

**Weber County Attorney's Office
Criminal Investigation
Officer Involved/Deadly Force Used
Date: 11-24-2024
Investigator Steve Haney
Premise: 933 E 1150 N
City: Ogden City**

Agency Involved: Ogden City Police Department
Ogden City Police Case # 24G82736
CSI Case #24CS1363

INTRODUCTION

On November 24th, 2024, the Ogden City Police Department reported that there had been an officer-involved critical incident involving members of their department. The officer-involved critical incident protocol for Weber County was initiated.

This force investigation was handled by the Weber County Attorney's Office as outlined in the protocol. The information provided in this document is a summary of the complete and thorough investigation conducted by the Weber County Attorney's Office Force Investigation Team. The following investigators were utilized;

Weber County Attorney's Office Force Investigation Team Involved:

Investigator Steve Zaccardi- (WCAO)

Investigator Cameron Hartman- (WCAO)

Overview/ Summary

Involved: Officer Merrill Bryner- Ogden City Police

Subject/deceased: Jeffrey Blue-

Witness: Cassandra Blue-

Witness: Alec Blue-

Witness: Ashton Blue-

Witness Officer: Preston Berry- Ogden City Police

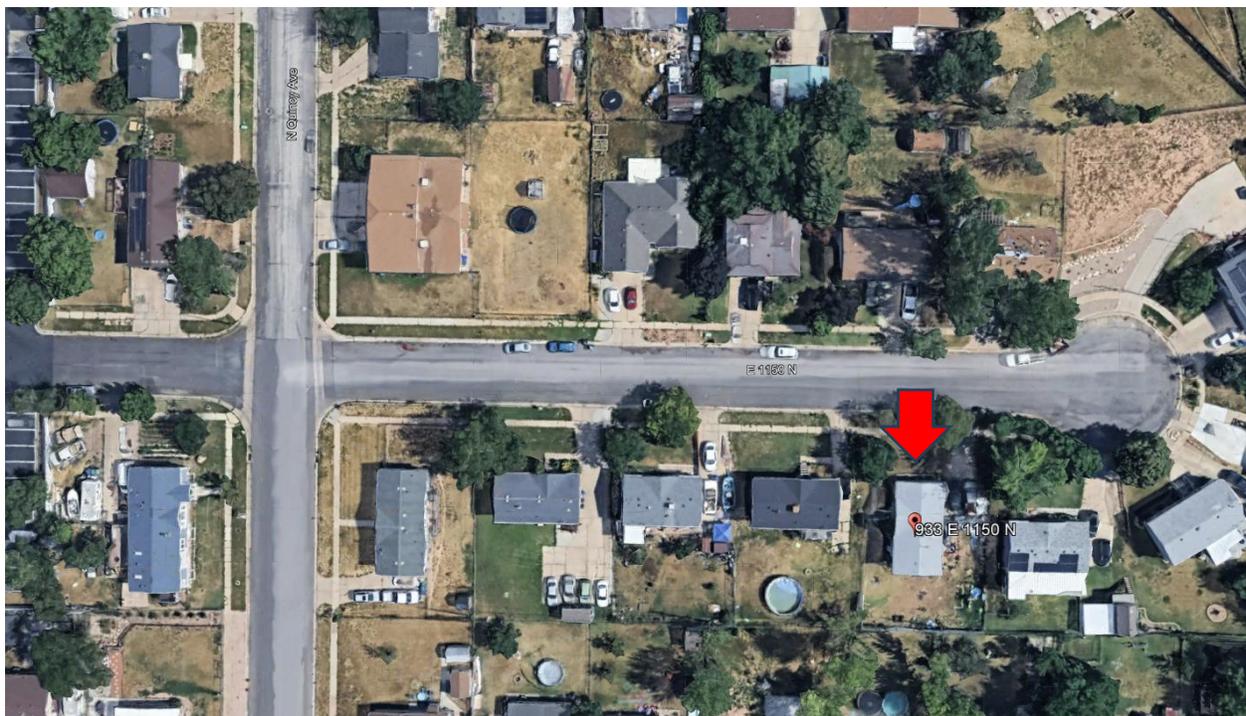
On November 24th, 2024, a call came into Weber Area Dispatch Center asking for an officer to respond to _____ to assist a woman who was asking for an officer to keep the peace while she gathered some belongings from her residence.

An officer arrived and made contact with a Cassandra Blue who was seeking to get her property. Jeffrey Blue was Cassandra's husband and was encountered by the officer and acted hostile to the situation. Another officer was requested to respond.

Officers made entry into the residence and Jeffrey Blue demanded that they leave. Jeffrey then produced a weapon. One officer fired his duty weapon, striking Jeffrey Blue who died on scene as result of the gunshot wounds.

Footage from body worn cameras of the officers has been collected.

The residence of _____ is located just east of Quincy Blvd on a cul-de-sac roadway. There is an LDS Church building that is directly west and the roadway connects into the parking lot of this building.





Investigation

I was contacted by Captain Ward of the Ogden City Police Department, who advised me that there had been an Officer Involved Critical Incident. Due to the protocol this investigation would be handled by the Weber County Attorney's Office Investigation Force Investigation Team.

I contacted Chief Investigator Steve Zaccardi and Investigator Cameron Hartman who both responded to this scene.

