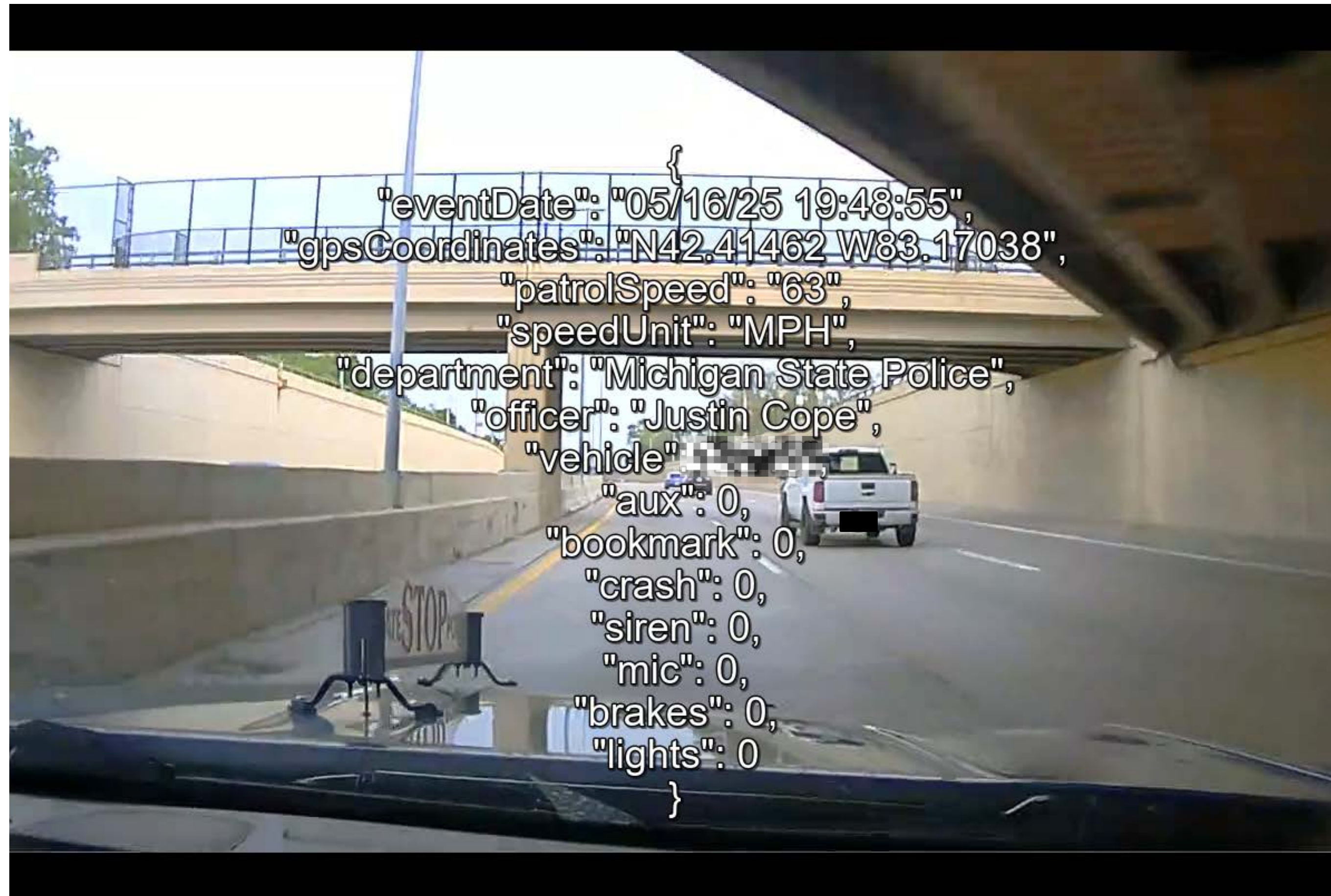


Shooting at Wyoming and the Lodge

Involving Trooper Justin Cope
and Stephen Wangara-Mason

May 16, 2025 that began as
a traffic stop at 7:50 pm (19:50:09)

It appears that the first thing that drew Tpr. Cope's attention was that the white truck was speeding. Once Tpr. Cope caught up to the truck and slowed down, at 63 mph the white truck started to pull away from Tpr. Cope as it was traveling at a faster speed. The speed limit on the M-10 is 55 mph.



At 19:47:39 Tpr. Cope had entered the white truck's license plate into LEIN and 20 seconds later received back information that the truck did not have valid insurance. That is one minute before the proceeding still of the white truck going at least 63 mph (speeding) was taken.

Tpr. Cope activated his lights and initiated a traffic stop as Stephen Wangara-Mason (Mason) was driving southbound on M-10 (the Lodge).

Over his bullhorn at 19:49:27 Tpr. Cope announced for Mason to "Take the next exit. Take the next exit. Take the next exit."

Mason exited M-10 at the exit ramp and Wyoming and pulled over at 19:50:09.

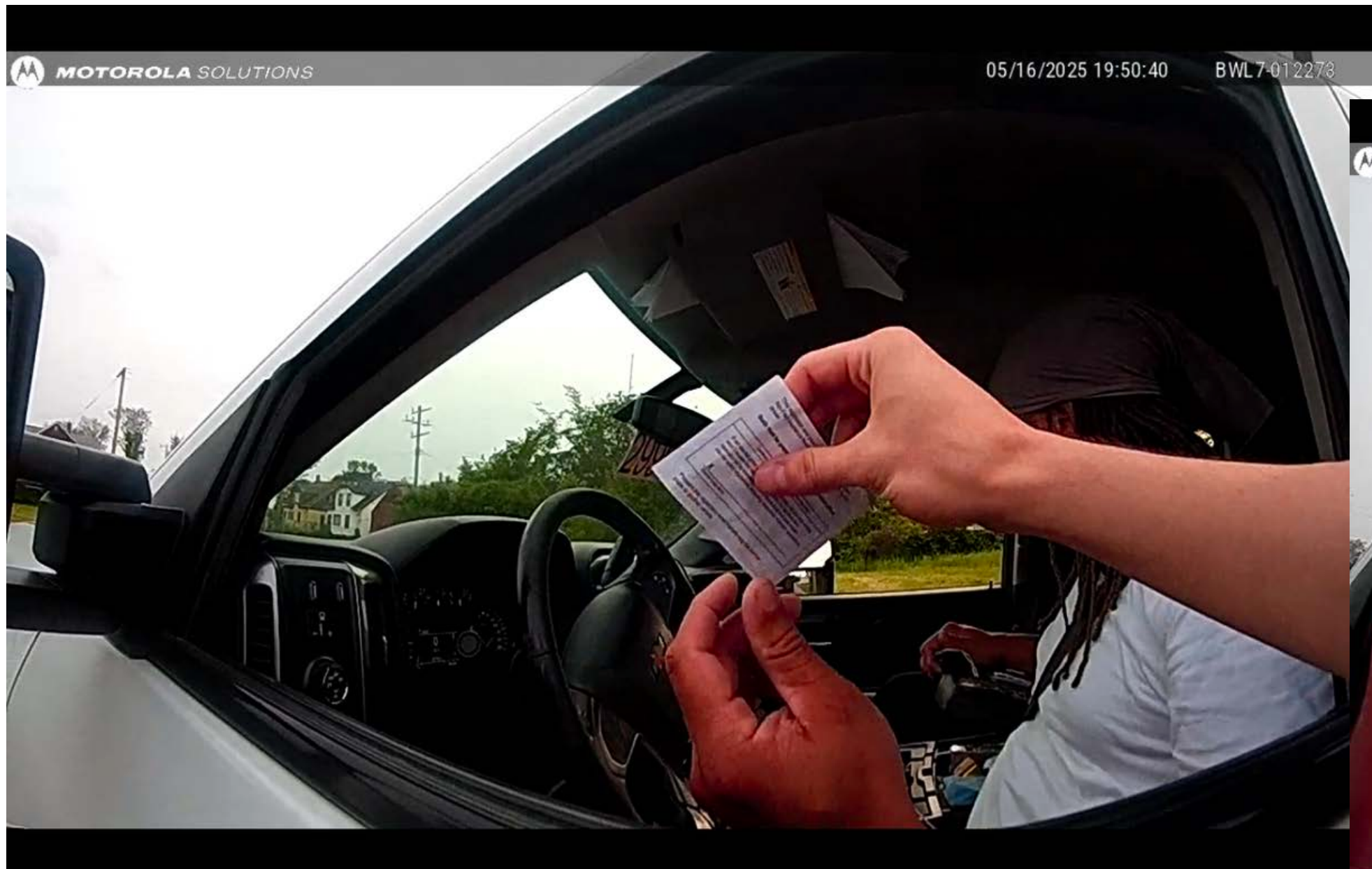
As Tpr. Cope is exiting the expressway and on the ramp, he calls in on radio the vehicle information for the traffic stop he is about to make.

The white truck stops at 19:50:09. As soon as his vehicle stops Tpr. Cope exits his patrol car, and he approaches the white truck at 19:50:20.



Mason provided both copies of his valid Michigan registration for his white truck which was registered to Stephen William Wangara-Mason and was valid through February 1, 2026.

Mason also provided his Michigan Chauffeur's License.



Mason then provided Tpr. Cope with several pages of insurance paperwork from LA Insurance which was expired. When Tpr. Cope asked Mason about the expired insurance, Mason responds, “It probably is lapsed. I don’t pay insurance.” Tpr. Cope BWC 19:52:10.

Tpr. Cope then hands Mason back his expired insurance paperwork.



When Tpr. Cope was looking at the truck's paperwork both copies of the valid vehicle registration blew under the truck and Tpr. Cope looked but it did not appear that he could safely retrieve it.

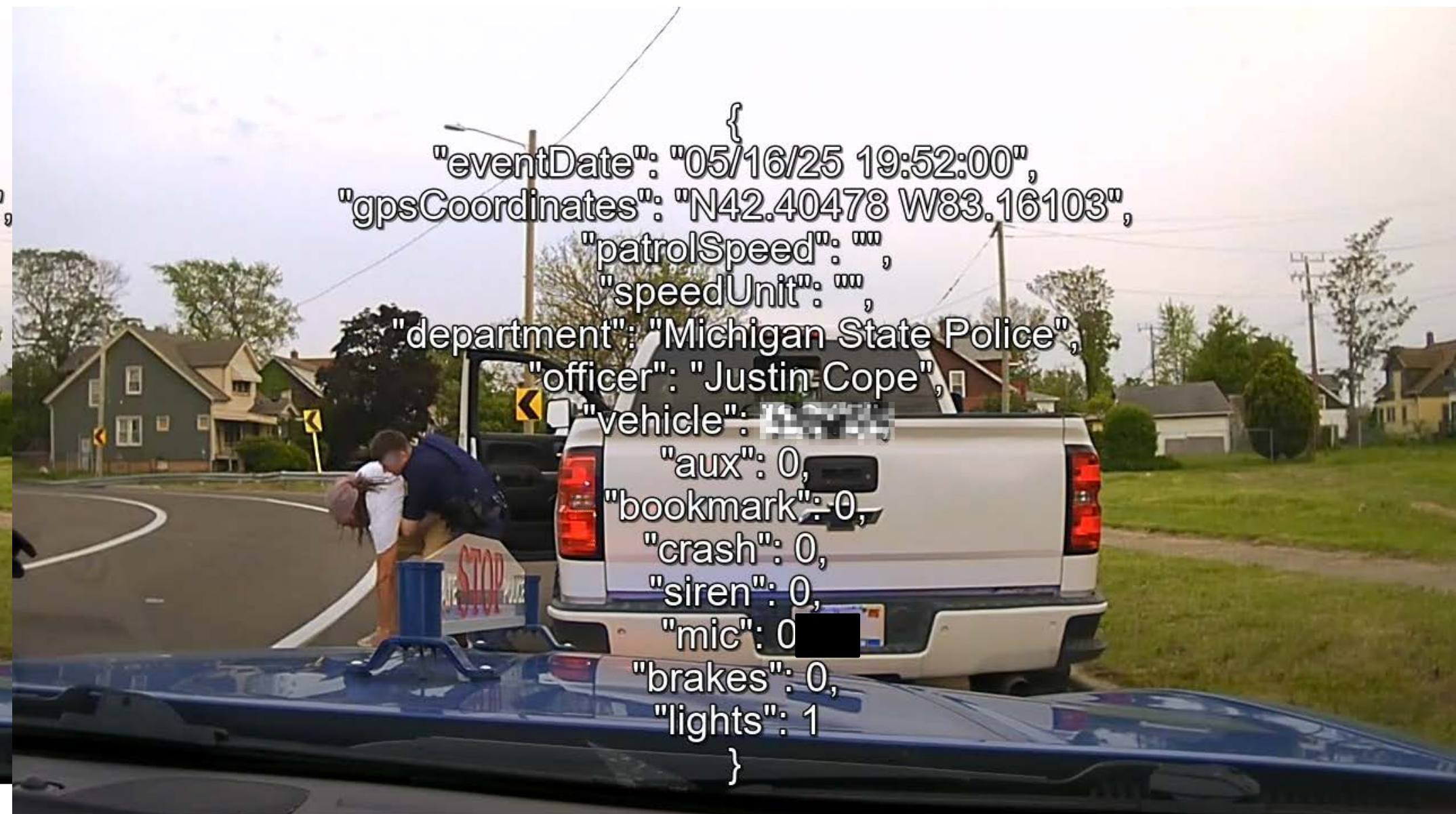
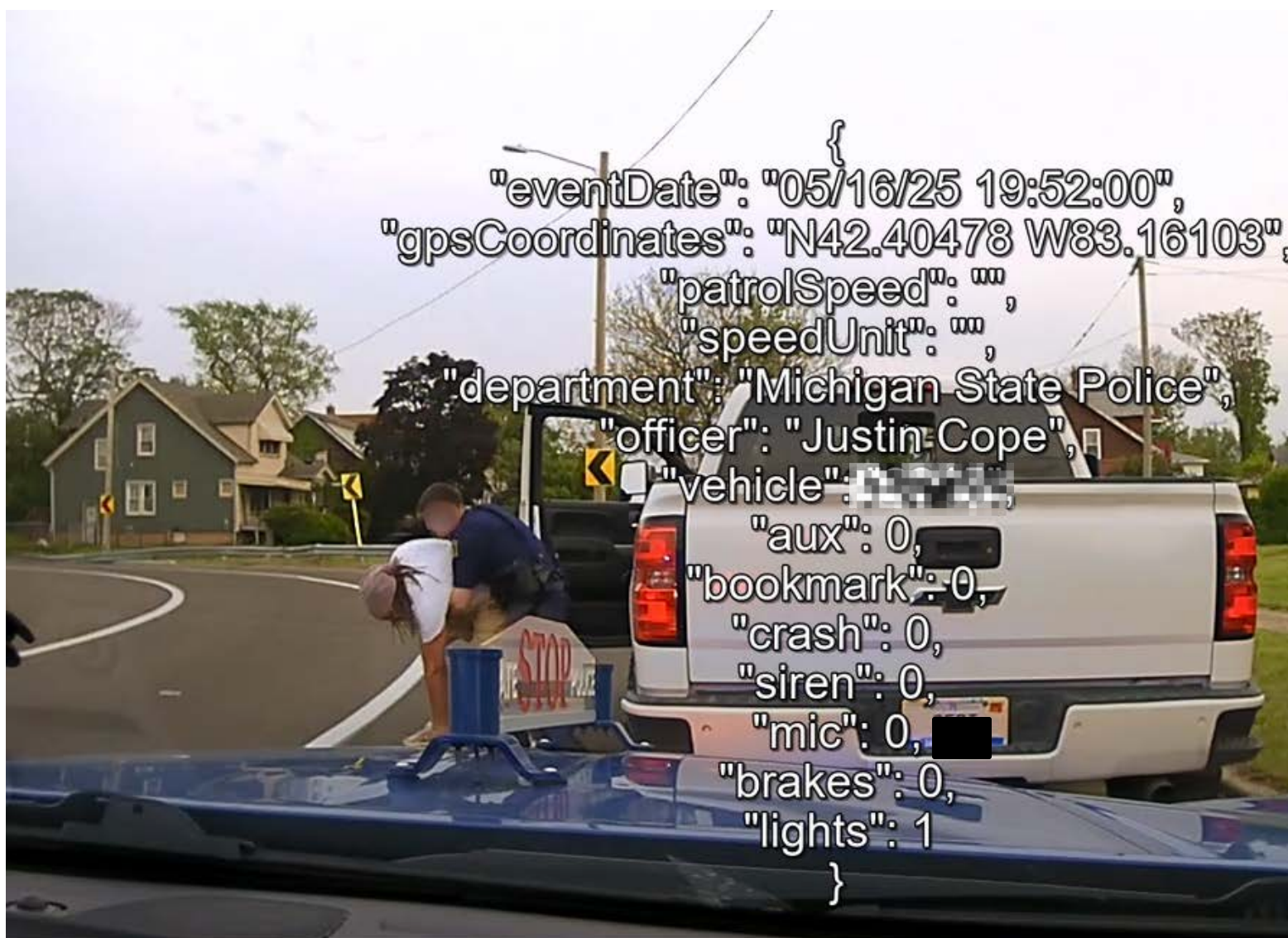
Tpr. Cope offered to let Mason exit the truck and retrieve his truck's valid registration, but Mason claimed twice that he didn't need it. Tpr. Cope BWC 19:51:33.

Tpr. Cope then asks Mason to exit his vehicle.

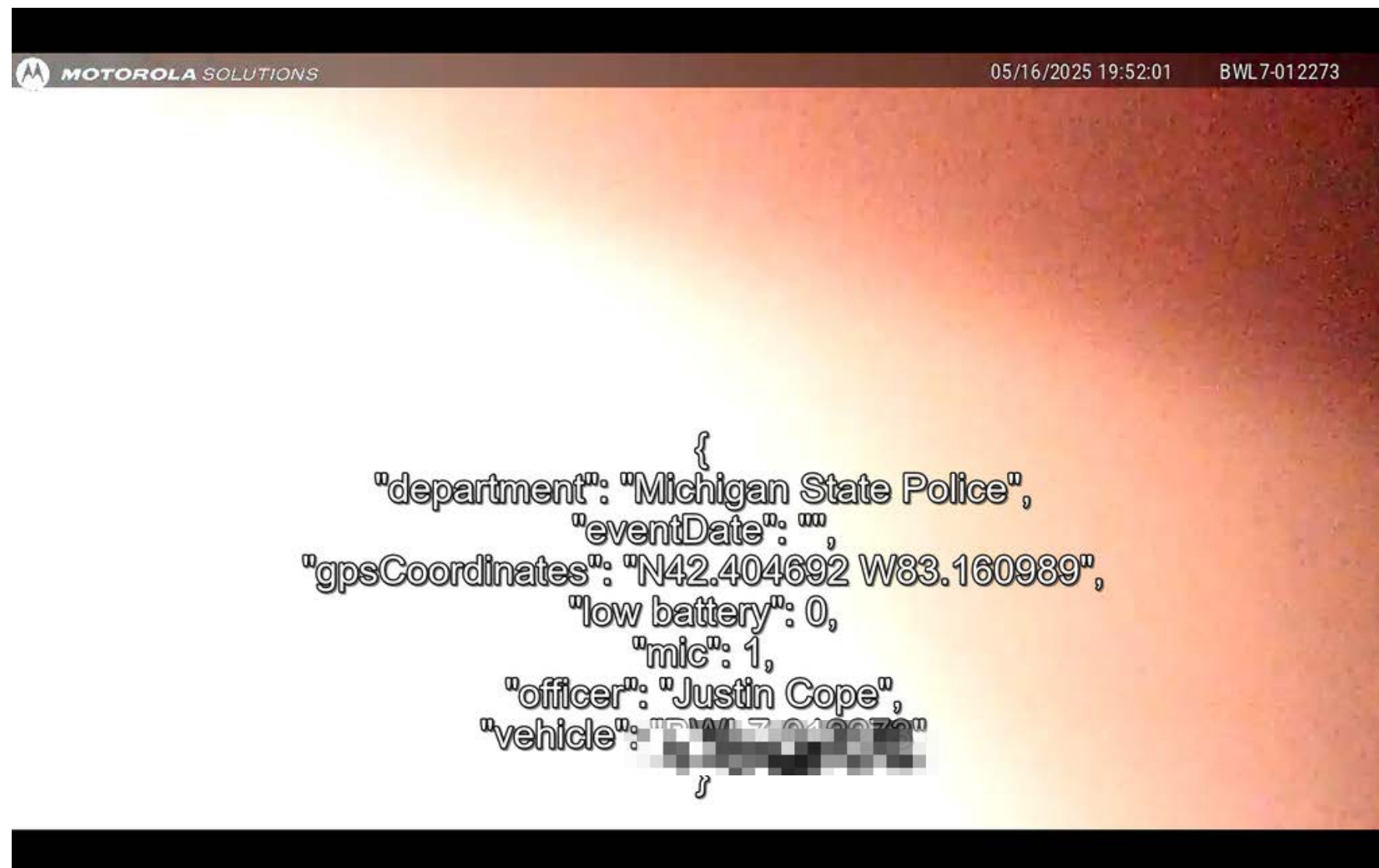
As Mason exits the driver's side of the vehicle a revolver falls from his right waistband/lap to the ground at the same time as Tpr. Cope asks, "What are you reaching for?" (Tpr. Cope BWC video 19:51:59). The revolver appears to have been covered by the white towel while Mason was in the truck.



