



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: Ross M Wheatley (S)
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 Ross Wheatley (Wheatley) 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 comprised of two video recordings.

The first recording was identified as "WheatleyRoss_20240523_2311_BWC2-059284_71769e5" and is 6 Minutes and 29 seconds in length. The footage begins on May 23, 2024, at 23:11:37.

The second recording was identified as "WheatleyRoss_20240523_2317_BWC2-059284_c84d10f" and is 1 minute and 20 seconds in length. The footage begins on May 23, 2024, at 23:17:47.

The first recording begins with no audio. The footage takes place after the OICI already occurred and starts off with Wheatley walking towards Perrysburg Township Police Officers Hunter Johnson (Johnson), Tyler Gearig (Gearig), and James Brazeau (Brazeau); who are all on the opposite side of the ditch where Wheatley is located.

At the 9 second mark the body of an unidentified individual is lying in the ditch as Wheatley positions his flashlight for a better view and proceeds to walk towards the body.

The audio begins at the 30 second mark.

At the 33 second mark Wheatley confirmed that he forgot to turn on his body camera.

At the 44 second mark Wheatley makes the decision to approach the individual in the ditch in order to secure the firearm present and check on vital signs.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Approved By SA Christopher Hamberg on
06/03/2024

At the 1 minute 3 second mark Wheatley check for a pulse in the individual's neck and confirms that he "is not getting anything".

At the 1 minute 31 second mark Wheatley removed the firearm from the individual's hand and placed it out of reach along the bank of the ditch.

At the 1 minute 38 second mark Wheatley confirmed with the other officer's present that they were all "good". It was advised back that everyone was.

At the 1 minute 45 second mark Wheatley informed dispatch that it was clear for medics to arrive and make the determination if the subject was deceased or not.

At the 2 minute 15 second mark Wheatley advised that he was unable to determine where all the individual was injured. Gearig informed Wheatley that the individual appeared to have a "hole in his head".

At the 2 minute 55 second mark Wheatley checked the individual again for vital signs, which came back as negative.

At the 3 minute 24 second mark Johnson is heard talking about how bullets went past his head as he was holding cover behind a tree as the individual was firing.

At the 3 minute 55 second mark Wheatley describes what happened and the status of the individual to an unseen police officer who just arrived on scene.

At the 4 minute 49 second mark Wheatley alerted dispatch that it is "officer involved" and to contact #129 as well as the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI).

At the 5 minute mark an additional officer inquired as to "who was involved". Wheatley confirmed that he was and was asked to leave the scene and follow the other officer away.

At the 5 minute 25 second mark Wheatley informed the other officer that none of the officer's involved were injured.

At the 6 minute mark Wheatley takes a seat inside of a cruiser and informed the other officer that he would be able to contact his union representative shortly.

Wheatley's body camera deactivated at 23:18:05.

The second recording began at 23:17:47 and had an overlap of footage with the first recording until 23:18:05.

The audio for the recording cuts out at the 19 second mark.

At the 21 second mark Wheatley leaves the cruiser and began heading back towards the scene.

The audio returns back at the 31 second mark.

At the 39 second mark Wheatley informed the other officer that he was going to contact his

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Lieutenant in order to provide the full briefing of the incident.

At the 1 minute 13 second mark Wheatley returned back to his cruiser and makes a phone call.

The footage ends at 23:19:07 with Wheatley waiting for a response on his cell phone.

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

The information contained in this report is only the information deemed important to the investigation. For the complete footage see the attachment.

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.