I arrived and met with Captain Ward who briefed me. I was advised that two officer responded to the address of _____ on the request of a "keep the peace". Cassandra Blue said there was a domestic issue between her and her husband, Jeffrey Blue, and needed an officer to stand by while she collected her belongings. It was reported that Jeffrey Blue produced a weapon when officers arrived and one of the responding officers fired his duty weapon, striking Jeffrey Blue who died on scene. Captain Ward advised me that the firearm that Jeffrey Blue had brandished appeared to be a BB gun but was a facsimile of a Berreta 9mm.

Cassandra Blue was standing on the sidewalk just outside of the crime scene perimeter. I introduced myself and asked if she would be willing to sit in my vehicle and speak with me. Cassandra sat in the passenger seat of my vehicle while we talked privately. This interview was recorded with a digital audio recorder.

Cassandra said that she and her husband Jeffrey had been married for 3 years but they had known each other their whole lives. Jeffrey's first wife had passed away, which Cassandra said had a huge impact on his anger management. Cassandra and Jeffrey have had a very volatile relationship, and they fight constantly. Cassandra said Jeffrey is constantly yelling and picking fights with her and she recently left the house for a few days to get away from him. Cassandra said she returned to the house the night before and she and Jeffrey had another fight where she had to leave again. Cassandra said she called Weber dispatch and requested an officer respond to keep the peace while she obtained her belongings.

Cassandra waited down the street until the officer arrived and then they approached the residence. Jeffrey was on the porch smoking a cigarette when they arrived. Jeffrey yelled at her and the officer and told them he had given all her property to the D.I. and there was nothing for her to get. Cassandra knew this was a lie due to the fact that Jeffrey was too lazy to have done this and claimed to have done it while the D.I. was closed at night.

Cassandra said the officer tried to reason with Jeffrey, but he would not listen and eventually just went inside and shut the door. Cassandra said the officer asked her if they could go into the house since she was married and lived there too, she could invite the officer in to get the clothing and leave. Cassandra agreed and the officer called for another officer to assist him.

Once the second officer arrived, they went to the door, but it was locked. Cassandra retrieved a key and then opened the door. Cassandra said Jeffrey was in the kitchen and came towards the door screaming at the officers. Cassandra stated Jeffrey was yelling at them to get out unless they had a warrant. Jeffrey then yelled, "I'll go grab my gun!"

Cassandra said Jeffrey then moved toward the living room area. Cassandra said she was pushed aside by the officers and was still in the kitchen area by the fridge when she heard shots being fired. Cassandra could not see into the living room area where Jeffrey was but understood he had been shot. Cassandra was then removed from the scene.

I talked with Cassandra about the domestic violence history of her and Jeffrey which she alluded to it just being verbal arguments only. When I asked why Cassandra needed an officer to respond to keep the peace, she said that Jeffrey would not let her leave and would have physically restrained her from leaving if the police were not there.

Cassandra then asked me if Jeffrey was okay, and I advised her that he had died. Cassandra was very distraught and had to exit my vehicle to vomit. Friends of the family who had responded to the scene came over and tended to comfort Cassandra.

I then spoke to Alec Blue who is Jeffrey Blue's son and was present inside the house during the incident. Alec said he was asleep in his room when he heard Jeffrey screaming in the kitchen. Alex said he heard his father yelling for someone to get out of his house and then shots being fired. Alec said he exited his room into the hallway and saw his dad collapsed on the living room floor. The police officers yelled at Alec to stay back so he went back into his room until he was cleared out of the house by other law enforcement.

I asked Alec if he knew his father had any firearms and Alec said in the past, he did but nothing recent. I asked Alec if he knew why Jeffrey would point a weapon at police officers. Alec spoke of his mother passing and how Jeffrey never got the help he probably needed to properly cope with the loss.

I spoke with Alex about the process of the investigation and the length of time it might be. Alec requested to leave in his vehicle and be able to retrieve his dogs for the residence. I spoke with CSI about getting the dogs for Alec and they agreed to retrieve them.

I tried to talk with Ashton Blue who was also in the home during this incident, but he declined to speak with me at that time and asked if we could talk tomorrow.

I then met with Investigator Zaccardi who was in the process of obtaining a search warrant for the residence. It was decided that I would go to the OPD station and meet with the officers involved. Investigator Zaccardi took over the crime scene.

Processing the officers

I arrived at OPD and met with CSI Biggs who would be collecting the firearms for processing. Officer Bryner was photographed as they looked at the time of the incident. I then counted the number of bullets remaining in his duty weapon. Below are the photographs.



**Glock 9mm Model 45, Serial Number
15 Rounds in gun and inserted magazine.
Duty carries 17 rounds- Fired 2 times
(2) Spare magazines- both had 17 rounds in them.**

Officer Bryner declined to give a statement on the advice of his FOP Attorney.

Witness Officer: Preston Berry

I sat down with Officer Berry at the police station. I advised him that he was a witness officer, and I would like to ask him a few questions. This interview was recorded with a digital audio recorder.

I asked Officer Berry to tell me what had happened. Officer Berry said that he was working patrol and Officer Bryner had responded to the keep the peace and then requested another officer respond. Officer Berry volunteered and went to the residence. Officer Bryner briefed Officer Berry about how Cassandra was there to get property belonging to her and that Jeffery had not been cooperative.