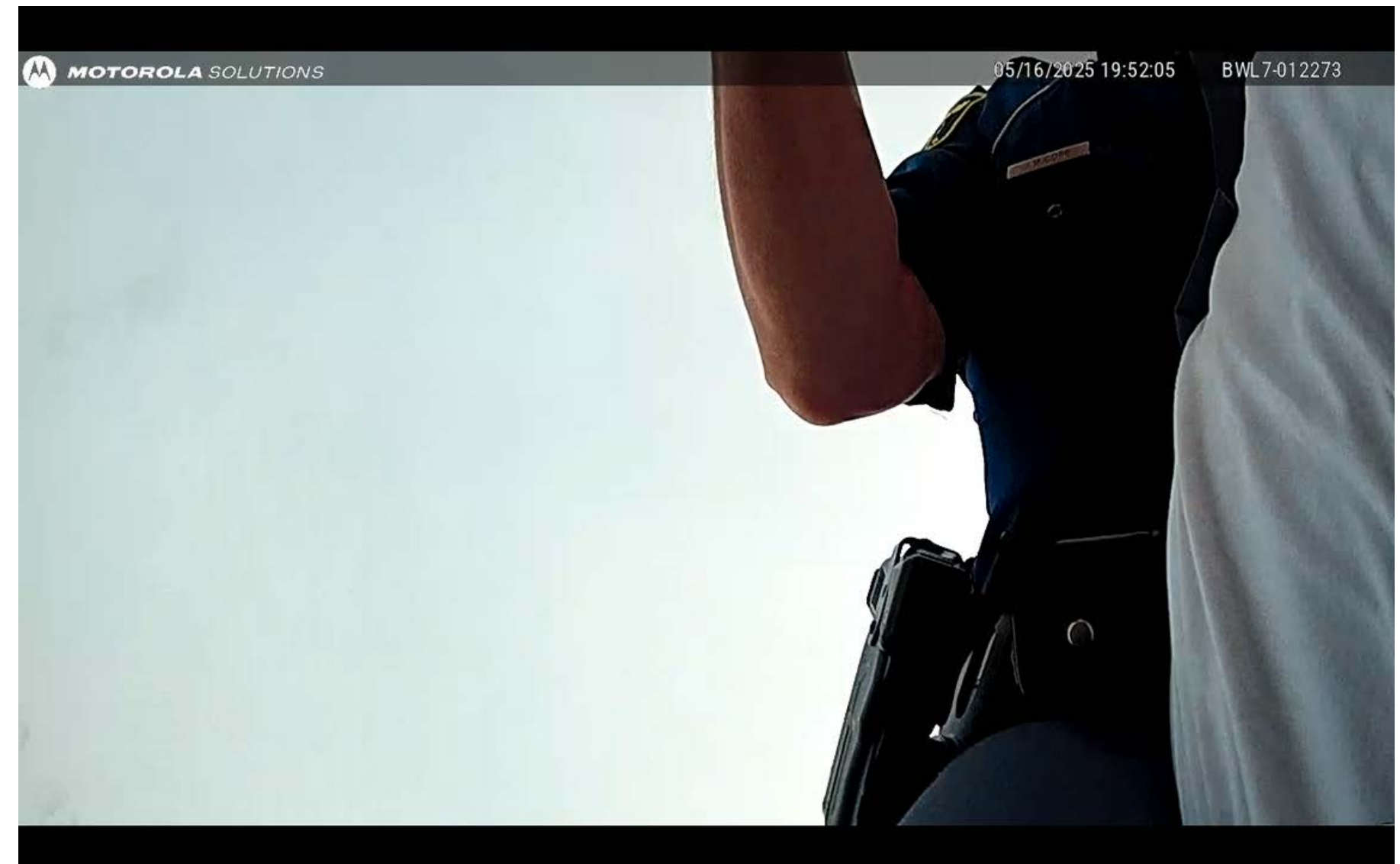
Mason and Tpr. Cope immediately begin to wrestling as Mason lunges down, reaching with his left hand for the gun he just dropped, while Tpr. Cope tries to stop him from gaining access to the gun.



Almost immediately Tpr. Cope's BWC falls off his torso due to the struggle and is generally facing up towards the sky. If the struggle comes near the BWC there is a little video of it, but most of the video and stills are from the dashcam.



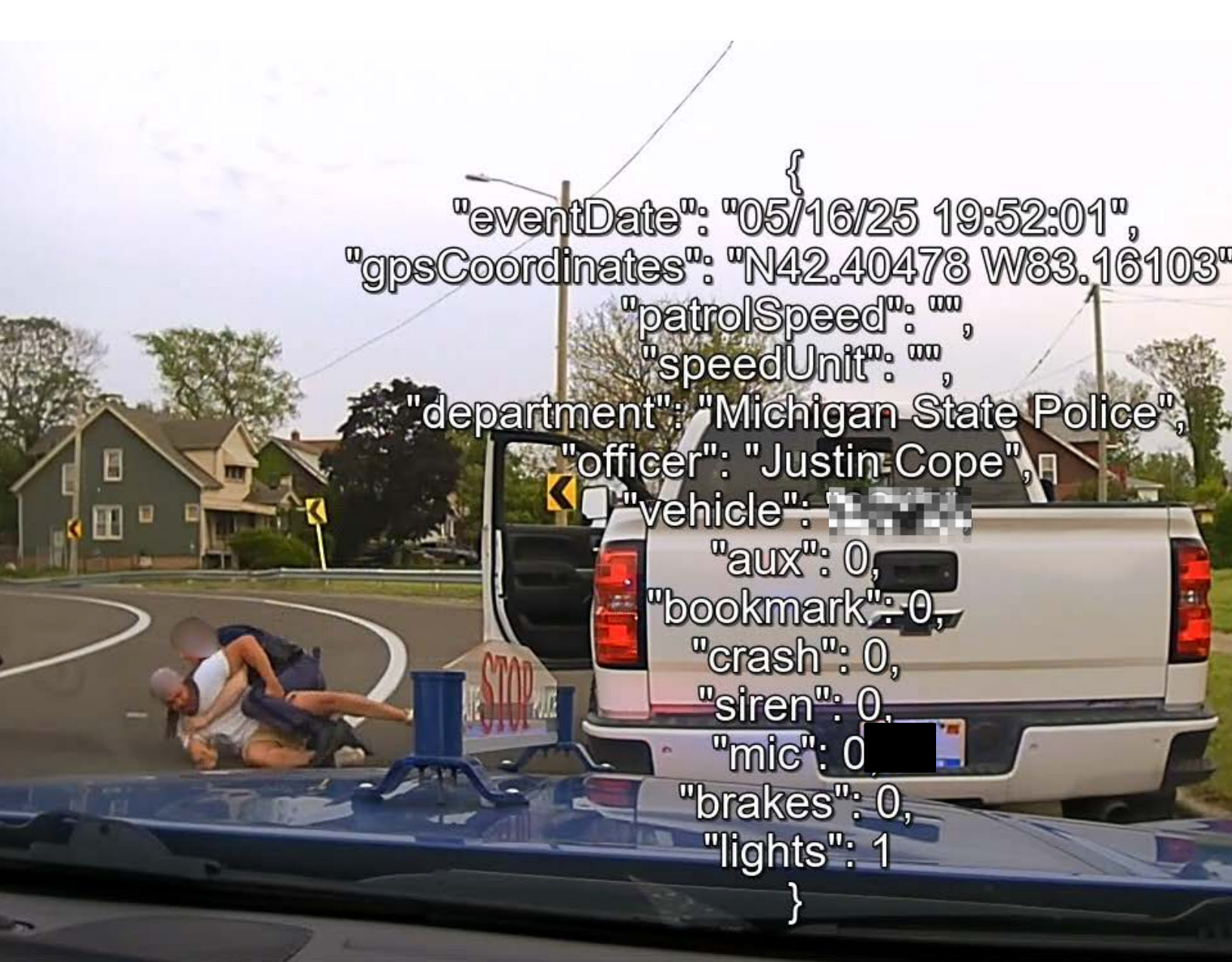
One second later at 19:52:01 the BWC falls off Tpr. Cope.



This still at 19:52:05 (4 seconds after the BWC fell off) shows Tpr. Cope and Mason (white shirt) struggling with the BWC pointed up at the sky.

Mason and Tpr. Cope continue to spar on the service drive.

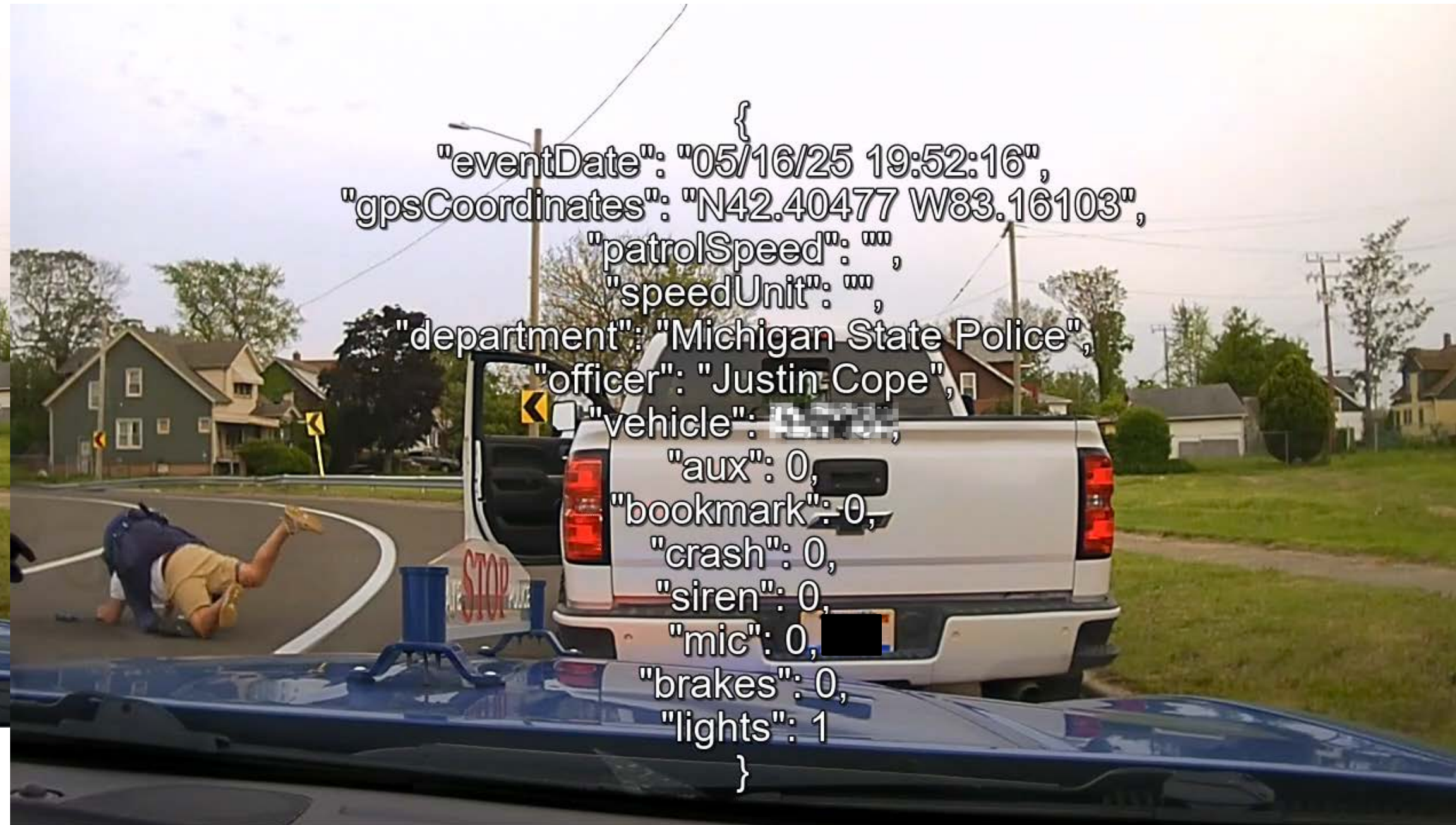
Tpr. Cope tries to subdue him by getting on top of Mason.



At 19:52:09 while wrestling with Mason, Tpr. Cope quickly calls out over his radio “Fighting with one”. At 19:52:16 Tpr. Cope receives a response back that ‘Other officers will respond’ but he is busy at that moment.

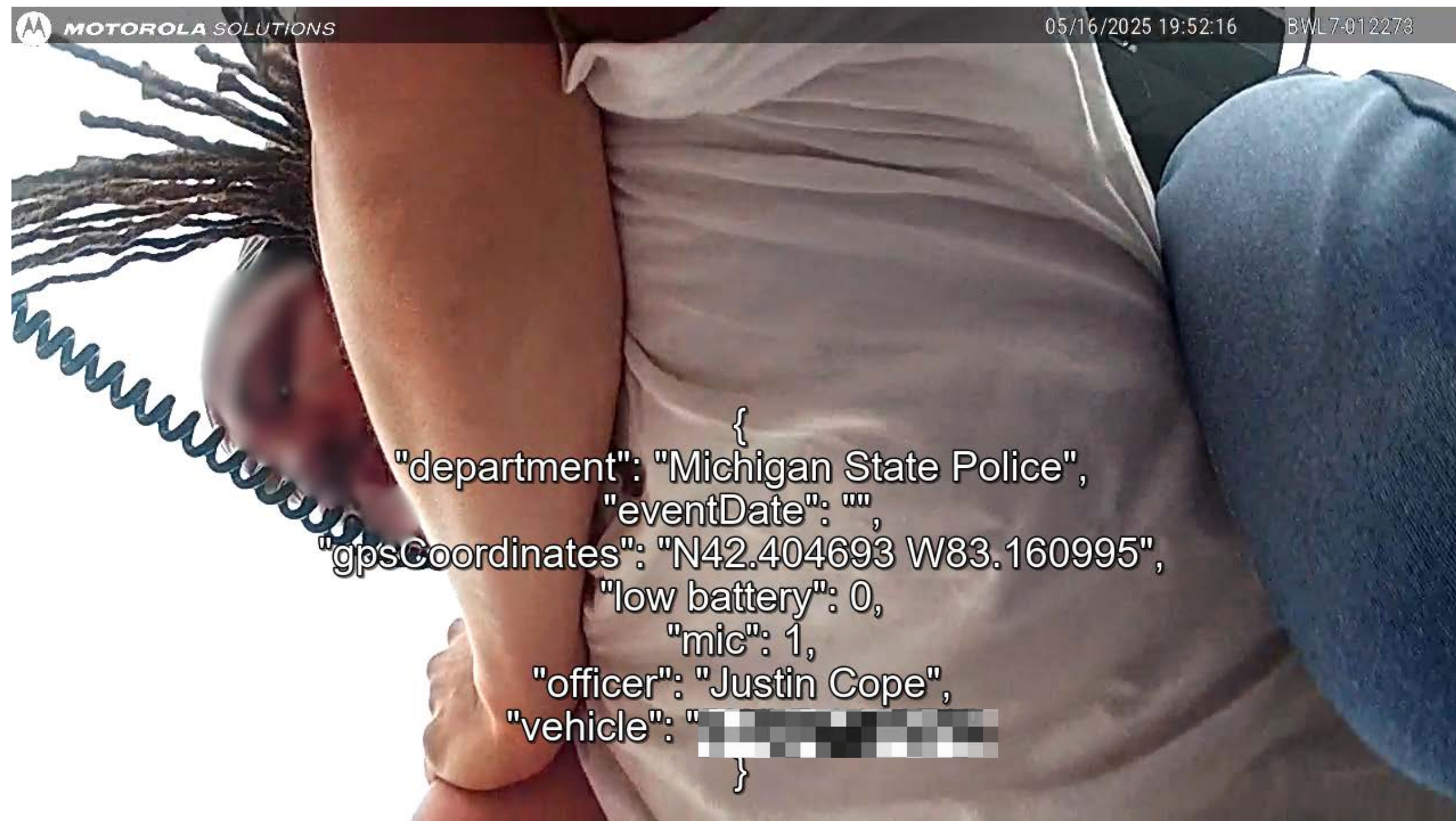


As Tpr. Cope is about to call on the radio.

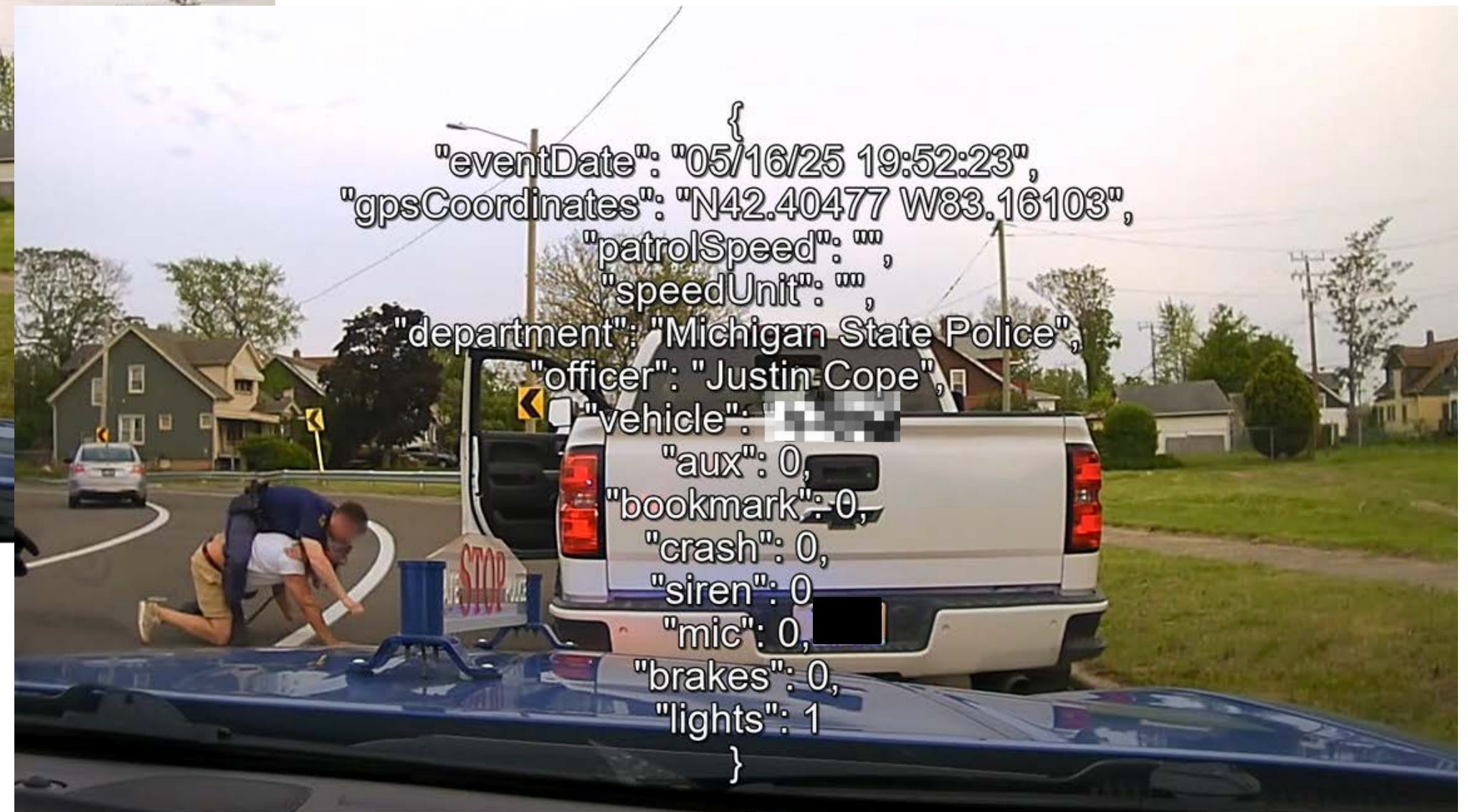
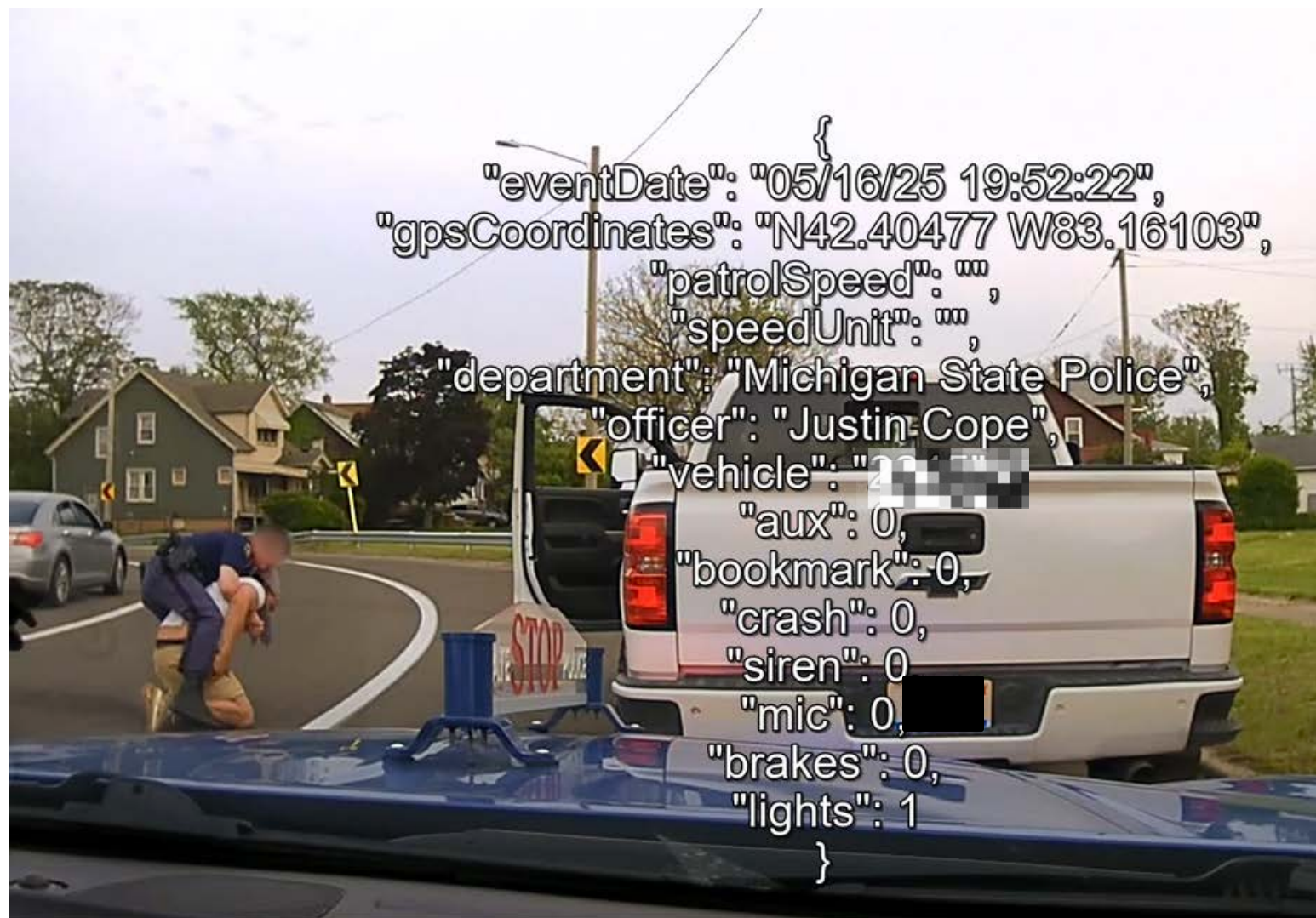


