 Taylor Road.
- [REDACTED] gives verbal commands to Russell asks if anyone has "less lethal".
- One pop (less lethal shotgun) can be heard, followed by someone saying, "Give him more," and [REDACTED] stating, "Two more."
- Multiple gunshots can be heard, followed by radio announcement of shots fired and a request for medics.
- [REDACTED] aims his duty weapon towards Russell through a cluster of bushes and trees, instructs Russell to drop the gun, and fires multiple gunshots in Russell's direction.
- Radio traffic can be heard announcing shots fired and requesting EMS response.
- [REDACTED] announces his position and reports firing his weapon.
- [REDACTED] states he observed Russell point his gun at GPD officers.
- [REDACTED] several other GPD officers approach Russell, a GPD officer moves what appears to be a handgun away from Russell's person.
- GPD officers secure Russell and begin rendering first aid.

- [REDACTED]
- Video begins with [REDACTED] in his cruiser before approaching a residence and speaking to an elderly female.
 - [REDACTED] is searching the residence garage when radio traffic can be heard announcing, "He's got a gun, he's got a gun."
 - [REDACTED] informs the elderly female he needs to leave and departs the residence, enters his cruiser and drives away with sirens activated.
 - Radio traffic can be heard providing a physical description of Russell.
 - A GPD officer announces via radio, "Appears he just racked the slide."
 - Radio traffic can be heard stating Russell is holding a handgun in his right hand.
 - [REDACTED] parks his cruiser on Taylor Road and exits, several GPD officers can be seen with their duty weapons aimed in Russell's direction, who is positioned in the driveway area of 780 Taylor Road.
 - [REDACTED] retrieves a "less lethal" shotgun from his cruiser.
 - [REDACTED] and other GPD officers instruct Russell to drop his gun, Russell moves into the grassy area east of the driveway with his gun pointed at himself.
 - [REDACTED] appears to fire one round at Russell with the less lethal shotgun, Russell runs east away from GPD officers' position.

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- Russell turns and faces GPD officers as several gunshots can be heard, Russell falls to the ground.
- [REDACTED] attempts to clear an apparent malfunction from the less lethal shotgun before he drops it and transitions to his pistol.
- GPD officers command Russell to put his gun down before several additional gunshots can be heard, [REDACTED] appears to fire several shots from his pistol.
- [REDACTED] announces, "Stop stop stop!"
- Radio traffic can be heard announcing shots fired and a request for medics.
- [REDACTED] and several other GPD officers approach Russell, [REDACTED] picks up a black pistol and moves it away from Russell's person.
- GPD officers secure Russell and begin rendering first aid.

- [REDACTED]
- Video begins with [REDACTED] walking into SpringHill Suites.
 - [REDACTED] and other GPD officers approach hotel room 112.
 - Sgt. Millenbaugh can be seen knocking on the hotel room door, announcing himself as a police officer, and asking the guest to open the door.
 - [REDACTED] uses a master key fob provided by the hotel manager to open the room door, which only opens several inches due to the interior security latch.
 - A male voice can be heard from inside the hotel room, GPD officers give several commands for the occupant to open the door.
 - Sgt. Millenbaugh attempts to communicate with the room occupant, who does not come to the door and says, "I gotta put my computer away."
 - [REDACTED] aims his duty weapon towards the hotel room door.
 - [REDACTED] states he believes the subject may have escaped via the hotel room window, [REDACTED] runs to a hotel exit and searches the area for the subject.
 - [REDACTED] enters his cruiser and begins driving.
 - Radio traffic can be heard announcing, "He's got a gun, he's got a gun."
 - [REDACTED] exits his cruiser and aims his duty weapon at Russell, who is walking through the parking lot east of the hotel.
 - [REDACTED] instructs Russell to put his gun down, Russell does not comply and continues walking eastbound through the parking lot.
 - [REDACTED] announces via radio, "Appears he just racked the slide," as Russell continues to walk eastbound.
 - Radio traffic can be heard stating Russell is holding a handgun in his right hand.
 - Russell turns and walks northbound, crosses Taylor Road to the driveway area of 780 Taylor Road.

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- [REDACTED] follows Russell with his duty weapon aimed in Russell's direction.
- Russell turns around and can be observed pointing his gun at his own head.



- Russell appears to speak to GPD officers as they continue to instruct Russell to drop his gun and attempt to deescalate him.
- One pop (less lethal shotgun) can be heard, Russell then runs westbound away from GPD officers.
- Russell turns towards GPD officers and appears to point his gun in their direction, [REDACTED] appears to fire several gunshots at Russell.

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- Russell falls to the ground, [REDACTED] instructs Russell, who is still moving, to put his gun down.
- [REDACTED] fires several additional shots in Russell's direction.
- A GPD officer yells, "Stop stop stop!"
- Radio traffic can be heard announcing shots fired and a request for medics.
- A GPD officer says, "I saw him raise the gun towards you guys."
- [REDACTED] and several other GPD officers approach Russell, a GPD officer states, "I got the gun."
- [REDACTED] and other GPD officers secure Russell and begin rendering first aid.