Officer Berry said that Jeffrey Blue was still on the porch when he arrived and was yelling at Cassandra and Officer Bryner. Officer Berry said Jeffrey went into the house and closed the door when Officer Berry started walking up to the scene.

Officer Bryner and Officer Berry walked Cassandra up to the door, but it was locked. Cassandra retrieved a house key from her vehicle and unlocked the door.

Officer Berry said that Jeffrey ran to that door and started yelling at the officers to get out of his house. Officer Bryner tried to calm Jeffrey down by telling him that Cassandra could get her belongings and then they would leave. Officer Berry said Jeffrey yelled a few other things that he did not recall but then heard Jeffrey state that he was "going to get his gun".

Officer Berry said that Jeffrey turned and ran, and Officer Berry lost sight of him due to Officer Bryner and Cassandra being in his way. Officer Bryner chased after Jeffrey and Officer Berry said he pushed past Cassandra and attempted to follow Bryner as they went through the kitchen.

Officer Berry said he drew his side arm out as he rounded the corner that went into the living room. Officer Berry said he saw Jeffrey in the living room and was just getting his sights up when Officer Bryner fired two shots from his duty weapon. Officer Berry did not fire his weapon.

I asked Officer Berry about hearing Jeffrey clearly say he was going to go get his gun and where he was when he said it. Officer Berry said Jeffrey said it while he was standing in the doorway confronting the officers after Cassandra let them in. Officer Berry said Cassandra stepped inside and Officer Bryner was behind her and Officer Berry was right behind Bryner as they bottlenecked in the doorway.

Officer Berry said Jeffrey yelled out that he was going to get his gun and then ran back through the kitchen and then into the living room. I then asked Officer Berry if he saw the gun in Jeffrey's possession. Officer Berry said he did not see the gun when he rounded into the

living room but after Officer Bryner fired, he heard something hit the floor and looked down and saw the gun tumble as it hit the floor.

I asked Officer Berry if he had ever been to this residence before this day, Officer Berry had not. I then asked if he had looked up the history of police involvements at this residence while he was responding. Officer Berry said no.

I then asked Officer Berry if he recalled anyone yelling out as they entered the house chasing after Jeffrey. Officer Berry said he recalled Cassandra screaming but did not recall anything from Officer Bryner or Jeffrey. Officer Berry said he was about shoulder to shoulder with Officer Bryner and had just got sight of Jeffrey when he heard Officer Bryner fire two shots.

I ended the interview at this point.

Jeffrey Blue



Utah State Criminal History

Total number of incidents: 6

Total number of incidents with convictions: 6

Total number of incidents with a felony: 4

Total Number of felony convictions: 3

Local Law Enforcement History

Total number of incidents: 40

Total Arrests: 6

DV related incidents: 14

“Keep the Peace” related incidents: 2

Jeffrey Blue and Cassandra have been involved in numerous domestic violence related incidents. Most notably two different times law enforcement came to this residence to “keep the peace”.

On 07/15/21, Ogden City Police officers went to _____ Cassandra Blue asked for assistance after she and Jeffrey Blue got into an argument and she wanted to leave. Jeffrey had to be repeatedly told of Cassandra’s rights to her property by the officers before he finally surrendered her items. (21G49182)

On 02/17/23, Ogden Police officers made contact with both Jeffrey Blue and Cassandra Blue who had been fighting. Cassandra wanted to leave with her belongings. Jeffrey wanted Cassandra to be charged with trespassing. Jeffrey was informed of Cassandra’s property rights, and she was allowed to take her items and leave. (23G12297)

Body Camera Footage from Officer Bryner (Axion Camera-30 second delay until sound starts)

There is a date and time stamp on the right upper corner of this footage. I will be using this time stamp as I refer to key moments of this footage.

The first image in this footage shows the steering wheel of Officer Bryner’s vehicle while he is driving. The audio turns on at 11:58: 56. Officer Bryner arrives in the area and exits his vehicle and then starts walking east up _____ Cassandra Blue exits a dark colored minivan that is parked in front of _____ Jeffrey is standing on the porch that is on the east side of _____ Jeffrey can be heard yelling at Cassandra, saying he took her property to the “D.I.” (11:59:27).

Below is a still photo of this moment.



Officer Bryner starts to walk up to the sidewalk in front of Jeffrey can be heard telling Officer Bryner that he needs a warrant and then walks into the house.

Officer Bryner then talks to Cassandra and she advised him that she and Jeffrey are married, and she has lived here at for 5 years. Cassandra says she wants her belongings because she is leaving. Cassandra's phone is ringing, and she states that it's Jeffrey calling her but does not answer.

At 12:00:37 hrs, Officer Bryner requests a second unit respond for back up. He then tells Cassandra to stand by and wait. Officer Bryner then walks back to his marked police vehicle. Jeffrey then comes back outside and can be heard arguing with Cassandra. Officer Bryner walks back up towards the house. Cassandra is asking if she can just get her property, and Jeffrey is telling her that he took it to Deseret Industries. Cassandra points out that she saw her belonging last night before she left and the D.I. was closed so he could not have taken anything there. Jeffrey argued that he just dropped it off. Cassandra then asked if she could just come inside and look, Jeffrey said no.