Tpr. Cope when he receives a response over his radio.

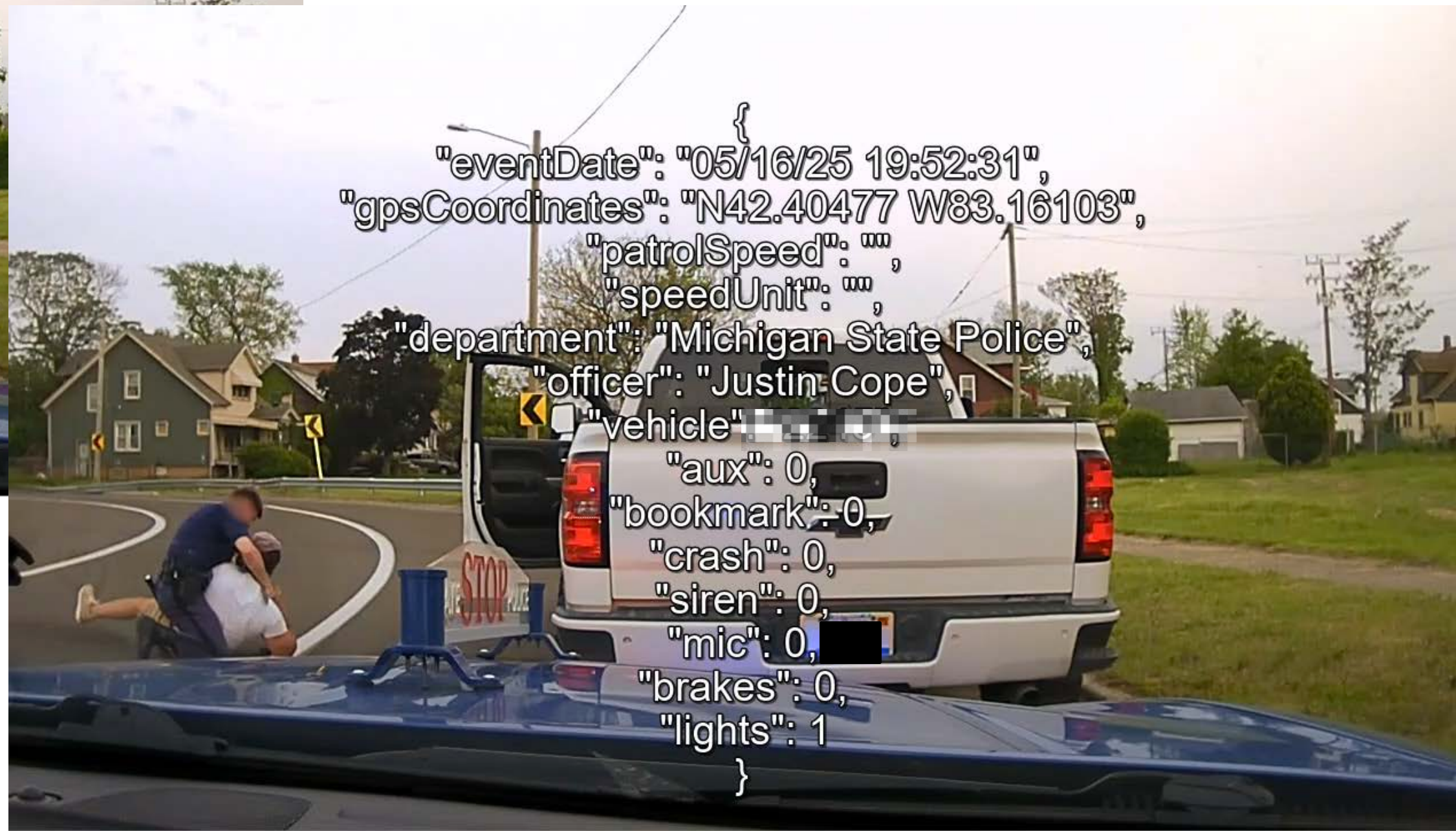
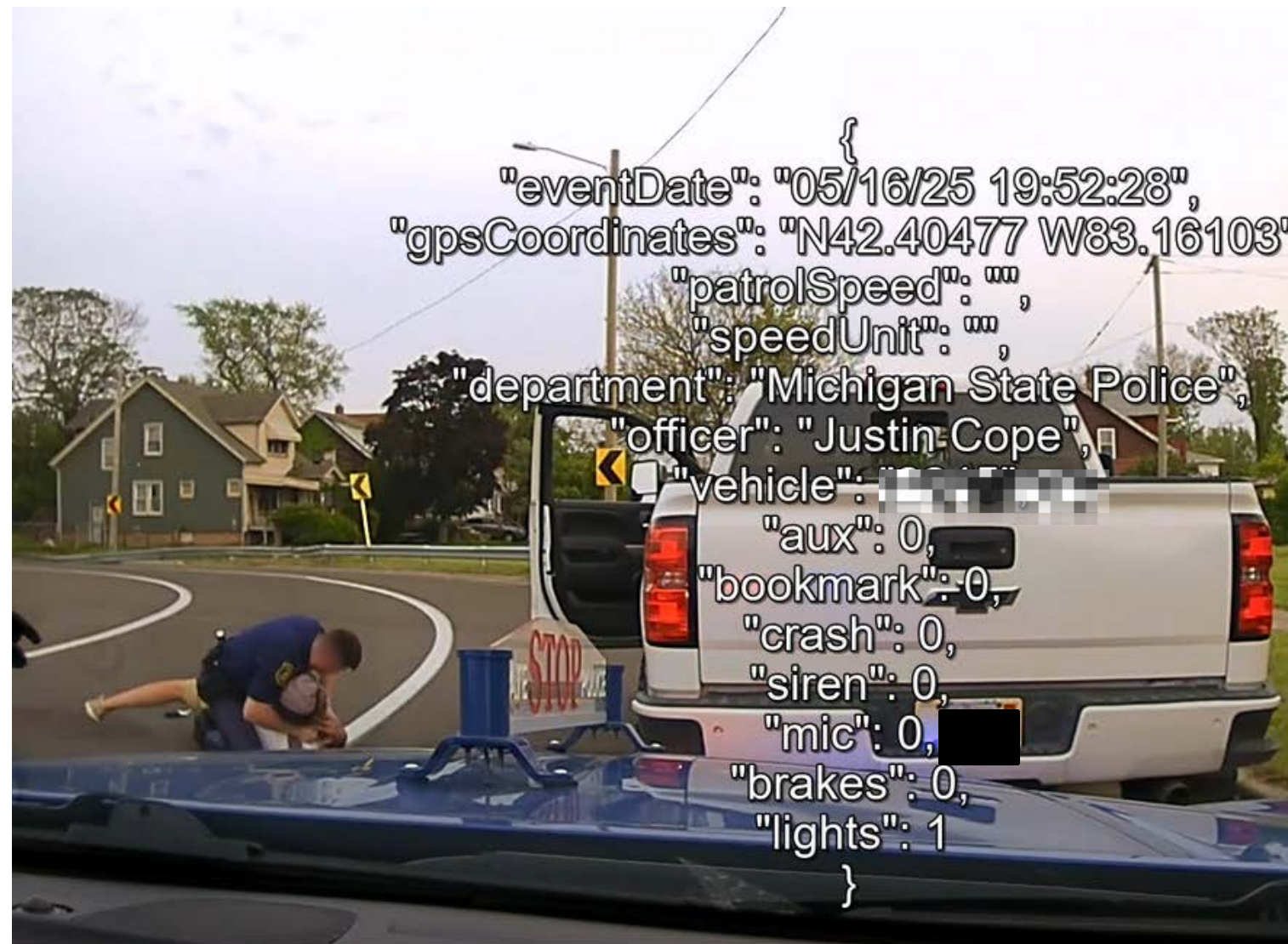
View from Tpr. Cope's BWC at 19:52:16 when Tpr. Cope receives the response back that 'Other officers will respond'. It appears that Tpr. Cope is trying to prevent Mason from obtaining his gun again by restricting Mason's right arm movements.



In an attempt to try and control Mason's hand and arm movements Tpr. Cope again climbs onto Mason's back. But one second later Mason lunges for his gun which is by his truck.



Mason has now regained possession of his handgun.
Tpr. Cope is absolutely fighting for his life.

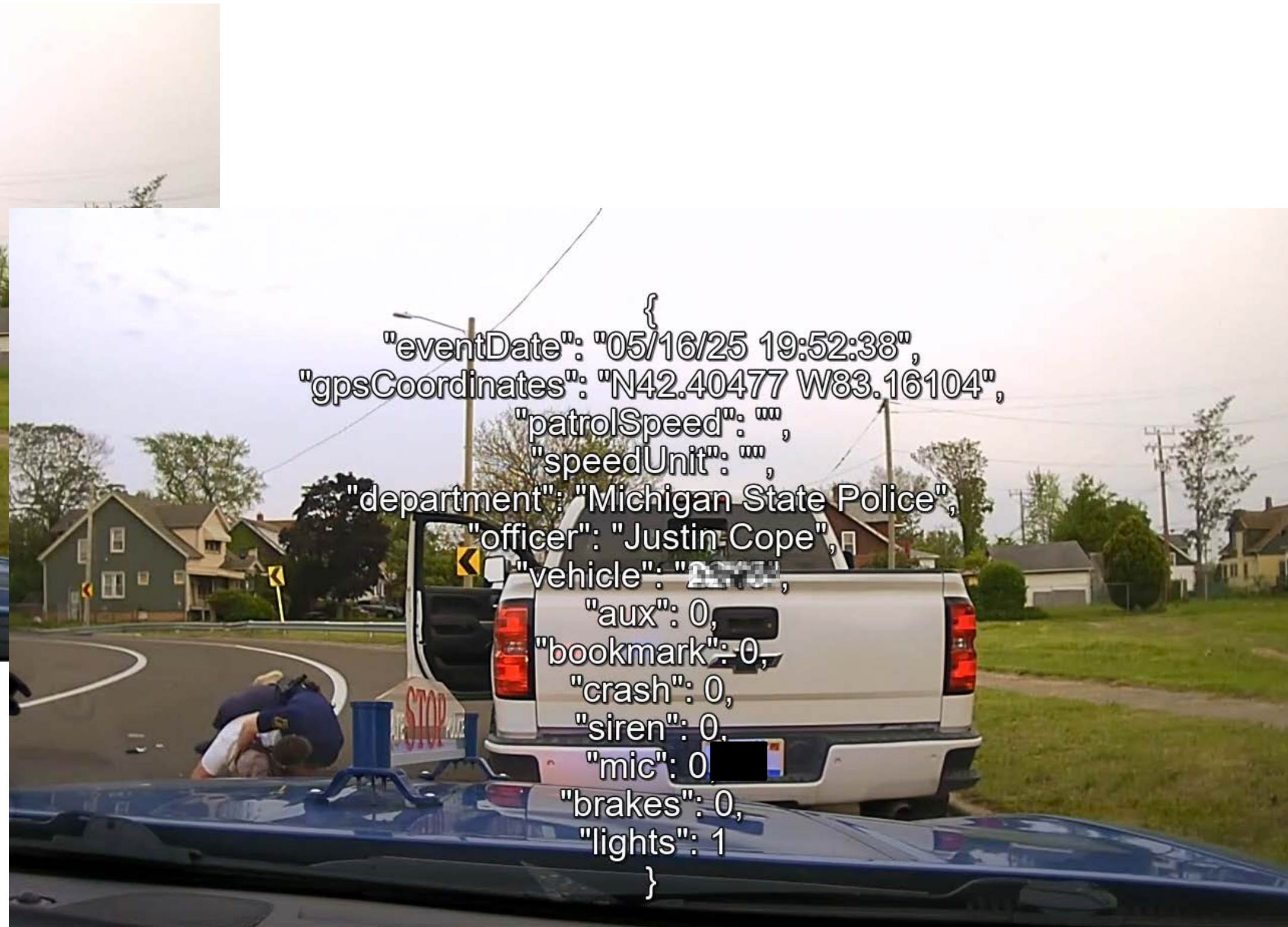
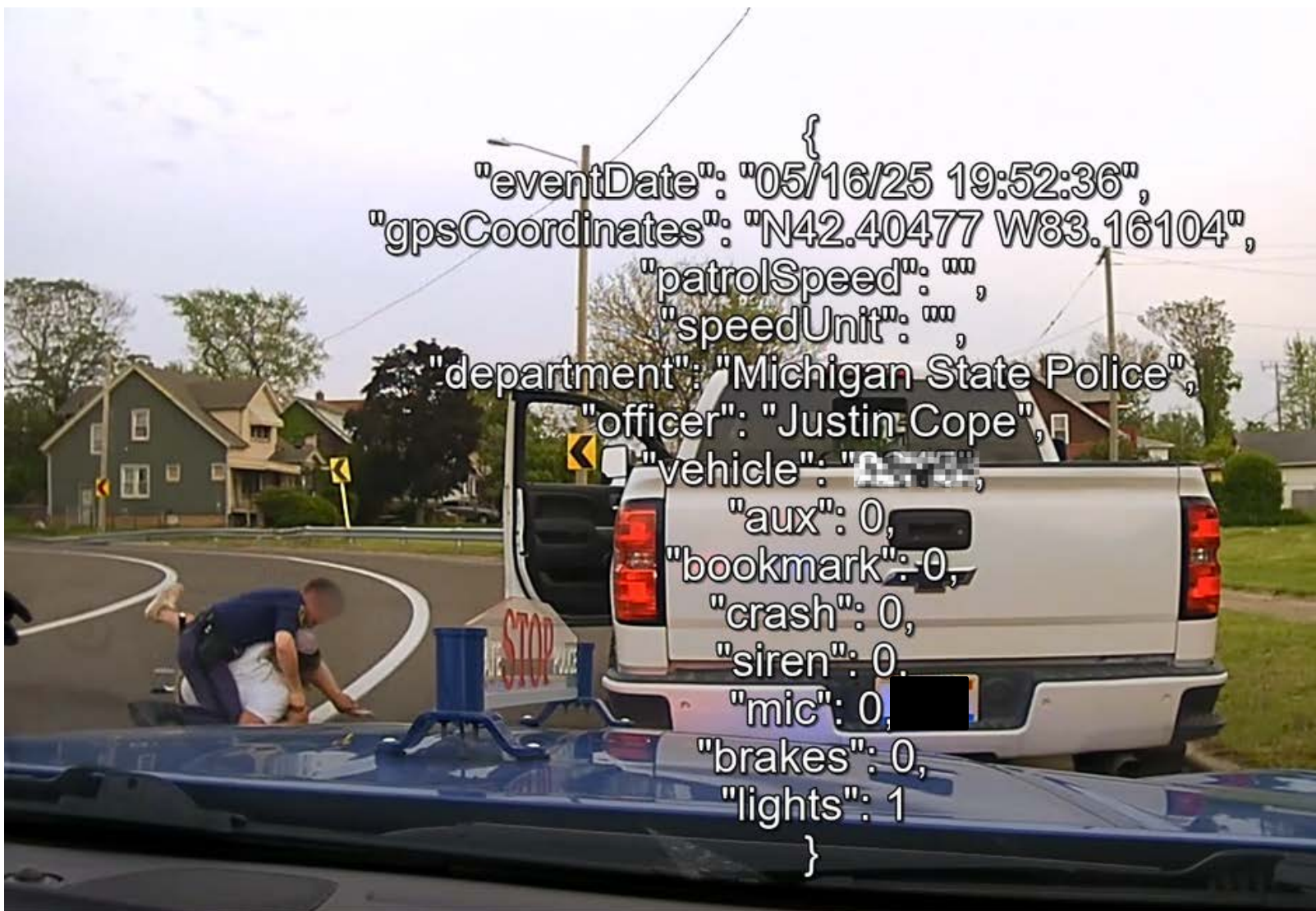


On Tpr. Cope's BWC you can hear Tpr Cope loudly warn Mason two seconds after the prior still at 19:52:33 "Stop or I'm gonna shoot you." Note: Tpr. Cope does not have possession or control of Mason's firearm when he says this, Mason does.