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Sergeant Pat Millenbaugh

- Video begins with Sgt. Millenbaugh walking into SpringHill Suites.
- Hotel manager provides information regarding the alleged use of a stolen credit card by a guest.
- Hotel staff request GPD to "trespass" the guest from the property.
- Sgt. Millenbaugh other GPD officers approach hotel room 112.
- Sgt. Millenbaugh can be seen knocking on the hotel room door, announcing himself as a police officer, and asking the guest to open the door.
- [REDACTED] uses a master key fob provided by the hotel manager to open the room door, which only opens several inches due to the interior security latch.
- A male voice can be heard from inside the hotel room, GPD officers give several commands for the occupant to open the door.
- Sgt. Millenbaugh attempts to communicate with the room occupant, who does not come to the door.
- A GPD officer states he believes the subject may have escaped via the hotel room window; Sgt. Millenbaugh remains at the hotel room door.
- Sgt. Millenbaugh exits the hotel to search for the subject.
- Sgt. Millenbaugh advises via radio a physical description and location of Russell.
- Sgt. Millenbaugh follows Russell eastbound through the parking lot and instructs him to stop walking and drop his gun.
- Sgt. Millenbaugh announces via radio Russell has a gun in his right hand.
- Other GPD officers can be heard giving verbal commands to Russell, Sgt. Millenbaugh requests a medic response due to Russell making suicidal threats.
- Sgt. Millenbaugh runs towards the driveway area at 780 Taylor Road and says, "Give him more less lethal."
- Multiple gunshots can be heard, Sgt. Millenbaugh announces shots fired on the radio and request EMS response.
- GPD officers can be heard saying, "Put the gun down," several additional gunshots can be heard, Sgt. Millenbaugh again announces shots fired via radio.
- Russell can be seen laying on the ground, GPD officers can be seen aiming their duty weapons in Russell's direction.
- Sgt. Millenbaugh requests a shield and retrieves a medical kit from his cruiser.
- GPD officers can be seen approaching Russell and begin rendering first aid.
- A black handgun can be seen on the ground.

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Sergeant Reuben Hendon

- Video begins with Sgt. Hendon in his cruiser.
- Radio traffic can be heard announcing, "He's got a gun, he's got a gun."
- Sgt. Hendon activates his sirens.
- Radio traffic can be heard stating, "Appears he just racked the slide."
- Sgt. Hendon parks on Taylor Road, exits his cruiser and retrieves a rifle.
- Sgt. Hendon repositions his cruiser and runs on foot towards 780 Taylor Road.
- Multiple gunshots can be heard.
- Sgt. Hendon aims his rifle towards Russell but does not appear to fire.
- Several additional gunshots can be heard, Russell can be seen on the ground.
- Sgt. Hendon requests a shield and instructs other GPD officers to find cover.
- Sgt. Hendon retrieves a shield from his cruiser.
- Sgt. Hendon and other GPD officers approach Russell, Sgt. Hendon says, "Move the gun."
- Sgt. Hendon and other GPD officers begin rendering medical aid to Russell.
- A civilian witness reports to Sgt. Hendon that he saw Russell in possession of a gun.

- ████████████████████
- Video begins with ██████████ walking into SpringHill Suites.
 - Hotel staff provides information regarding the alleged use of a stolen credit card by a guest.
 - Hotel staff request GPD to "trespass" the guest from the property.
 - ██████████ and other GPD officers approach hotel room 112.
 - Sgt. Millenbaugh can be seen knocking on the hotel room door, announcing himself as a police officer, and asking the guest to open the door.
 - ██████████ uses a master key fob provided by the hotel manager to open the room door, which only opens several inches due to the interior security latch.
 - A male voice can be heard from inside the hotel room, GPD officers give several commands for the occupant to open the door.
 - Sgt. Millenbaugh attempts to communicate with the room occupant, who does not come to the door.
 - A male voice can be heard from inside the hotel room.
 - ██████████ aims his duty weapon towards the room door.
 - ██████████ states he believes the subject may have escaped via the hotel room window, ██████████ runs to the hotel exit.
 - ██████████ runs through the parking lot, searching for the subject.

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- [REDACTED] runs to the southern side of the building east of SpringHill Suites and yells, "Police, stop!"
- An unknown male civilian runs in front of [REDACTED] as he pursues Russell.
- [REDACTED] encounters Russell on the eastern side of TownePlace Suites, aims his duty weapon at Russell and commands him, "Get your hands up, put the gun down."
- [REDACTED] follows Russell eastbound through the parking lot and continues to give verbal commands to Russell to drop his gun, Russell does not comply.
- Russell stops and appears to speak to [REDACTED], then turns and continues walking eastbound.
- [REDACTED] announces via radio that Russell is in possession of a gun.
- [REDACTED] continues to pursue Russell eastbound through several parking lots and attempts to gain compliance.
- [REDACTED] follows Russell to the driveway area of 780 Taylor Road.
- Russell can be seen aiming his gun at his own head, [REDACTED] says, "Don't shoot yourself, drop the gun."



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- Russell appears to speak to GPD officers, [REDACTED] tells Russell, "It's not too late" and instructs him to drop the gun.
- Russell moves towards the grassy area east of the driveway, GPD officers move towards Russell.
- [REDACTED] can be seen and heard deploying the less lethal shotgun at Russell.
- Russell appears to aim his gun towards GPD officers, multiple gunshots can be heard.



- Russell falls to the ground, GPD officers tell Russell to put his gun down.
- [REDACTED] can be seen dropping the less lethal shotgun.
- Several additional gunshots can be heard, [REDACTED] aims his weapon at Russell but does not appear to fire.
- [REDACTED] retrieves a medical kit from a cruiser and returns to the incident area, GPD officers are administering medical aid to Russell.
- [REDACTED] applies an AED device to Russell.

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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.

All video evidence from this incident can be accessed electronically on Evidence.com, a website operated by Axon to store and maintain BWC video files. Please review the video footage in its entirety for specific details.

References:

No references

Attachments:

1. [REDACTED] BWC Screenshot 1 12-19-24 0955
2. [REDACTED] BWC Screenshot 2 12-19-24 0956
3. [REDACTED] BWC Screenshot 1 12-19-24 0955
4. [REDACTED] BWC Screenshot 2 12-19-24 0956

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