Jeffrey then went back inside the residence. Officer Bryner then asks Cassandra if this was their married household that they both lived in. Cassandra said yes. Officer Bryner then asks Cassandra if she has a key to the house. Cassandra said Jeffrey claimed he had changed the locks, but she did not believe him and stated she had a key to the door.

Officer Bryner went back to his vehicle again. The body worn camera is muted at 12:03:47 hrs as Officer Bryner sits in his police vehicle and makes a phone call.

Officer Bryner exits his vehicle, and the audio comes back on at 12:07:59 hrs. Officer Bryner walks back toward the house. Jeffrey is back on the porch and can be heard arguing with Cassandra. Officer Bryner is standing by while Cassandra is still by the mini van parked on the street. Jeffrey then yells at Officer Bryner and tells him to leave. Officer Bryner tells Jeffrey that

he is just there to keep the peace. Jeffrey says he is not coming off that porch, and Officer Bryner explains that he is good with that and expresses that Jeffrey has his rights but so does Cassandra. Jeffrey argues that Cassandra has no rights to anything because she left.



Jeffrey gets angry and yells at Officer Bryner that this is not Cassandra’s home, and he is the only one on the lease. Officer Bryner explains that they are still married, and she lives there and has rights to her property. Jeffrey yells that Cassandra is not coming in and tells Officer Bryner to “get a warrant”. Officer Bryner tries to explain to Jeffrey that a warrant will not be necessary but Jeffrey walks into the house again.

Officer Bryner explains to Cassandra that she can make access and give law enforcement permission to enter to keep her safe while she gathers her belongings. Officer Bryner mentions that they will protect her, but Jeffrey cannot assault them in any way. Officer Berry is now on scene and is standing on the sidewalk. (12:11:05)

Cassandra tells Officer Bryner that she wants the officers to accompany her inside to get her belongings because she is certain that Jeffrey did not get rid of her property. Officer Bryner explains that they are not there to supervise a complete move out of beds and couches. Cassandra says she is just there for clothing and her son’s toys.

Cassandra walks to the door and the officers follow her. Cassandra tries the door and its locked. Cassandra walks back to her vehicle to retrieve a key. Officer Bryner speaks with Officer Berry while they wait for her to return. Cassandra walks back and goes up the porch to the door on the east side of the house.

Cassandra tries the key, and it opens the door. Cassandra steps through the doorway and into the house. Officer Bryner hurries up the porch steps and goes through the doorway behind Cassandra.

The camera shows that the doorway leads onto a landing where there are basement stairs straight ahead or a doorway that leads into the kitchen area to the left.

Jeffrey confronts them at the doorway to the kitchen and yells at them to leave. Photo below. (12:14:29)



Jeffrey screams at the officers to get out of his house. Cassandra is caught between Jeffrey and the officers as she stands in the doorway to the kitchen.

At 12:14:34 Jeffrey yells “One! I’ll get my fucking gun! Two! I’m going to count to three!”

Officer Bryner can be heard trying to reason with Jeffrey telling him that they have the right to be there. Jeffrey then turns and runs through the kitchen and rounds the corner to the right that goes into the front living room area. When Jeffrey turns and moves quickly into the house, Officer Bryner pushes Cassandra into the kitchen and moves ahead of her. Officer Bryner can be heard yelling, “Jeff, stop!” multiple times as he moves through the kitchen. Jeffrey can be seen rounding the corner ahead out of the room ahead of Officer Bryner. Still framed photograph below. (Red Arrow)

Jeffrey Blue



Officer Bryner rounds the corner where the refrigerator meets the doorway to the living room on the right. Jeffrey is standing just inside the living room facing Officer Bryner. Jeffrey is holding a gun in his right hand. Photo below. (Red arrow)



Jeffrey is now holding a gun in his right hand (red arrow) and his stance is slightly turned to his right. Officer Barry is now visible to Officer Bryner's right hand side near the fridge. (See photo below)



At this moment, Jeffrey yells out "Count to the three, motherfuck...!" As he yells, he flinches aggressively. Officer Bryner fires his duty weapon twice and Jeffrey falls to the floor.

Officer Bryner can be heard saying, "God dammit" and then announces over his radio to dispatch that shots have been fired.

A bedroom door then opened to the left of the hallway and a shirtless Alec Blue enters into the hallway. Officer Bryner orders him to go back into the bedroom. Cassandra can be heard telling Alec to go back into the bedroom. Officer Bryner tells Officer Berry that there is a gun on the floor next to Jeffrey.

Officer Bryner and Officer Berry are both trying to transmit on their radios and Cassandra is crying while standing in the kitchen. Officer Bryner states to Cassandra, "I'm so sorry, he has a gun right there."

Officer Berry has moved into the living room next to where Jeffrey is face down on the floor. Officer Bryner is talking to Officer Berry as he is standing over the gun on the floor. Officer Bryner says, "There is a gun. Is it even real?"

Officer Bryner moves into the living room and starts to check on Jeffrey who is face down on the floor. Officer Bryner rolls Jeffrey over onto his back and blood can be seen on Jeffrey's shirt. Officer Bryner asks Officer Berry if he has a chest seal. Officer Berry says he does not have one and Officer Bryner states he had one in his vehicle and starts to move through the kitchen and out the door.