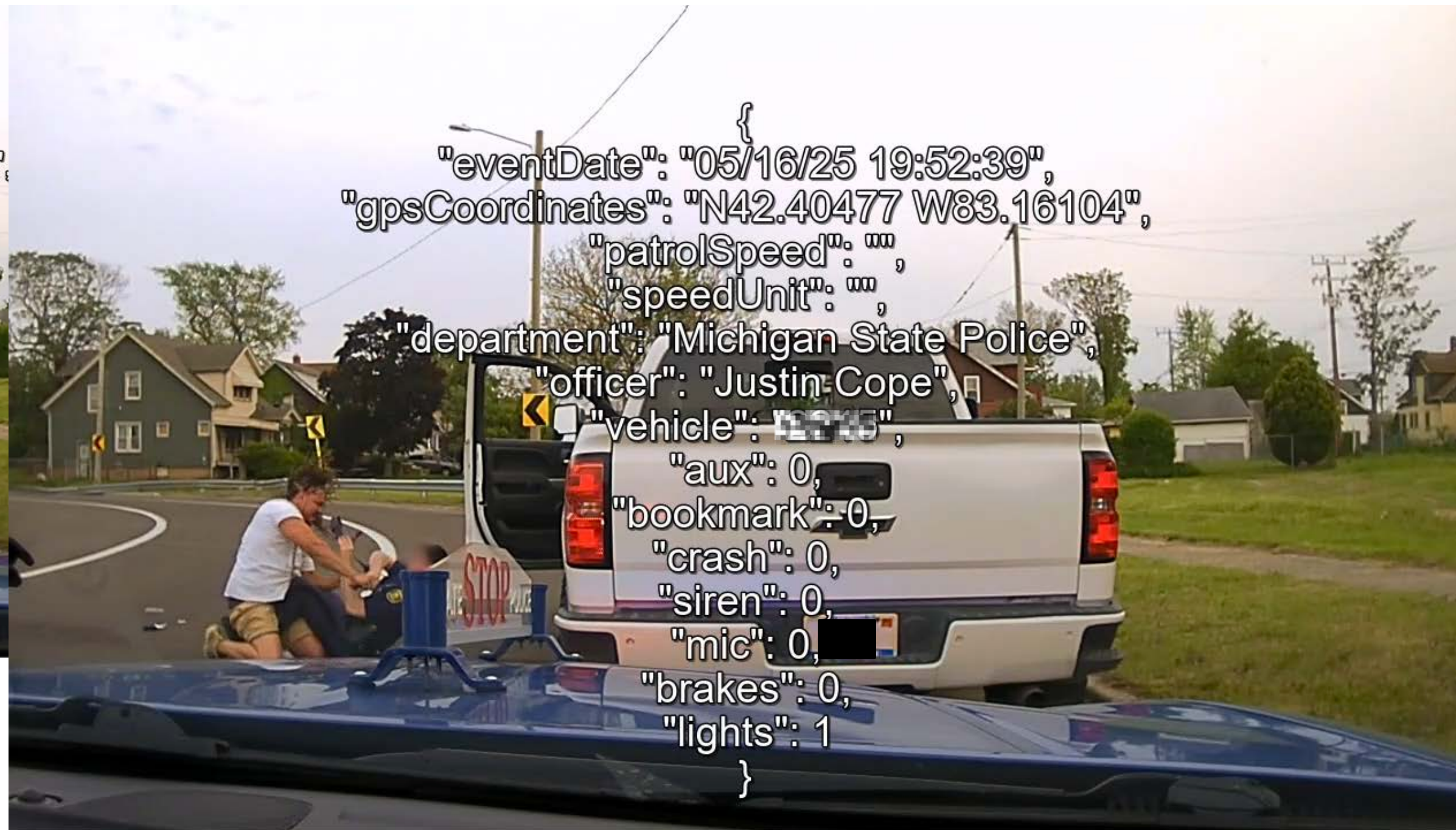
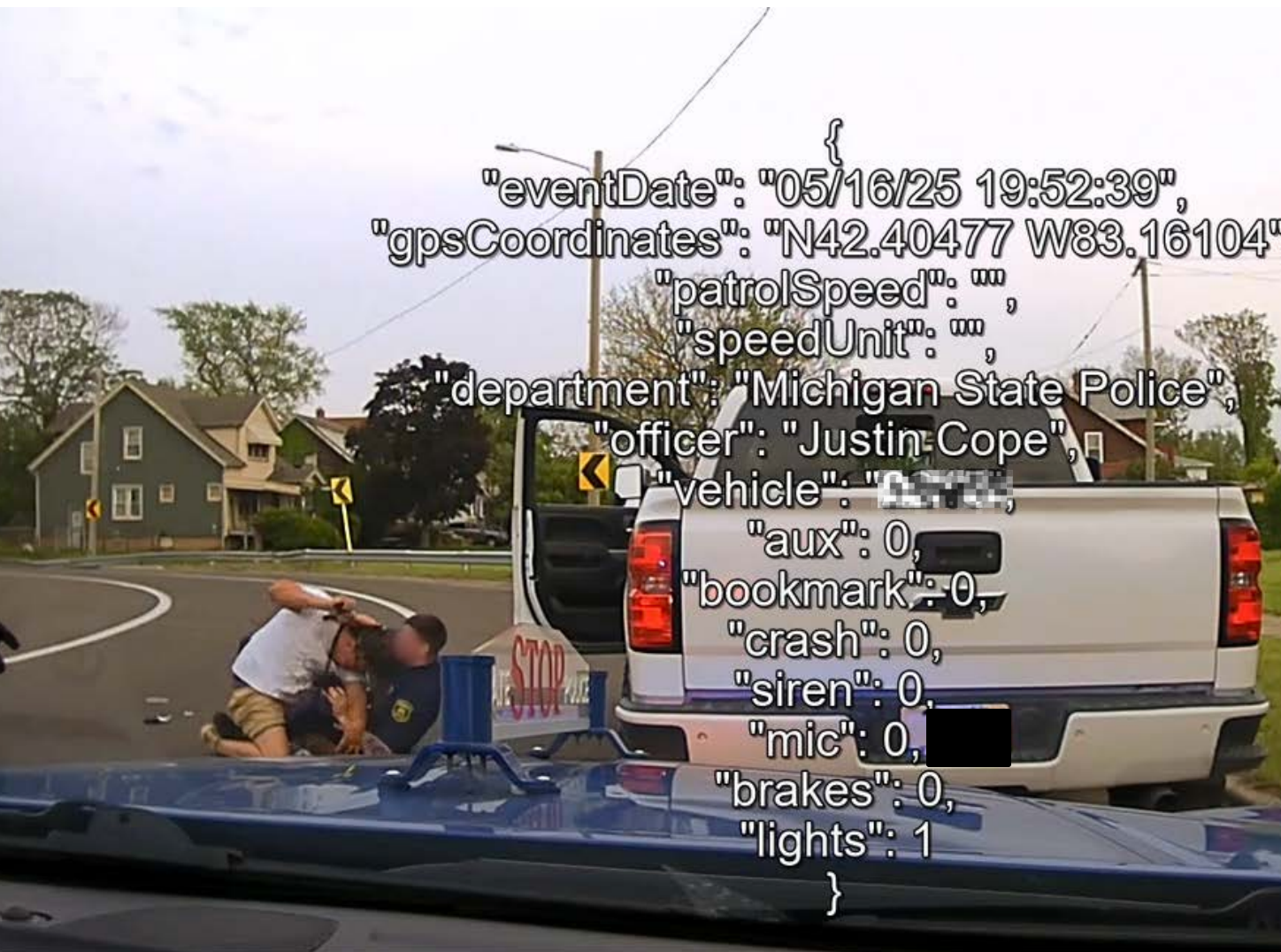


At 19:52:35 as they are fighting you can see the barrel of the gun in Mason's right hand as Tpr. Cope is trying to gain control over it.

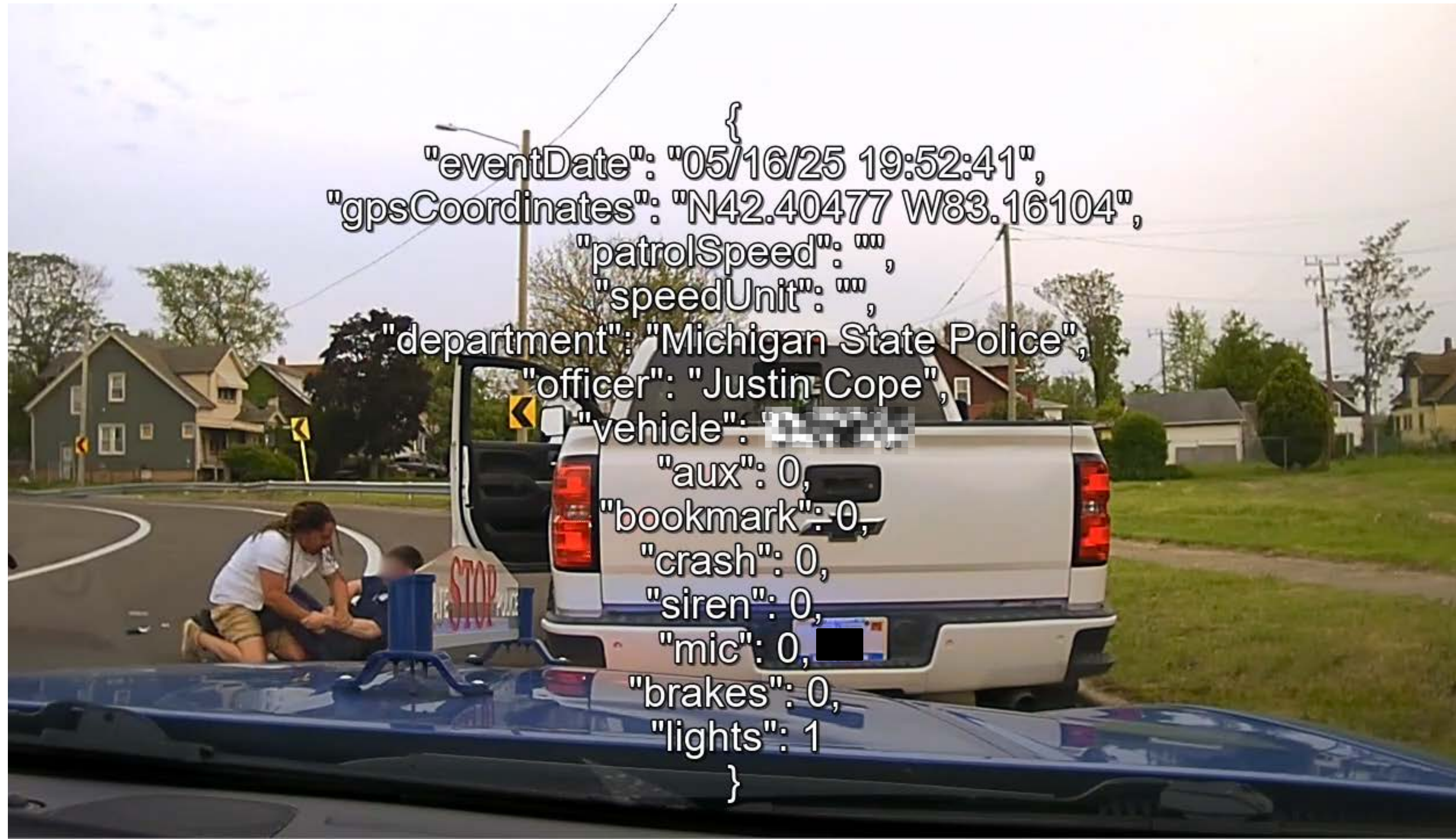
Tpr. Cope and Mason continue fighting, with Tpr. Cope sliding off Mason's back.



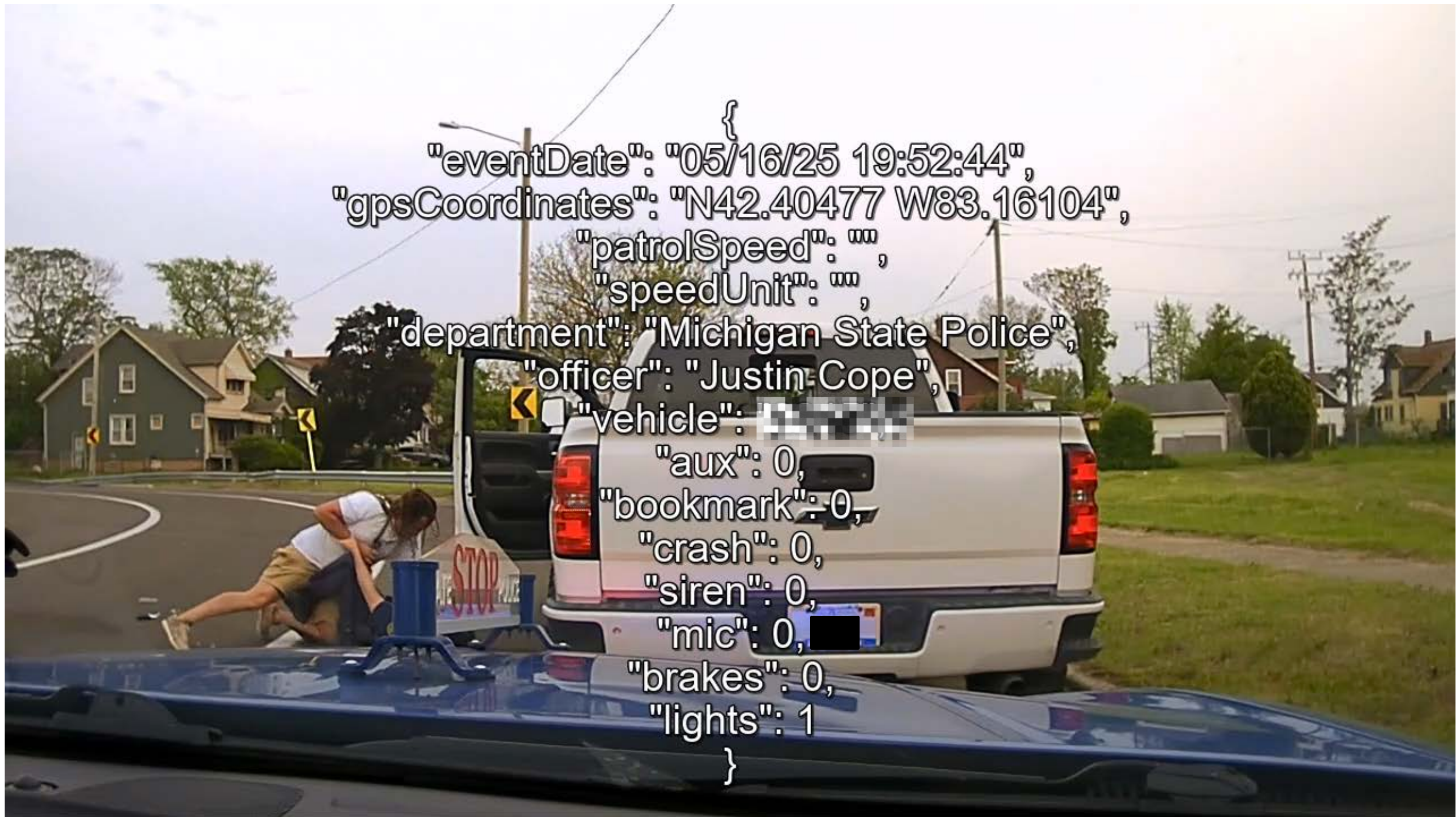
Tpr. Cope ends up on the ground with Mason above him, Mason's right arm extended with the gun pressed against Tpr. Cope's chest with Tpr. Cope trying to pull the gun off his chest.



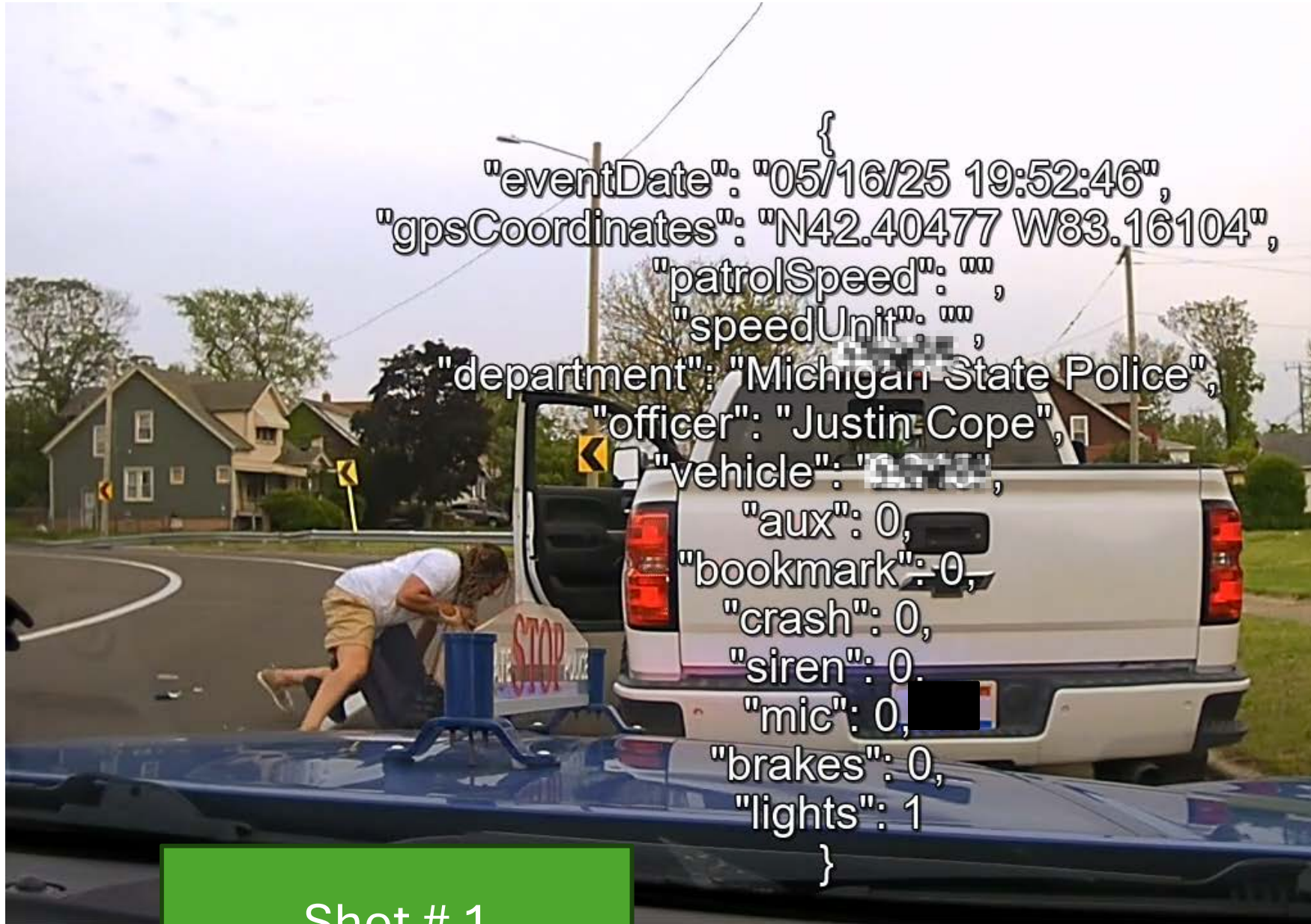
Tpr. Cope is able to briefly push Mason's right hand which is holding the gun off his chest. At the same time Tpr. Cope yells at Mason to "Stop!" Tpr Cope BWC 19:52:41).



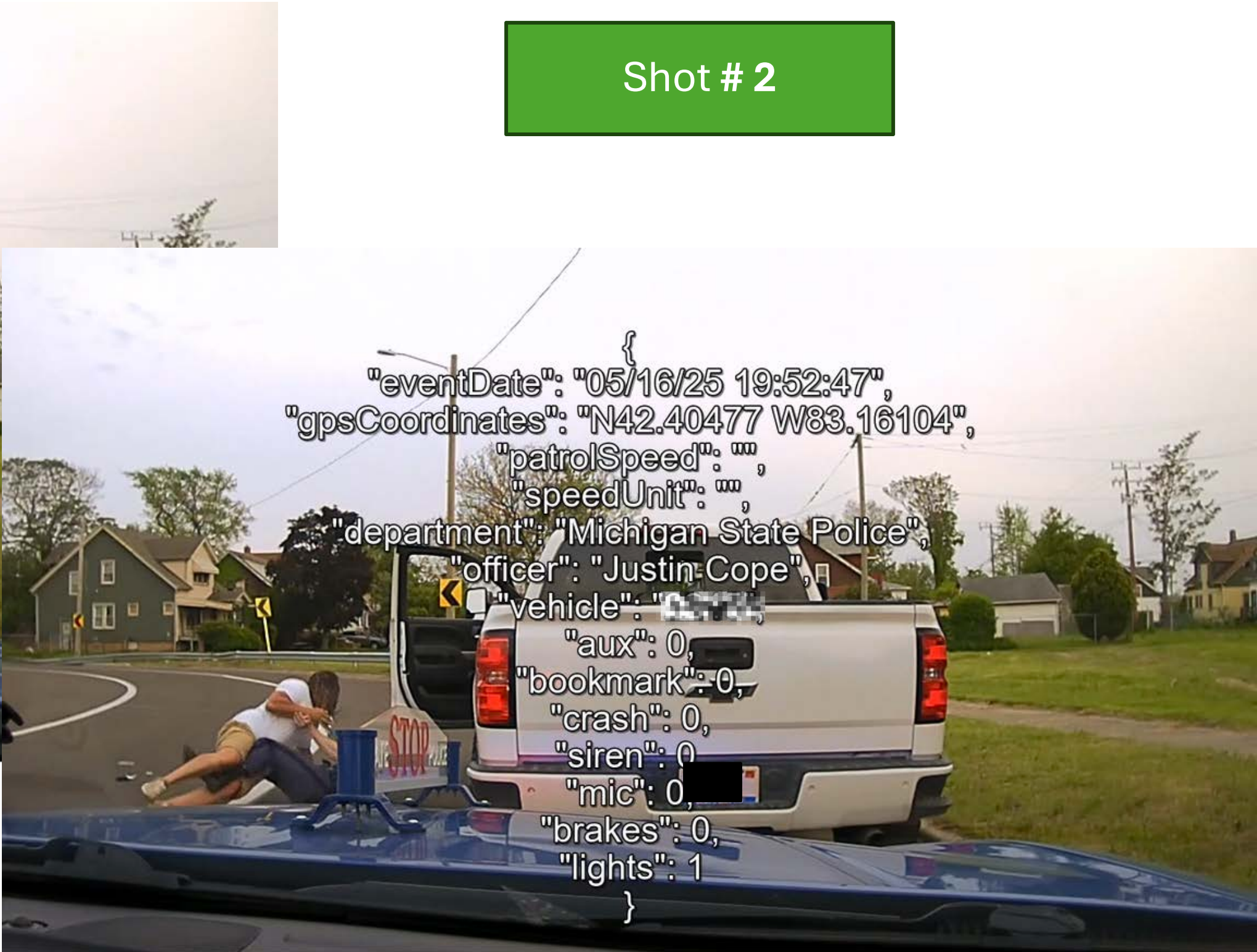
Mason then uses his body weight to push Tpr. Cope back down to the pavement at 19:52:44.



