

Chronological Observational Summary of BWC Footage

PSS 2024-0084 – Interpreter Access Case

Note: This document is not a transcript. It is a chronological observational summary describing what is visible in the body-worn camera footage. It is intended to supplement the formal Body-Worn Camera Analysis Memorandum.

Initial Contact (Approx. 04:28)

- Officer approaches the driver window and greets the driver.
- The driver immediately signs that she is deaf.
- The driver presents a hand-drawn map showing the intersection, vehicle positions, and directions of travel.
- The driver begins signing to explain what occurred.

Green Light Question and Written Communication

- The officer attempts to ask questions while the driver is not looking at him.
- The officer verbally asks if the driver had the green light. The driver again signs that she is deaf.
- The officer writes the question: "Did you have the green light?"
- The driver reads the question, appears to understand, and gives two thumbs up.
- The driver taps the officer arm to get attention, writes "30" and "40" on the paper, underlines the green light reference, and tries to explain further using the diagram and gestures.
- The officer responds with phrases such as "gotcha" and "ok" while the driver is not looking at him.
- The officer gives a thumbs-up gesture. The driver appears confused and signs something in response.
- The officer asks for identification and appears to gesture for an ID. The driver begins to produce her identification.

Phone-Based Signing Attempt

- The driver briefly uses her phone and signs to a person visible on the screen.
- The driver alternates signing toward the officer and toward the person on the phone.
- The officer does not facilitate this phone-based communication or ask about the person on the call.
- No interpreter or alternative communication service is offered at this stage.

Arrival of Daughter (Approx. 07:56)

- The daughter arrives at the scene. The officer greets her.
- The officer states to the daughter words to the effect of, "She is explaining to me and this is how I understand it."
- After the daughter arrives, the officer begins directing communication to the daughter rather than to the driver.
- The driver is no longer the primary participant in the conversation.

Officer and Daughter Discussion (Approx. 08:01–10:00)

- The officer and the daughter discuss details of the crash.
- The officer describes the other driver behavior, including that the other driver then pulls into the Speedway.
- The daughter responds with statements such as, "I am assuming so."
- The officer and daughter discuss topics such as traffic camera footage and towing of the vehicle.
- The daughter signs portions of this discussion to the driver at intervals.
- Around 09:33, the daughter stops signing to the driver for a period of time while the conversation with the officer continues.
- Around 09:49, the daughter appears to summarize or recap information to the driver that was not signed in real time.

Conclusion of Recorded Encounter

- At approximately 10:24, the officer walks back to his patrol car.
- The footage ends at approximately 10:42 after brief interaction between the officer and another officer on scene.

Summary Observation

Throughout the recorded encounter, the driver attempts multiple communication methods, including signing, use of a hand-drawn map, written notes, and phone-based signing with a third party. The officer engages only minimally with these efforts and does not request or offer a qualified interpreter. Once the daughter arrives, the officer shifts communication almost entirely to her, and the driver participates only indirectly through intermittent signing from the daughter. No interpreter is provided at any point in the footage.

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