Officer Bryner runs out to the back of his marked unit and opens the rear portion. Officer Bryner gets out a medical kit and finds a chest seal and some rubbers gloves. A responding back up unit pulls up and Officer Bryner tells the officer that the wounded person is inside and states, "he pulled a fucking airsoft gun on me, God dammit".

Officer Bryner runs back into the house and makes his way into the living room where Officer Berry is still with Jeffrey. Officer Berry pulls up Jeffrey's shirt and Officer Bryner puts medical gauze over the chest wounds and applies pressure. Officer Berry opens the front door that is in the living room.

Other officers start coming in the house and Officer Bryner directs them that there are two teenagers who are in the house and Cassandra is outside with a neighbor.

Medical arrives and Officer Bryner moves out of their way as they start CPR on Jeffrey. Officer Bryner talks with Officer Hopper about who was in the house and where they were. It appears as if everyone has now cleared out of the house. This is confirmed when Officer Bryner exits the house, and Alec Blue can be seen standing in the driveway and tells him that he and his brother are out of the residence.

Officer Bryner then walks down to where his patrol vehicle is parked. The footage is muted at 12:22:12 hrs. Officer Bryner is seen meeting with Lt Vandenberg and speaks with him while standing in the roadway. Officer Bryner then gets into his patrol vehicle and makes a call on his cellular phone. Officer Bryner then exits the vehicle and speaks with other arriving officers. The video ends at 12:35:04.

**Body Camera Footage from Officer Berry
(Camera-30 second delay until sound starts)**

Officer Berry's BWC footage starts at 12:09:51 hrs. The steering wheel and dashboard are visible as Officer Berry is driving his marked Ogden Police vehicle. Officer Berry arrives and exits his vehicle at 12:10:12 hrs. The sound turns on at 12:10:19 as Officer Berry walks east toward where Officer Bryner can be seen standing on the sidewalk in front of residence

Cassandra can also be seen leaning on a black colored minivan.

Officer Bryner is talking with Cassandra about her decision to allow them to escort her inside the house to gather her property. Cassandra can be heard telling Officer Bryner that she would like the officer to come inside with her because she knows the property is still inside.

Officer Berry falls in behind Officer Bryner and they follow Cassandra up to the door on the east side of the house. Cassandra walks up the steps on the wooden porch and attempts to open the door, but it is locked. Cassandra states she can get her keys and see if they work. A voice can be heard yell out, "I changed the locks!"

Cassandra walks out to the van to get her keys. The officers are now standing by the wooden porch waiting for her to return. Officer Bryner talks with Officer Berry about Jeffrey saying he took her clothes to the D.I.

Cassandra returns with the keys and walks up the steps on the porch. Officer Bryner is at the bottom of the steps and Officer Berry is behind him. Cassandra opens the door and steps into the house. Officer Bryner hurries to get up the stairs and catch up to her. Officer Berry also starts up the steps quickly.

As Officer Berry reaches the door, Jeffrey can be heard yelling at them to get out of his house. Jeffrey can then be seen pointing over Cassandra as she stands in the doorway to the kitchen.

At 12:14:33 Jeffrey yells, "I'll grab my fucking gun!" Officer Bryner can be heard telling Jeffrey that they have a right to be there when Jeffrey turns and runs back into the kitchen and turns the corner to the right. Officer Bryner can be seen pushing past Cassandra in the kitchen and drawing his holstered duty weapon. Officer Bryner is calling out to Jeffrey as they both move past the refrigerator on the right and enter the doorway to the front living room.

The footage now shows Jeffrey standing in the living room facing the officers. He is turned slightly away from Officer Berry and his cellular phone is in his right hand. Jeffrey yells towards Officer Bryner, "Count to three Motherfuck!"

Below is a still framed photograph of this moment.



Two shots can be heard, and Jeffrey falls to the floor. Officer Bryner calls out, “God dammit” and then radios in that shots have been fired. Officer Berry also states into his radio that shots have been fired.

Alec Blue can be seen stepping out of his bedroom into the hallway and Officer Bryner tells him to get back. Cassandra also can be heard telling Alec to get back. Officer Bryner then states that there is a gun next to Jeffrey. Officer Berry turns on a flashlight and shines it into the living room and illuminates where the gun is on the floor.

Cassandra can be heard crying, and Ashton and Alec can be heard yelling out. Officer Berry moves forward into the living room toward where Jeffrey is. Officer Bryner can be heard explaining there is a gun. Officer Bryner asks Officer Berry, “is it even real?”

Officer Berry leans down and looks closer at the gun on the ground. Officer Berry tells Officer Bryner that the gun is a pellet gun.

Officer Bryner then rolls Jeffrey over and asks Officer Berry for a chest seal. Officer Berry states he does not have one and Officer Bryner states he had one in his vehicle and starts to walk back through the kitchen to go outside. Officer Berry puts on some gloves and leans down to check on Jeffrey. Officer Berry is seen moving the gun away from Jeffrey.

Officer Berry places his hand on Jeffrey’s chest to apply some pressure. Jeffrey is unresponsive and exhibits agonal breathing. Officer Berry stays with Jeffrey and Officer Bryner returns and turns the lights on in the room.