Mason then shoots Tpr. Cope three times in rapid succession, twice at point blank range in the chest and once in the clavicle at 19:52:46, 19:52:47 and 19:52:50 (the exact shot order is uncertain).

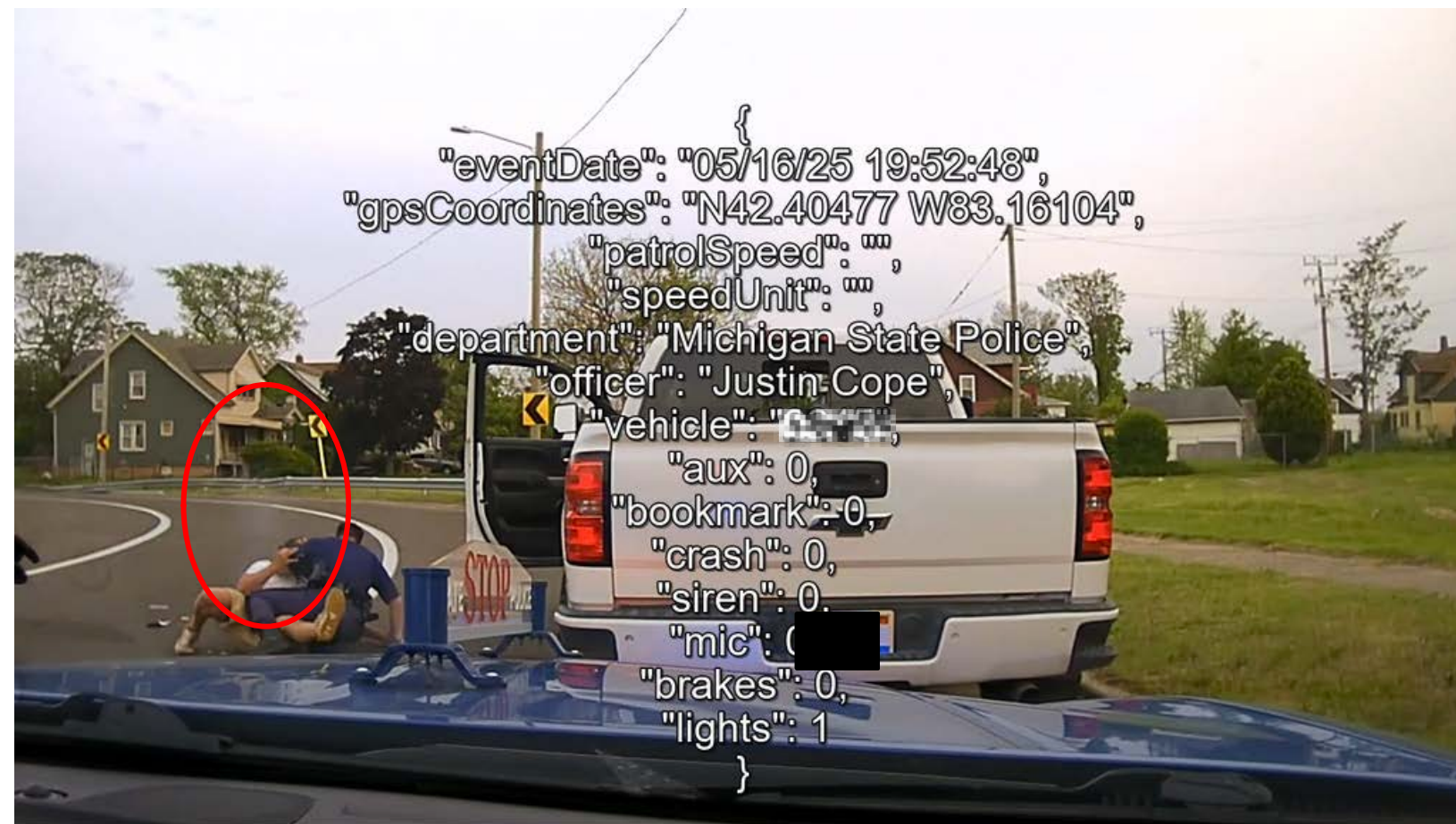


Shot # 1

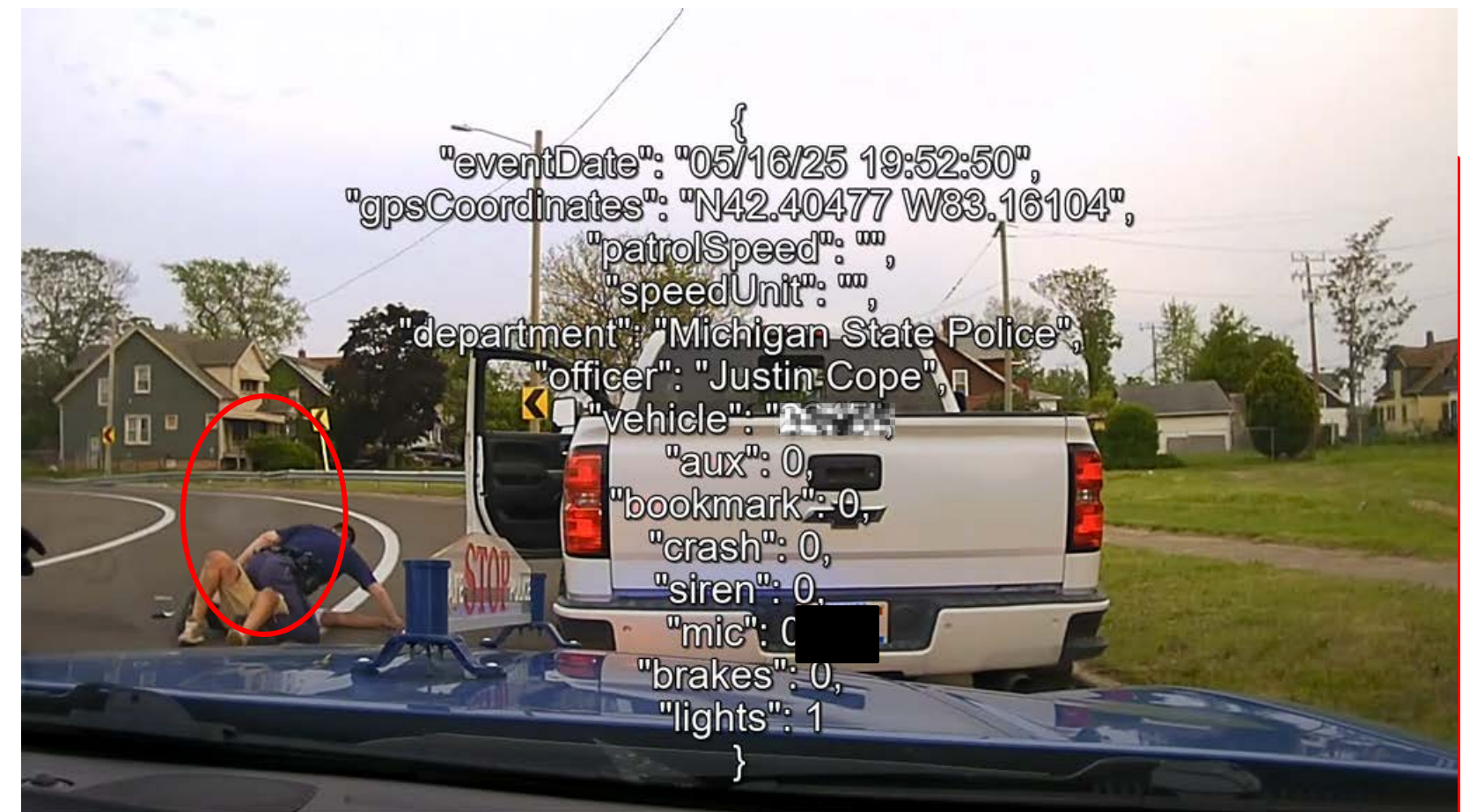


Shot # 2

In the still on the left the gun smoke from Mason's 2nd shot is visible. The still on the right is taken at 19:52:50 when Mason has just fired his 3rd shot into Tpr. Cope and the gun smoke is visible.



Still right after the 2nd
gunshot



Still showing Mason's third shot and gun smoke

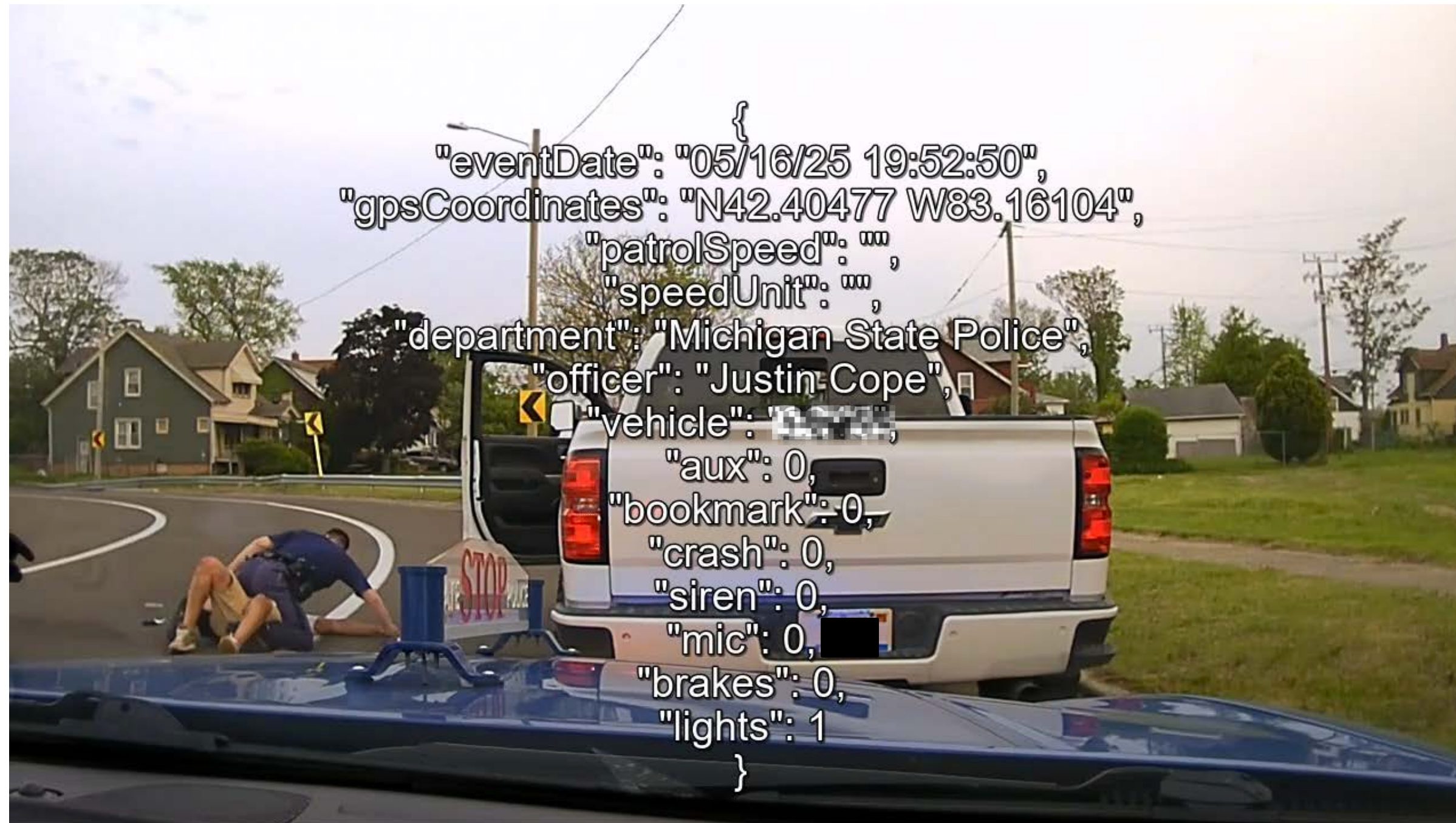
WARNING: THE NEXT SLIDE CONTAINS GRAPHIC IMAGES

The bullet to Tpr. Cope's clavicle penetrates his body and is not surgically removed until July 18, 2025. While the bullets to the chest do not penetrate Tpr.

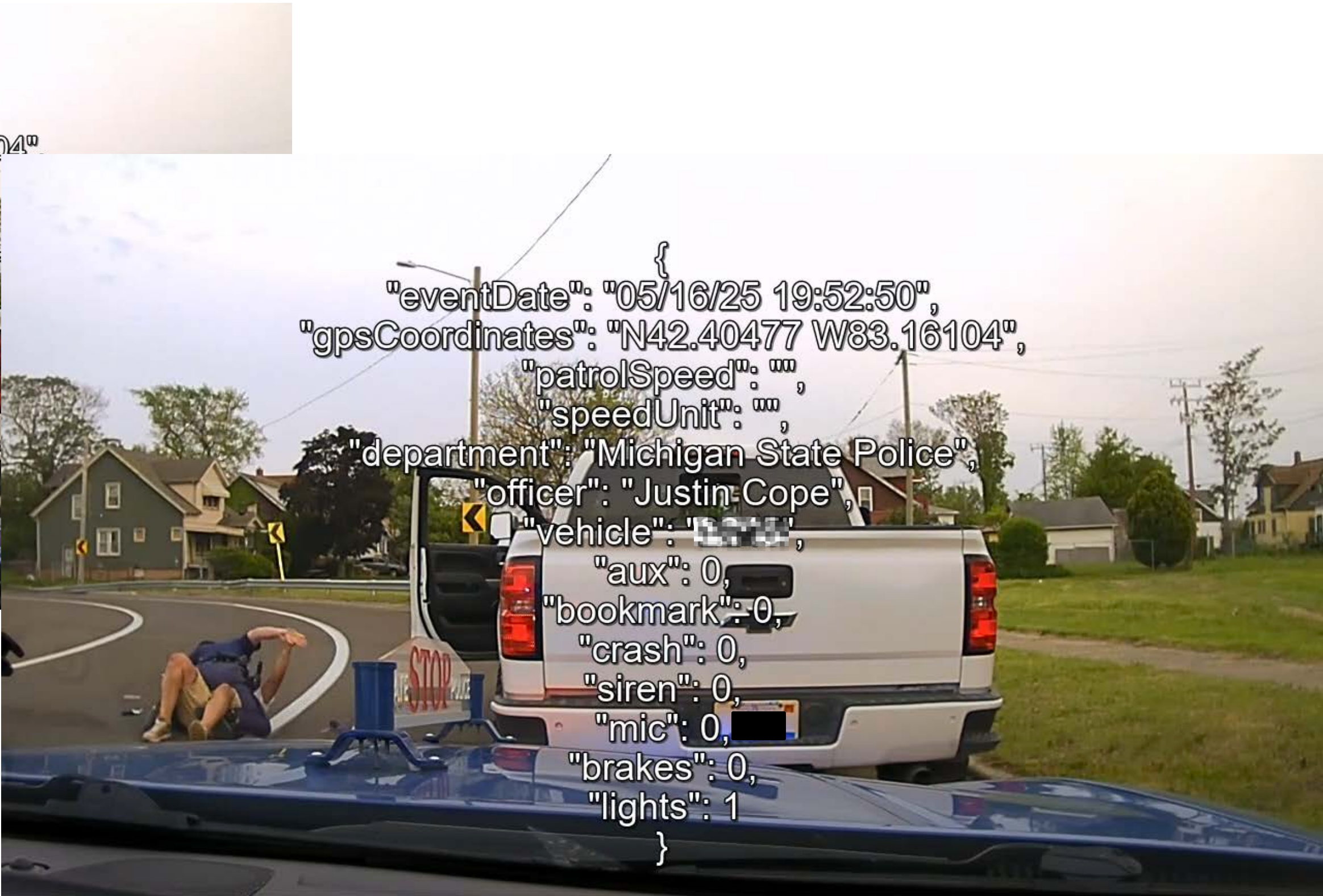
Cope's body cavity due to his vest, they do cause him injury. Tpr. Cope was bleeding at the scene from the chest/abdomen wounds as well as his shoulder as noted in responding officer's reports as well as a civilian on scene.