Officer Berry pulls up Jeffrey's shirt and two bullet wounds can be seen on the left side of Jeffrey's chest. Officer Bryner then puts the gauze on the wounds and applies pressure.

Officer Berry opens the front door and waits to try and wave responding medical personnel in. Medical begins to do CPR on Jeffrey. They ask Officer Berry to make some room for them to work on Jeffrey. Officer Berry moves a couch that is in the living room. A medic helps Officer Berry move the couch further into the room.

Officer Berry then moves into the kitchen and removes his left-hand glove. Sgt Sattlemair enters the kitchen and asks Officer Berry if he is okay. Sgt Sattlemair then points out a bullet casing in the kitchen.

Officer Berry then joins another OPD officer in clearing the basement of any other people. Once that is finished, Officer Berry exits the house through the east door and walks out to the roadway.

Sgt Sattlemair speaks with Officer Berry. He tells Sgt Sattlemair about how they were there to keep the peace and how Jeffrey was upset about them being there. He stated that when Cassandra opened the door, Jeffrey started at her and then yelled at them to leave and then stated that he was going to go get his gun. Officer Berry said that they followed Jeffrey as he ran to the other room. Officer Berry said that as he caught up with Officer Bryner, two shots were fired.

Officer Berry then says that he has blood on his hands from when he was applying pressure to Jeffrey's wounds. He then walked over to Officer Hopper's vehicle where he was provided with water. Officer Berry tells Officer Hopper, "All over a pellet gun".

Officer Hopper took photographs of Officer Berry's hands before he washed them with the water. Officer Hopper then asks Officer Berry if he had his gun out. Officer Berry stated he did, but Jeffrey had his back towards him, and it looked like he grabbed something. Another officer walked up and asked about the two younger males who were inside the house.

The camera is muted at 12:28:33. Officer Berry then makes a phone call as he stands on the sidewalk on the north side of the street. Officer Berry walks over to Officer Hopper's vehicle and begins to get in the passenger seat. The footage ends at this time. (12:32:24 hrs)

Scene Photos

Below is a photograph of the east porch and doorway of entry was made by Cassandra and the two officers.

This is the door that



Below is a photograph of the view into the kitchen area from the east door.

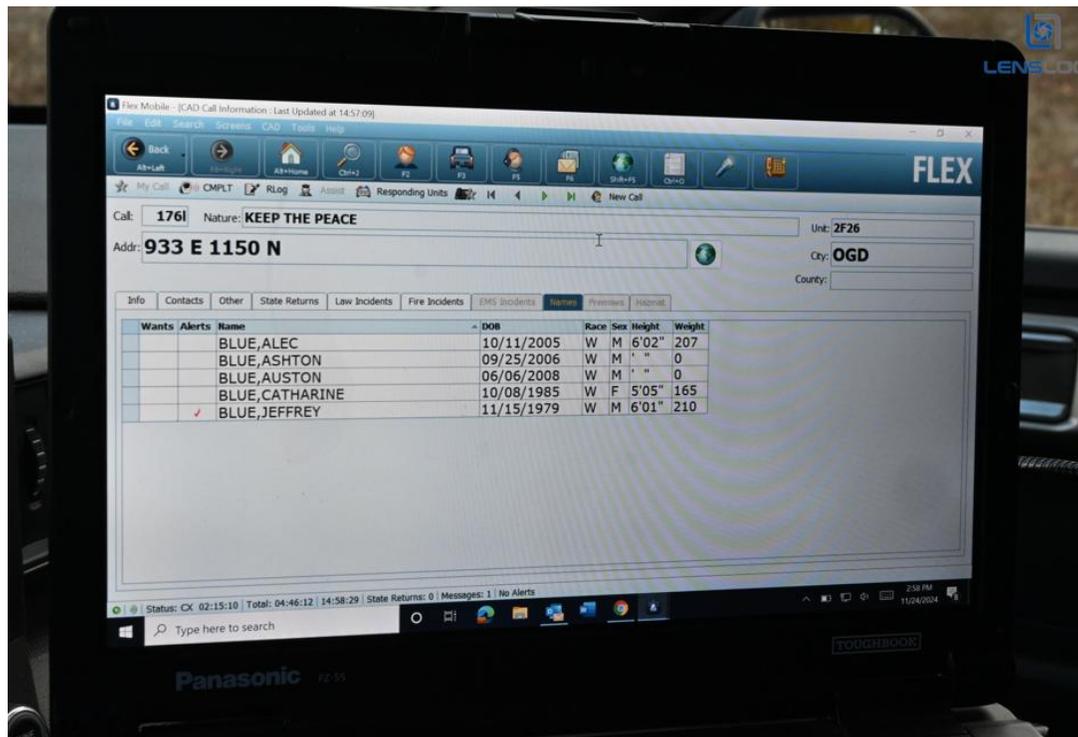


Below is a photograph of the gun that Jeffrey Blue had in his possession.





Below is the laptop computer screen of Officer Bryner and how he was researching prior cases involving the occupants of this residence.



The scene was released to Alec Blue after Jeffrey's body had been removed by the State Medical Examiner's Office and the scene had been processed by CSI.