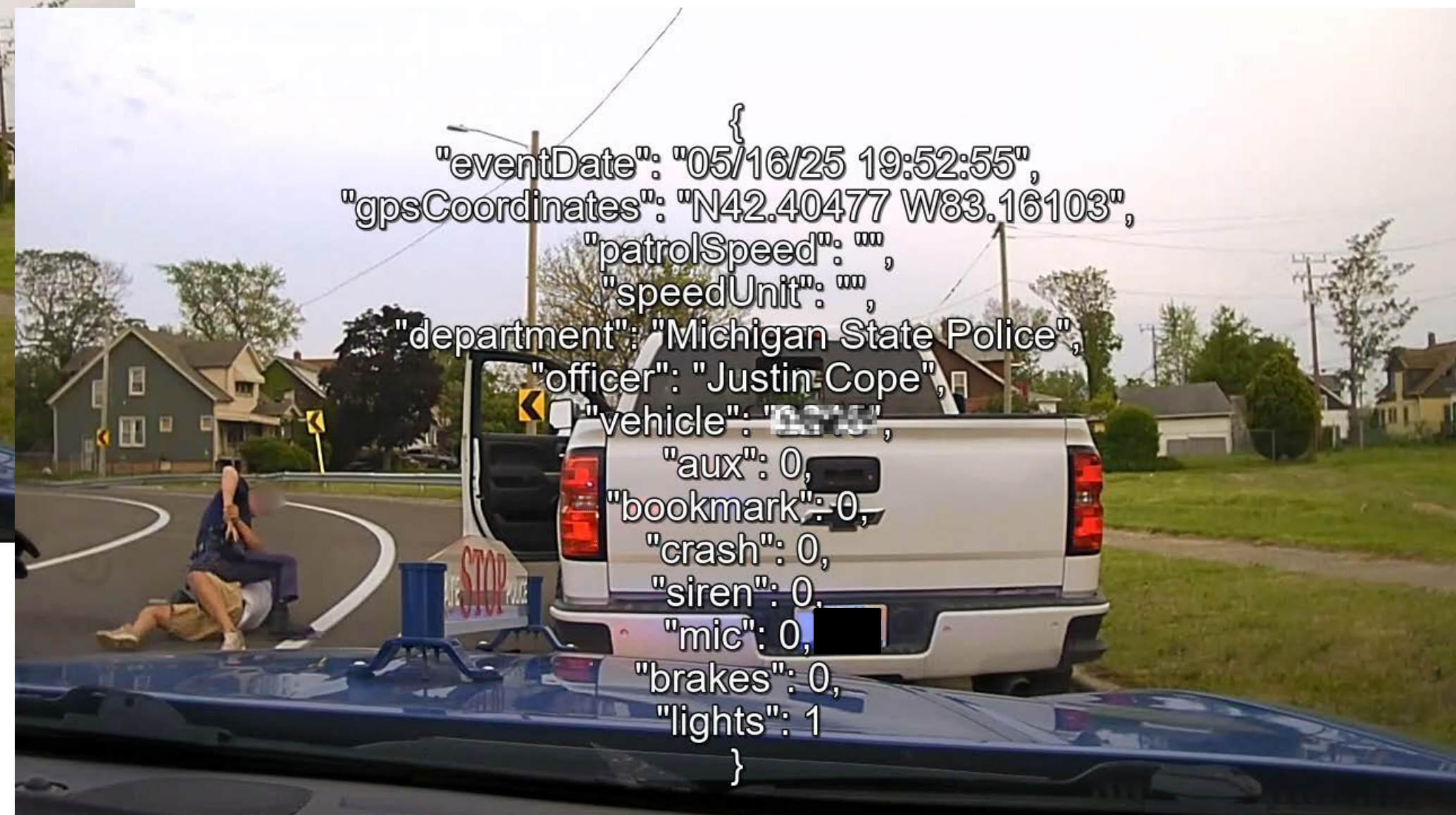
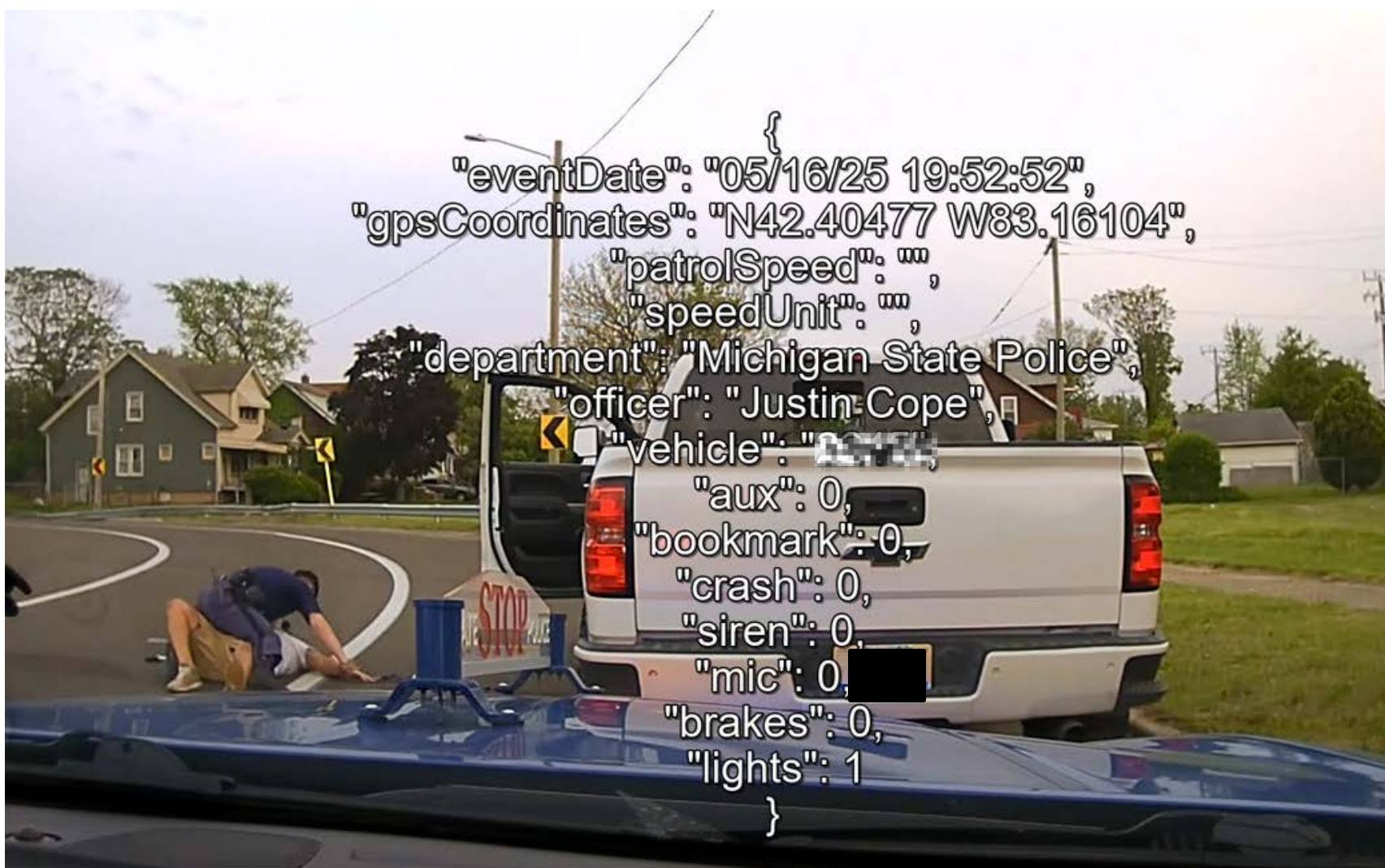
Despite being just shot three times Tpr. Cope continues to fight Mason on the service drive, and he manages to flip Mason onto his back.



Tpr. Cope is now straddling Mason's waist. Note the gun in Mason's right hand in the first still (which is enlarged just below it) and in all three stills Mason's left hand is holding Tpr. Cope's right wrist away from his body and his firearm.



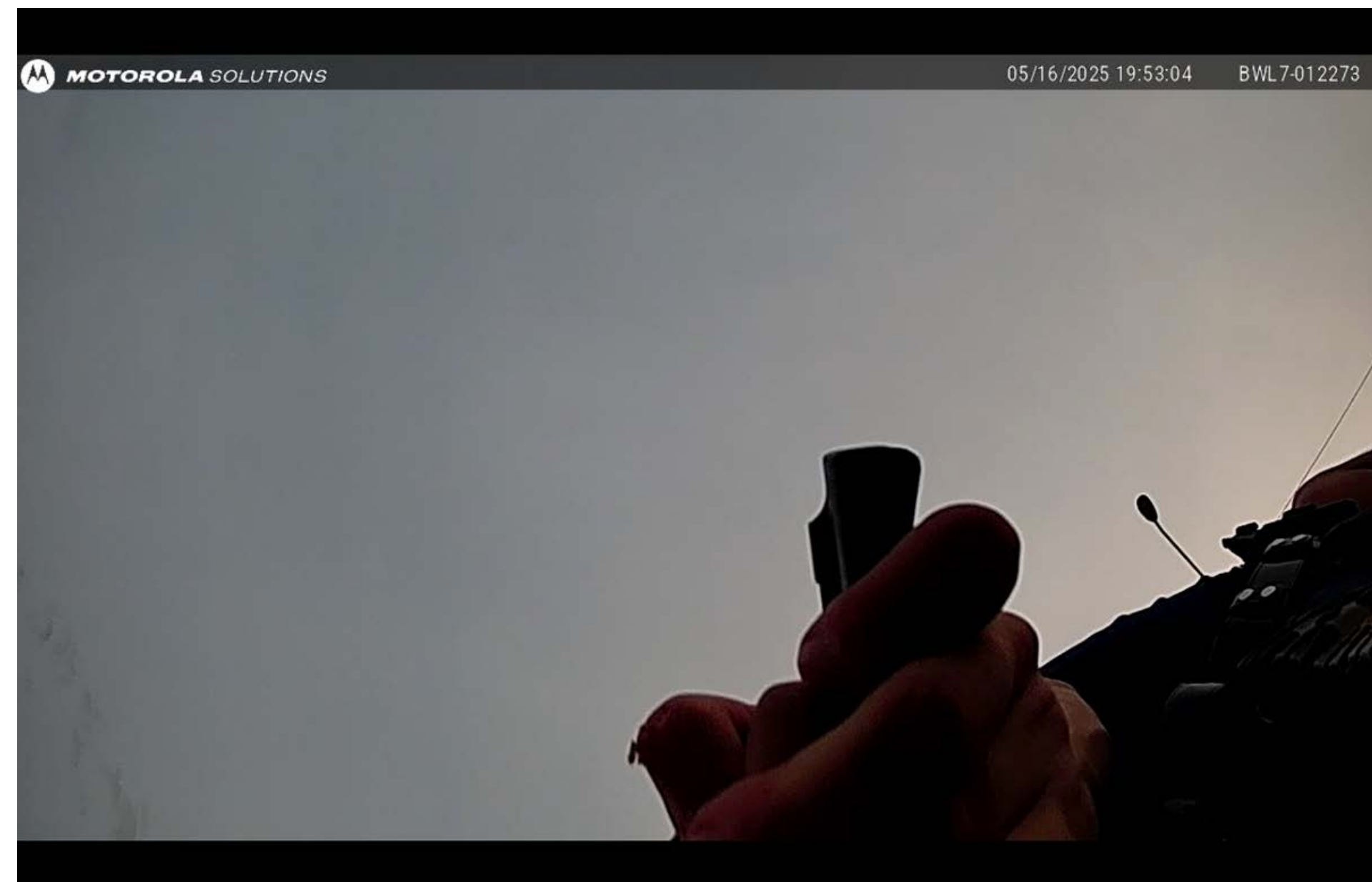
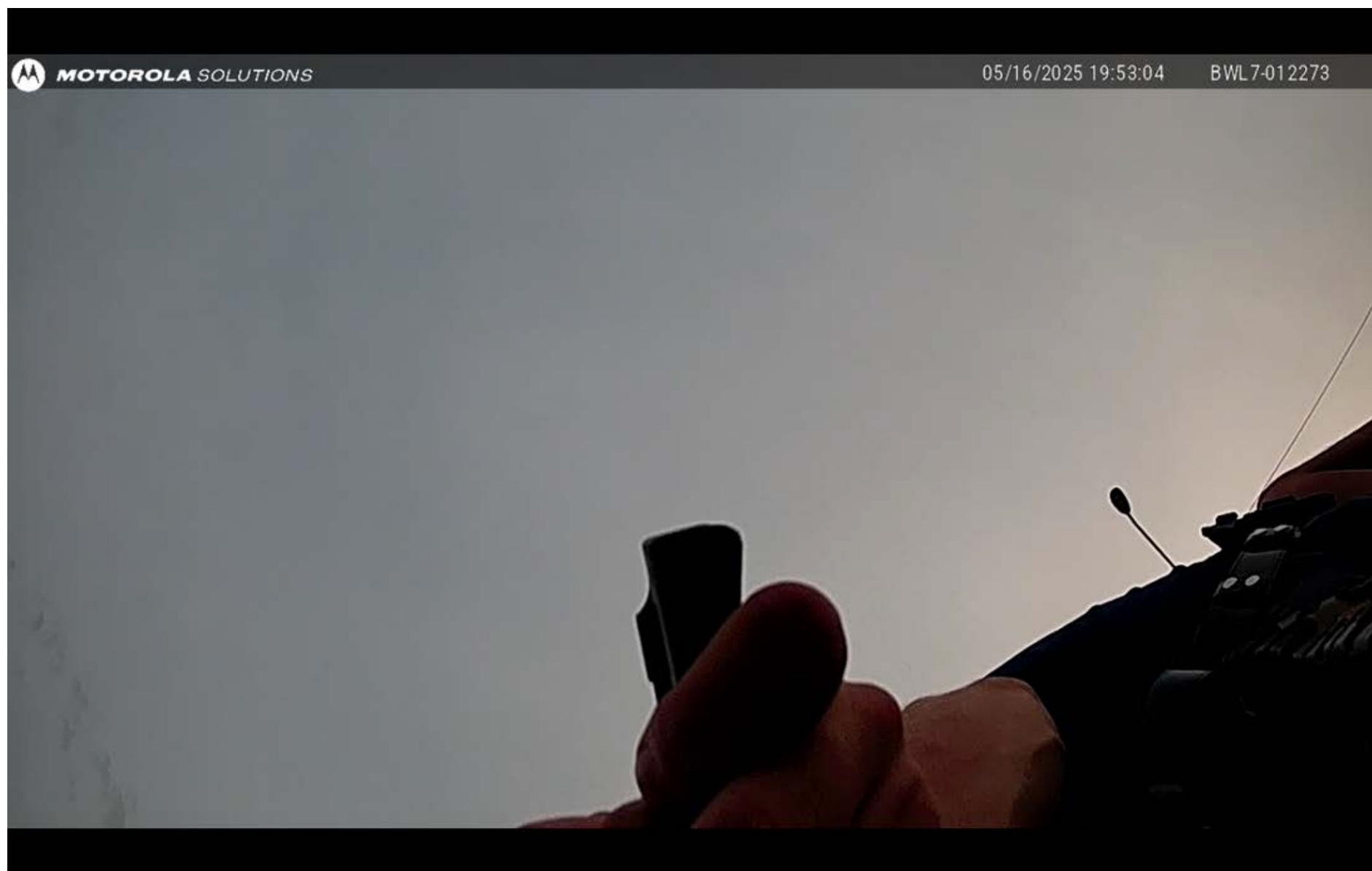
At 19:52:52 Tpr. Cope seems to be trying to free his right wrist by pushing Mason's arm away from him while securing Mason's right hand (Mason still has the gun). At 19:52:55 Tpr. Cope is attempting to reach for his firearm, but Mason has grabbed his right wrist again.



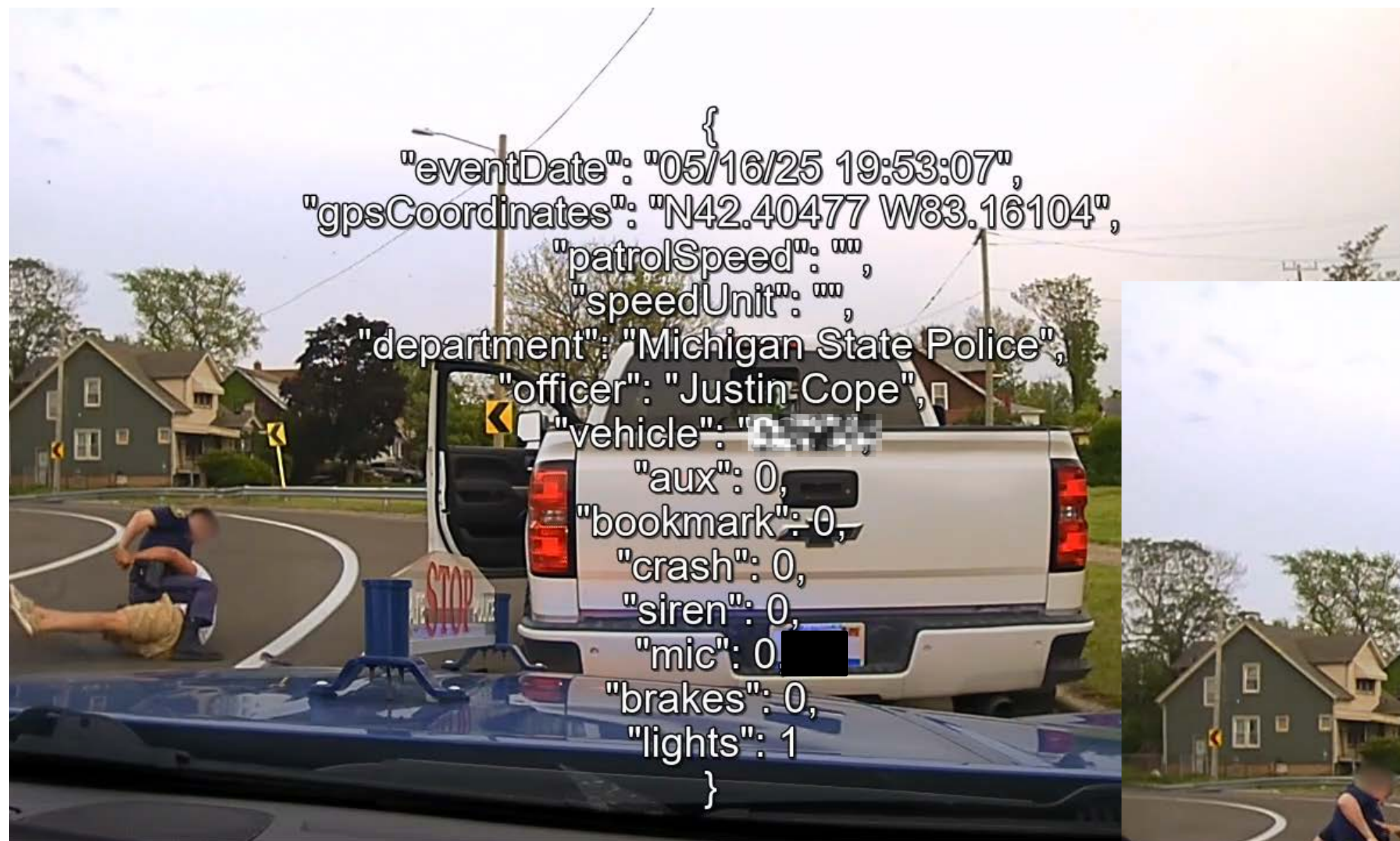
The fight over the
firearms continues as
Mason seems to roll
Tpr. Cope off him.



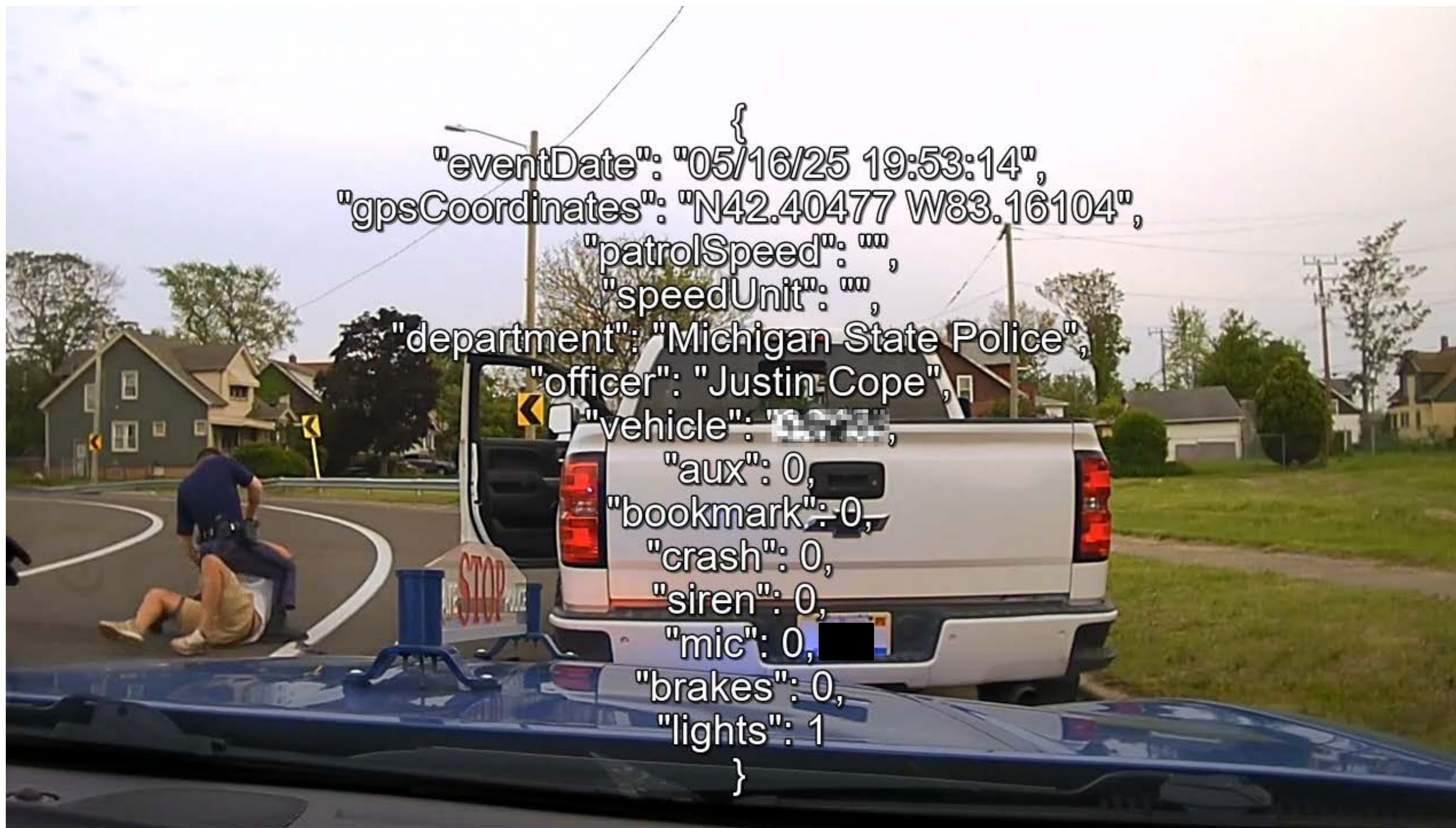
In many of the previous stills due to body positioning the left hand of Tpr. Cope and the right hand of Mason is obstructed from view of Tpr. Cope's dashcam during the struggle. However, at 19:53:04, just two seconds after the last still, Tpr. Cope's BWC catches their struggle over Mason's gun. At this point Mason is holding the gun by the grip, and Tpr. Cope's hand is wrapped around the barrel of Mason's revolver.



Tpr. Cope is trying to gain control of Mason at 19:53:07 and attempts to stand up, breaking the hold Mason has on his right wrist at 19:53:13.