Interview with Ashton Blue

I went back to _____ on 11-25-24 and spoke with Ashton Blue. I asked Ashton to tell me what he recalled of the incident. Ashton said he was asleep in his room when he heard the police come into the house and he heard his dad yelling at them to leave. Ashton said the police told his dad that they had a warrant, and they were just helping.

Ashton said he saw one of the officers yell out, "he has a gun" and then draw his weapon. Ashton said this officer then fired twice. I asked Ashton if he could see his father at this moment and Ashton said he could not see him.

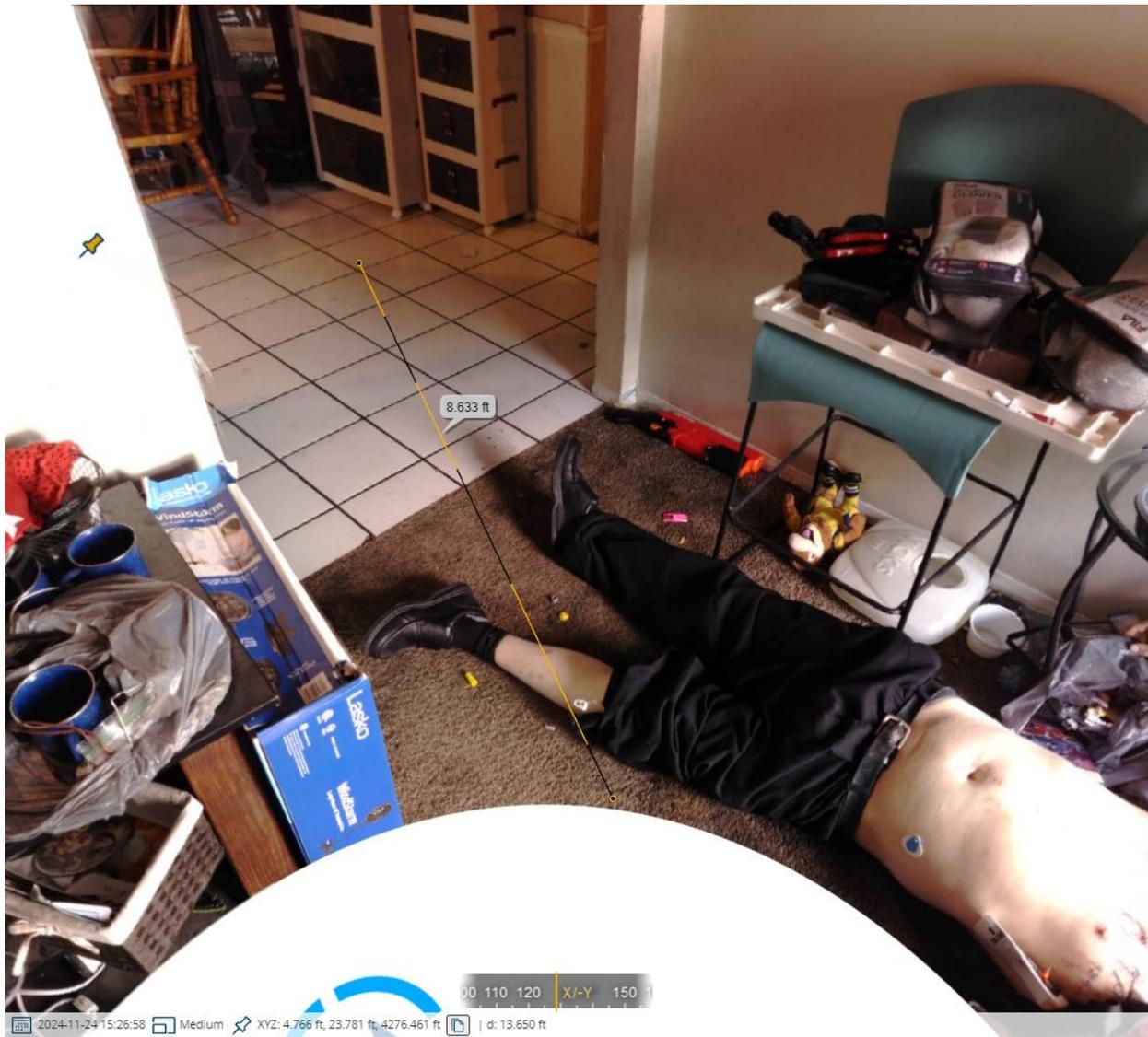
I asked Ashton if he knew Cassandra and his dad were fighting and he said yes. I asked if they had been fighting the night before and Ashton again said yes and told me the fighting started on Friday and Cassandra left the house on Saturday and did not come back till Sunday.

Farro Scans

I have reviewed the Farro Scans that were taken by CSI. The Farro scans are 360-degree images where a high speed Terrestrial Laser Scanner (TLS) scans in areas of a crime scene and is the most efficient method for 3D measurement and 3D documentation available.

Below is a still framed photo from a scan taken from the living room portion of the house facing back into the kitchen area. Using items on the ground in the living room that can be seen in body camera footage at the time of the incident and also the tiles on the kitchen floor to determine the distance.

I found that Officer Bryner was approximately 8.633 feet from Jeffrey Blue when he fired the two shots.



Below is a still framed photo of a scan from the entryway of the living room into the kitchen. It depicts the size of the kitchen towards the back door of the residence and where entry was made. The measurement from the backdoor to where Officer Bryner encountered Jeffrey in the living room is measured out to approximately 16.385 feet in distance.



Autopsy

The autopsy for Jeffrey Blue was done at the State Medical Examiner's Office. The examine confirmed that Jeffrey was struck by two gunshots to upper left chest, one being the fatal shot. The shots were close together. Two projectiles were collected from Jeffrey's body.



In his jacket pocket, plastic bags with suspected methamphetamine were found along with a hypodermic needle. Below is a photo taken at the Medical Examiner's Office.



All the evidence collected from the autopsy was photographed and then signed over to Investigator Hartman who transported them to Weber Metro CSI and submitted the times to them for processing. The items were then placed into Weber County Evidence.

Toxicology

The toxicology results of Jeffrey Blues blood showed he was positive for methamphetamine at the rate of 3,978 ng/ml. An adult toxic level is 200 ng/ml.

Conclusion

Officer Bryner responded to _____ after Cassandra Blue had called Weber Dispatch asking for a “keep the peace”. Officer Bryner arrived and found Cassandra and Jeffrey Blue arguing about her getting her property. Jeffrey made the comment that he had taken her belongings to the “D.I.”

Jeffrey yelled at Officer Bryner to leave and that he could not come in without a warrant. Jeffrey then went inside the house. This shows that Jeffrey was clearly aware that Officer Bryner was law enforcement.

Officer Bryner was told by Cassandra that she and Jeffrey were still married, and she had been living there for the last five years. Cassandra also stated that she knew her property was still there because it was there yesterday and the D.I. was closed due to it being Sunday. Cassandra requested that officers escort her into the home to retrieve her property.

Officer Bryner requested another officer respond and waited for his arrival. Officer Bryner was looking up the residence history on his computer when Jeffrey came back outside and continued to argue with Cassandra and also Officer Bryner. Jeffrey goes back inside.

Officer Berry arrives, and Cassandra attempts to make access at the east side door. The door is locked so she retrieves her keys. In Officer Berry's camera footage, Jeffrey can be heard yelling that he has changed the locks on the doors.

Cassandra retrieved her keys and came back to the east porch. The key works and the door opened. Cassandra steps into the doorway toward the kitchen and is met by Jeffrey who starts yelling for them to leave. Officer Bryner attempts to speak with Jeffrey, but he yells, "I'll grab my fucking gun!"

Jeffrey turned and ran through the kitchen and went into the living room out of the officer's sight. Officer Bryner and Officer Berry gave chase and drew their duty weapons.

As they encounter Jeffrey now standing in the entrance to the living room. In Officer Bryner's body worn camera footage, it is clear that Jeffrey is holding a gun in his right hand. Jeffrey is turned slightly with his body bladed in an aggressive stance.

Both Officer Bryner and Officer Berry had their duty weapons out and were now pointed at Jeffrey as they stopped near the doorway.

Jeffrey then yells out, "Count to three motherfuck!", and as he yells this, he flexes his muscles aggressively which causes him to flinch. Officer Bryner fired his weapon twice before Jeffrey could finish the last word. Jeffrey was pronounced dead at the scene.

Conclusion Continued

The following is a breakdown of what Officer Bryner's knowledge at the time of the incident and his subsequent actions.

Officer Bryner was attempting to resolve a civil issue involving two married people. Cassandra Blue used her key to gain access to the residence of _____ and requested officers escort her to retrieve her property. Jeffrey Blue was agitated and would not listen to reason even before entry was made. Jeffrey Blue yelled out that he was intending to get his gun. Both Cassandra and Officer Berry stated that they heard Jeffrey yell this. It's reasonable to believe that Officer Bryner heard that as well, which caused him to push by Cassandra and get in front of her due to the small quarters of the kitchen.

Officer Bryner lost sight of Jeffrey as he went around the corner into the living room. As Officer Bryner made it to the doorway, it is documented in the body worn camera footage that Jeffrey Blue had a gun in his right hand. The gun was later determined to be a BB gun, but it is manufactured to resemble a Berretta 9mm handgun. There is even a warning imprinted on the gun stating it is "Not a toy. Misuse, or careless use may cause serious injury or death".

Jeffrey Blue looked right at Officer Bryner in that moment and was positioned in an aggressive stance. Jeffrey flinched as he yelled at Officer Bryner causing his arm to move upward. It is reasonable that Officer Bryner saw this quick movement and believed that Jeffrey was intending to raise the gun up to fire at him or Officer Berry who was now at his side in kitchen. This is confirmed in body camera footage.

In review of the footage, the following are notable times.

Officer Bryner steps into the doorway of the residence at 12:14:29 hrs and encounters Jeffrey.

Officer Bryner fires his first shot at 12:14:41 hrs. (12 seconds)

The Faro scans of the apartment determine that Officer Bryner and Jeffrey were approximately 8.633 feet apart when the shots were fired.

Jeffrey Blue was in possession of methamphetamine and paraphernalia. The toxicology of Jeffrey's blood indicates that he was most likely in a drug induced psychosis which led to his erratic behavior.

All of these factors need to be taken into consideration when determining if the use of deadly force is justified.

Investigator Steve Haney
Weber County Attorney's Office