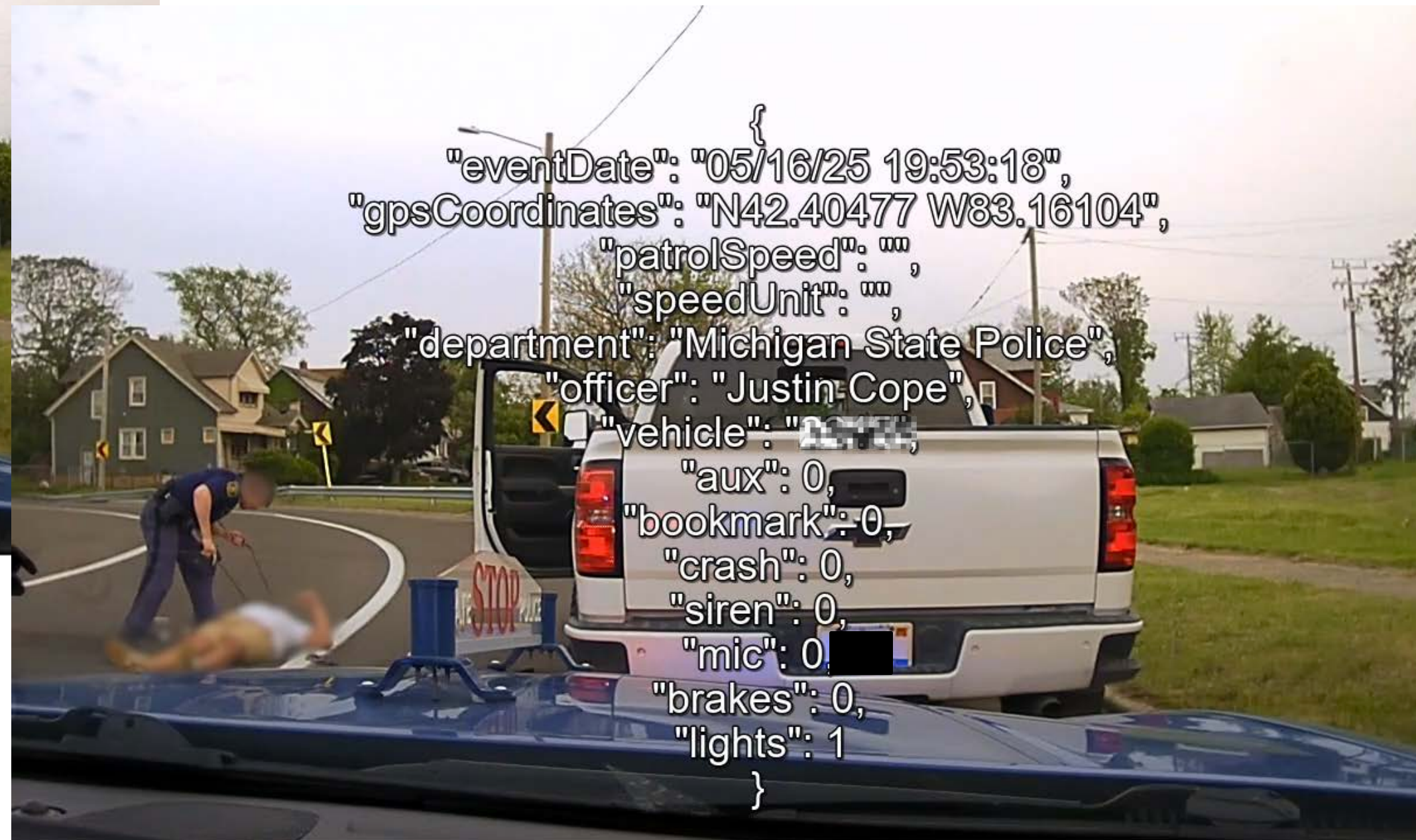
Tpr. Cope is able to draw his firearm, and he shoots Mason three times in two seconds, beginning at 19:53:14. This is the first shot.



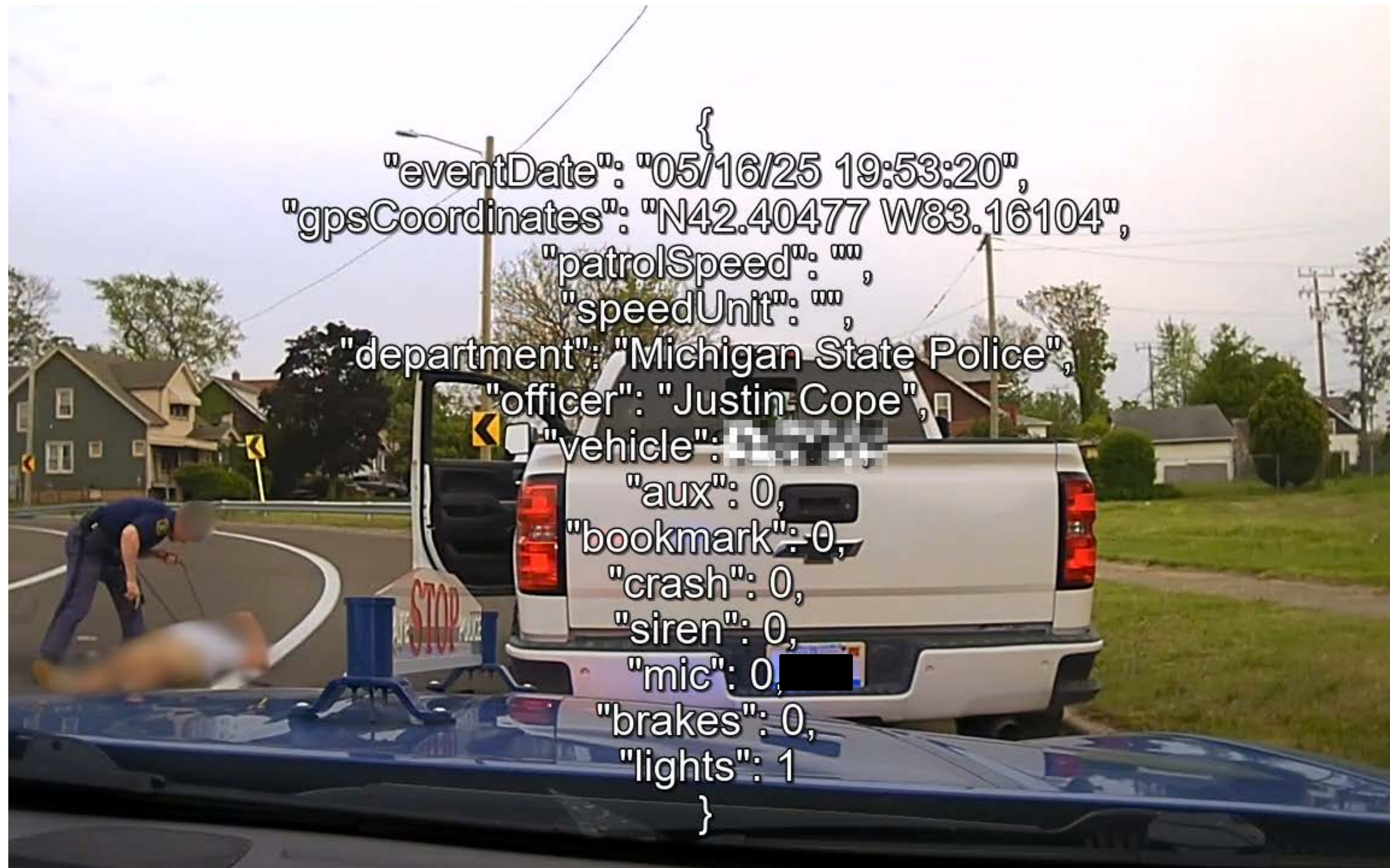
Tpr. Cope attempts to stand and get away from Mason but is unable to extricate himself since his radio cord became stuck under Mason during the struggle.



Tpr. Cope is trying to pull away from Mason, but he is unable to do so. Mason is lying on the heavy radio cord that is tethered to Tpr. Cope's body and pulling Tpr. Cope forward.



At 19:53:20 Tpr. Cope calls in on his radio “Shots fired. I’m hit.” He is operating his radio with his left hand and appears to be watching Mason’s right hand which is still holding the gun as well as looking at Mason’s face and chest. Tpr. Cope is leaning forward since his radio cord is under Mason & pulling him forward.



Tpr. Cope is still hunched over as he has not extricated himself from the radio cord under Mason, but at 19:53:23 he lifts Mason's right wrist and it is clear that Mason is still holding his gun.

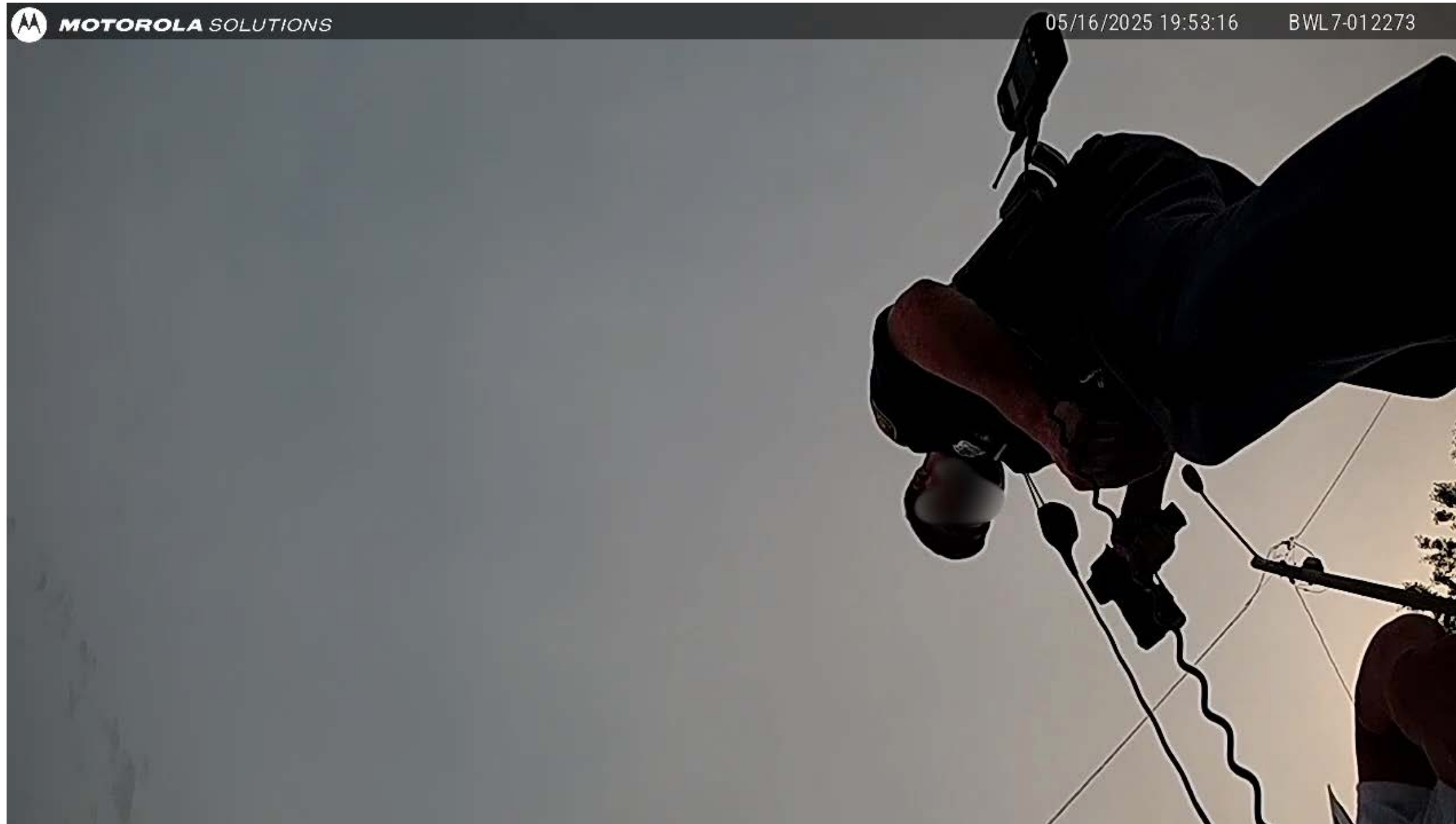


Close up of the still on the left.

Tpr. Cope removes Mason's gun from his right hand and then tries to get his radio cord out from under Mason. It took Tpr. Cope approximately 15 seconds to get his radio cord disentangled and out from under Mason.

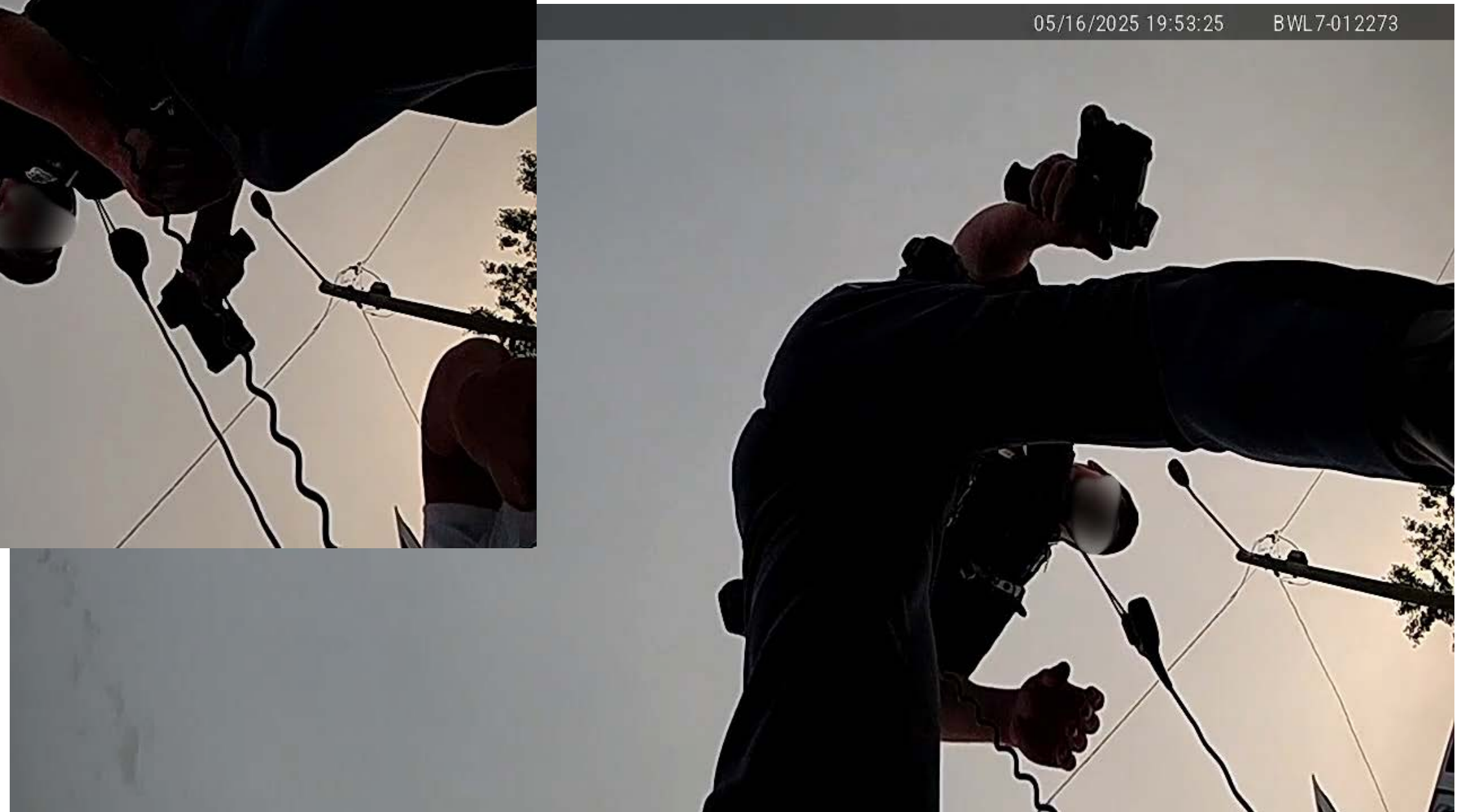


Tpr. Cope tethered to Mason and unable to get away because of his radio cord as seen from his BWC.

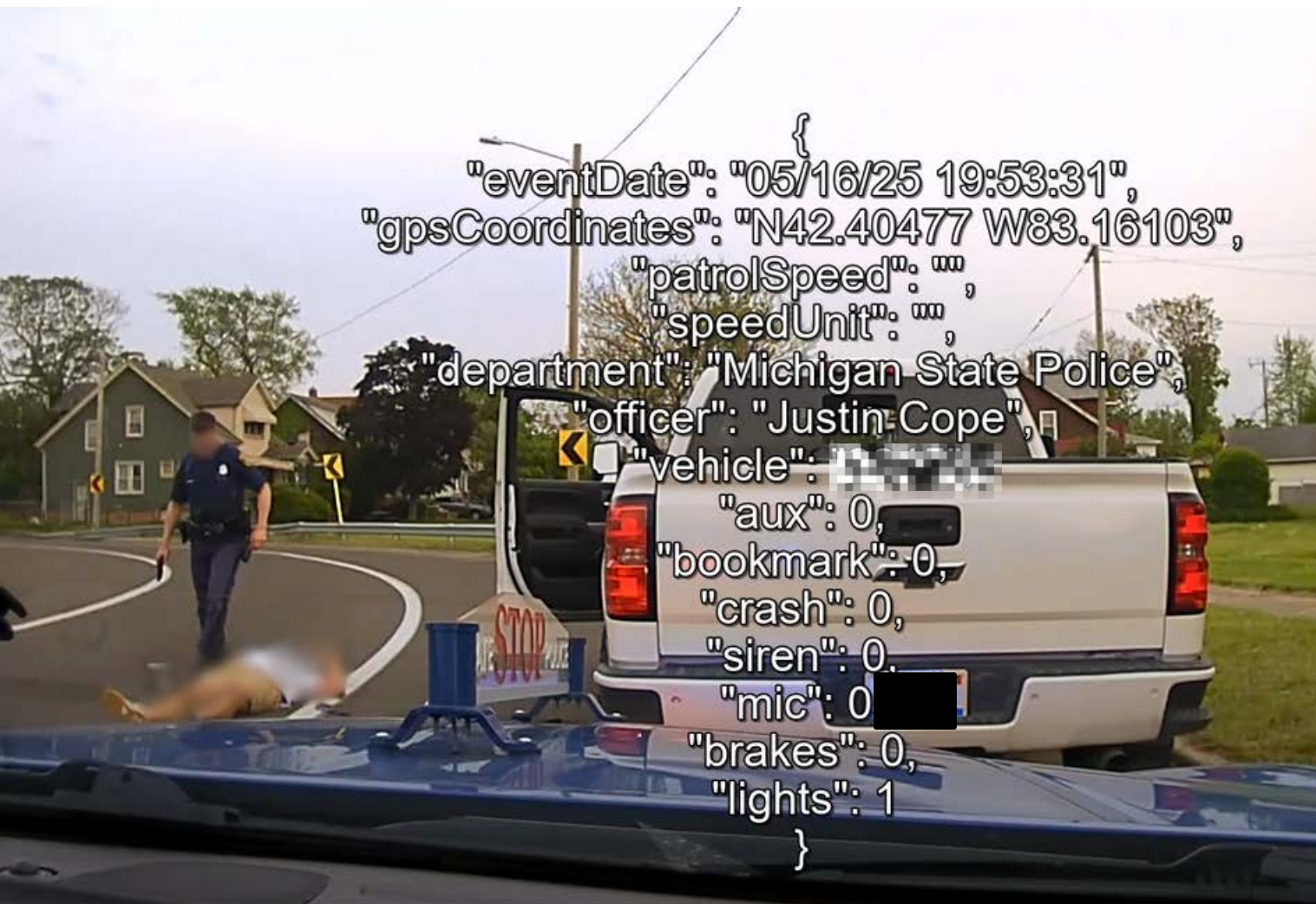


19:53:16, one second after
Tpr. Cope's 3rd shot

19:53:25
nine seconds later



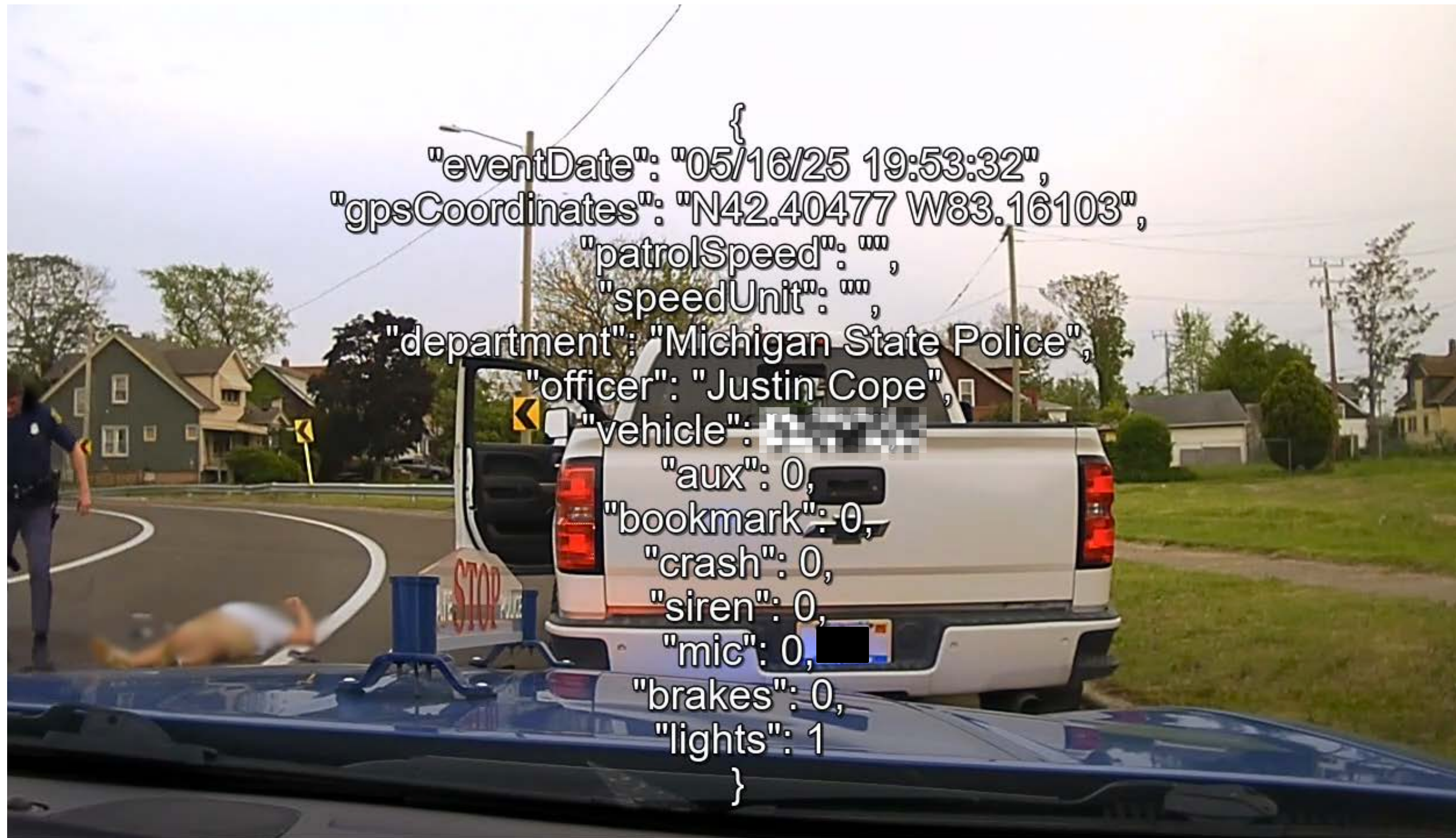
Now that he is untethered from Mason, Tpr. Cope begins to kick Mason's gun away from Mason's right hand.



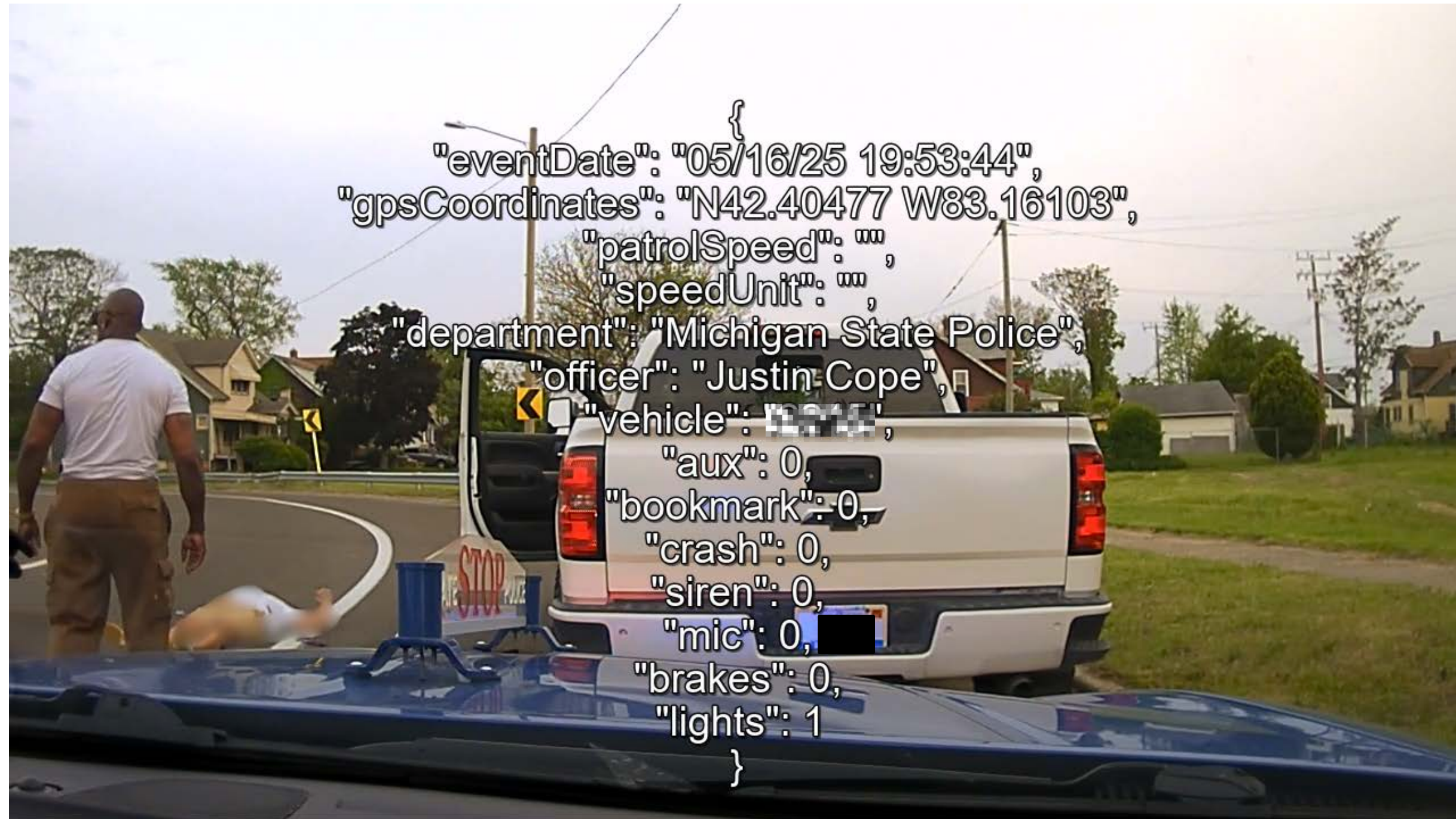
The sound of the gun skittering along the pavement as Tpr. Cope kicks it can be heard on the audio portion of Tpr. Cope's BWC.



Tpr. Cope kicks the gun once more away from Mason.



Four seconds later, at 19:53:36 a civilian, [REDACTED], who saw most of the fight, approaches Tpr. Cope and asks, “You all right?”



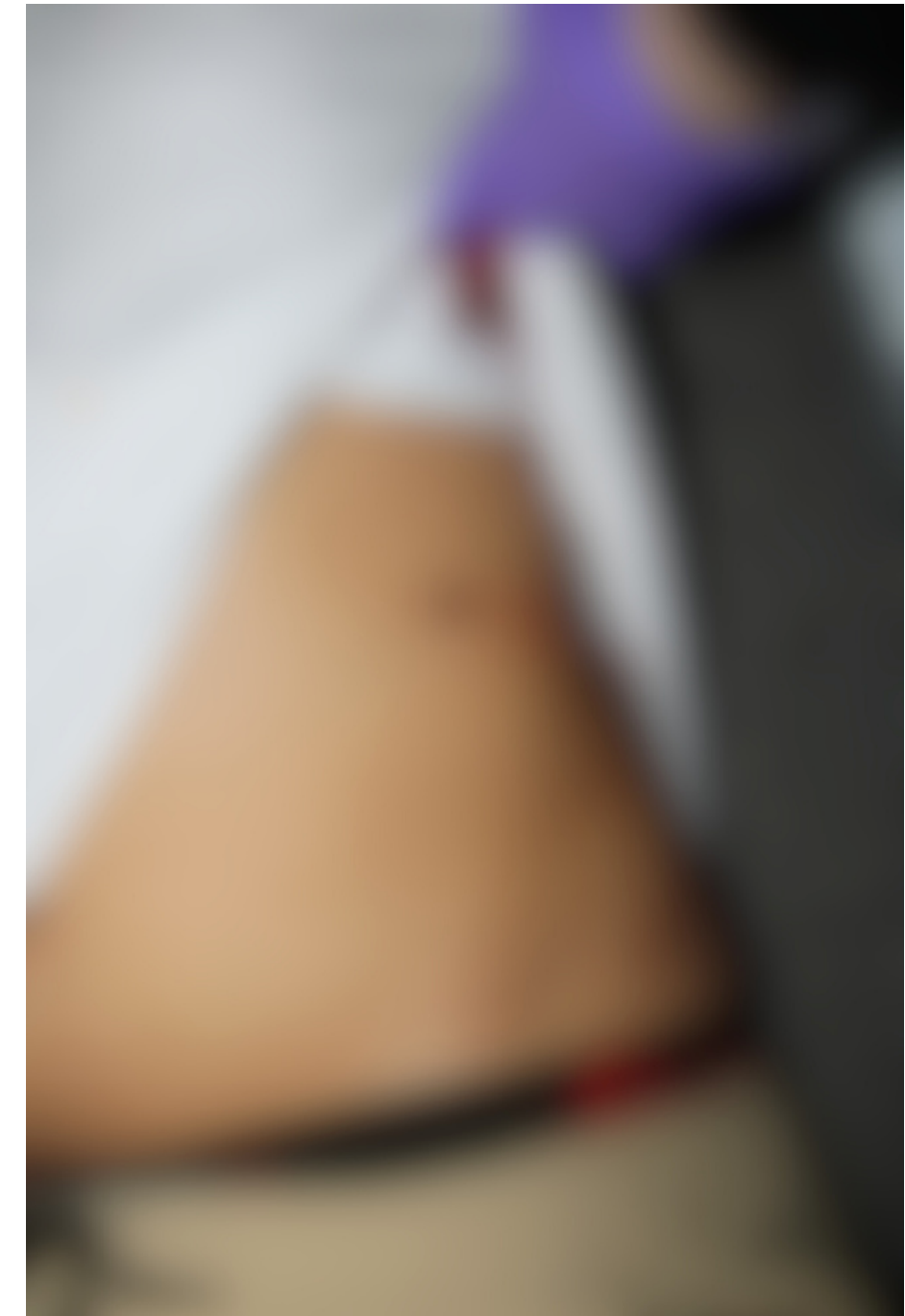
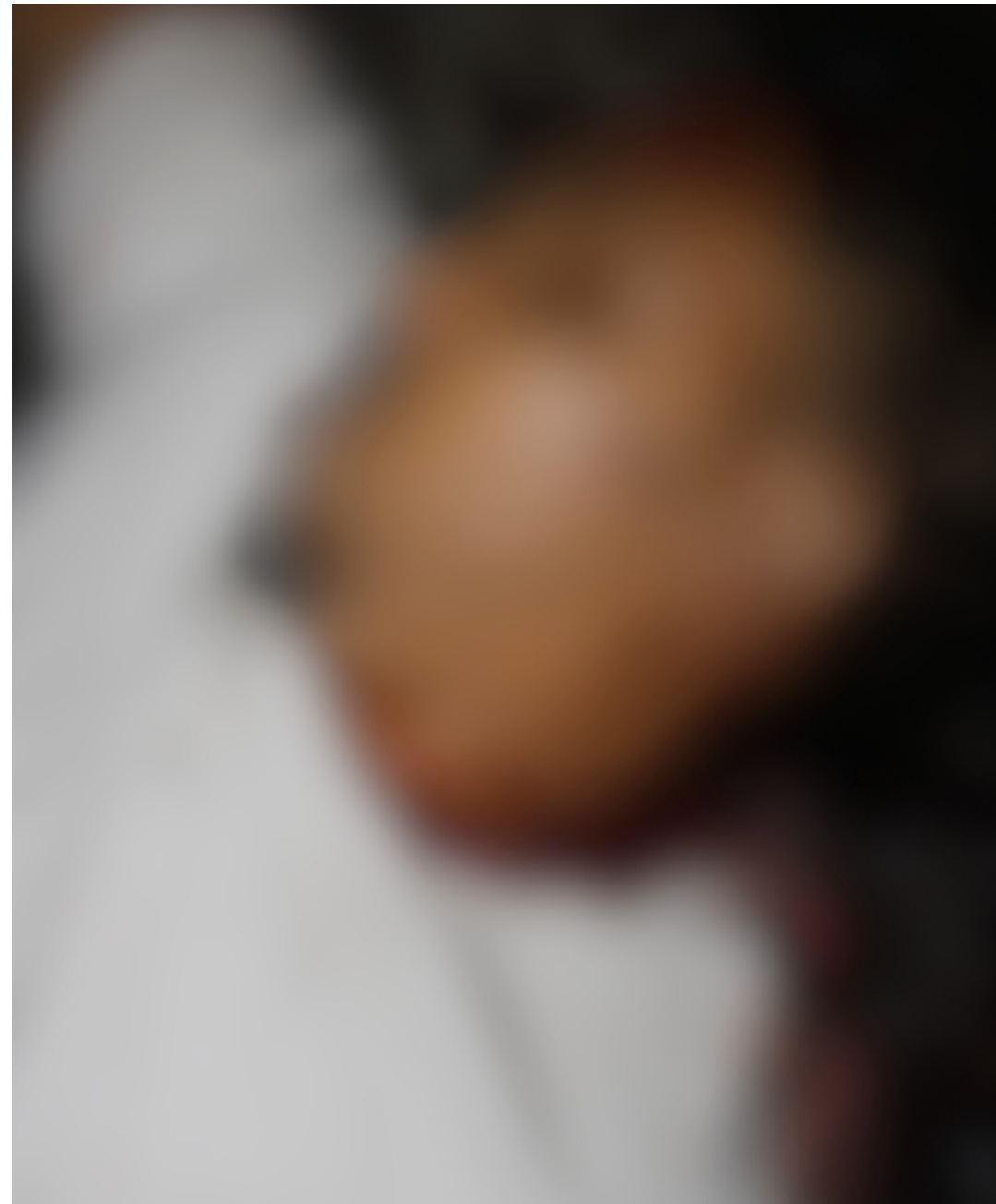
Tpr. Cope responds, “I’m hit! I’m hit!”, and then “I’m hit multiple times” as Tpr. Cope is pacing around seeming to run on adrenaline and sounding breathless (it has been less than one minute since Tpr. Cope had been shot three times).

At 19:53:56 Tpr. Cope calls in on his radio “Suspect is down. I’m hit”. The response he received was that ‘EMS was on the way’.

Approximately 2 minutes later Detroit Police officers arrived on scene and Tpr. Cope was placed in a Detroit Police SUV and taken to the hospital as other officers arrive and secure the scene.

WARNING: THE NEXT TWO SLIDES CONTAIN GRAPHIC IMAGES

Stephen Wangara-Mason died on the M-10 service drive next to his truck from the three gunshot wounds fired from Tpr. Cope's service weapon. One shot in the neck, one to the head, and one to the abdomen.



Other than the gravity pulling his right forearm slowly down to the ground, Mason did not move on the video after he was shot, not even breathing. His right forearm had been raised in the air trying to grasp Tpr. Cope right wrist before he was shot. Mason was pronounced deceased on the scene at 19:59 by EMS who noted he was obviously dead and that he was cold despite being in a warm environment.



The only paperwork located at the scene outside of the vehicles was the State of Michigan registration for Mason's truck which shows the truck was legally registered in Mason's name.



This crime scene photograph demonstrates how far Tpr. Cope's scout car and dash cam were from Mason's truck and the fight.



Throughout the PowerPoint the gun that Tpr. Cope was shot with was referred to as “Mason’s gun”. Not only did the revolver fall from Mason’s person at 19:51:59 as seen on the BWC and an earlier still, but it was also owned by and registered to Stephen William Wangara-Mason since September 4, 2009.

Redacted LEIN material



The serial number from revolver recovered at the scene matches the serial number for the revolver Mason registered in 2009.



Mason's revolver with
the 3 spent cartridges
and two live bullets all
of which were in the
chamber of the
weapon.



Tpr. Cope's primary service weapon Sig Sauer was confiscated from him at [REDACTED] Hospital trauma bay # 4 along with his clothing, duty belt, spare magazines and bullet proof vest.



A round count was conducted at Homicide Task Force by Tpr. Anderson, D/Sgt. Klenner and Sgt. Lady on Tpr. Cope's Sig Sauer which had a 21-round magazine loaded into the handgun. There were 18 rounds in the magazine and 1 in the chamber for a total of 19 rounds.

Both of Tpr. Cope's back up magazines were loaded to capacity and had not been fired.

Tpr. Cope fired 3 times at the scene.



Crime Scene investigators located three spent casings at the scene. Casing 1 & 2 were located just south of Mason's body (looking at the next still, south is closer to the reader, before the body). Casing 3 was located just west of the body but before the white truck, near his left hand. All 3 casings have the same stamp on their base "FC 9MM LUGER". The 19 rounds that were recovered from Tpr. Cope's Sig Sauer all contain that same "FC 9MM LUGER" stamp on their base.

These are the only three casings recovered loose at the scene .





Scene when evidence technicians arrived later that evening.

The tarp was placed over Mason since it had started to rain, and bricks were used to prevent some items from blowing away, including the tarp.

1. 9 mm jacket casing
2. 9 mm jacket casing
3. 9 mm jacket casing
4. Streamlight flashlight
5. Mason's S&W revolver (covered by box due to rain in this photograph)
6. Mason's Chauffeur's license
7. Tpr. Cope's light blue clip-on MSP tie
8. Mason's gray knit cap
9. blood from footprint
10. white towel
11. SOM registration for Mason's truck (located several feet behind Tpr. Cope's car; a brick was placed on it to prevent it from blowing further away from the scene)



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2. 9 mm jacket casing
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4. Streamlight flashlight
5. Mason's S&W revolver
(covered by box due to rain
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10. white towel
11. SOM registration for
Mason's truck (located
several feet behind Tpr.
Cope's car; a brick was
placed on it to prevent it
from blowing further away
from the scene)

Tpr. Cope's uniform shirt and undershirt



Tpr. Cope's uniform showing the two bullets to the chest cavity.
On the right Tpr. Cope's bullet proof vest carrier, photographed from the interior showing that both bullets perforated the vest.



The interior plates of Tpr. Cope's bullet proof vest showing where the bullets entered his vest and a close-up showing the actual bullets lodged in the vest.



BALLISTICS

Tpr. Cope's 9mm Sig Sauer and Mason's Smith and Wesson revolver along with the spent casings, the fired bullets recovered from Tpr. Cope and Mason, and the live rounds from both their firearms were sent for testing, comparison and analysis to the Michigan State Police Forensic Science Division Firearms/Toolmarks Unit.

The results were unsurprising.

It was identified that all three 9 mm Luger FC cartridge casings located near Stephen Wangara-Mason and the three fired bullets that were removed from Stephen Wangara-Mason's head, neck and abdomen were fired from Tpr. Cope's 9mm Luger caliber Sig Sauer pistol.

It was identified that that all three .38 special caliber Federal fired cartridges and one of the fired bullets that was removed from Tpr. Cope's vest were fired from Mason's .38 Special Smith & Wesson five shot revolver. The other bullet recovered from Tpr. Cope's vest shared class characteristics but not enough for a positive identification. The 3rd bullet in Tpr. Cope's clavicle had not been removed when this evidence was submitted to the Lab.



The two bullets that were removed from Tpr. Cope's vest and sent to the Lab. The vest fibers are still stuck on one of the bullets.



The physical evidence as well as the video recordings of the events provide the best evidence of what occurred on May 16, 2025 on the M-10 service drive (the Lodge) at Wyoming.

The numerous stills were created since the video moves so quickly it is challenging to see everything that occurred while Mason and Tpr. Cope tussled on the ground, even in slow motion.

The additional evidence was added to the PowerPoint since all the necessary photographs and images could not be included in the memorandum.