

# Defense objects to body cam video from fallen CdA police officer

Scott Maben/SR

Kootenai County prosecutors are attempting to enter into evidence the body camera footage they say shows Jonathan Daniel Renfro shooting Coeur d'Alene Police Sgt. Greg Moore in the face early in the morning of May 5.

Renfro's public defense team is objecting to the video's introduction in Renfro's preliminary hearing, which began this morning. Kootenai County Deputy Public Defender Jay Logsdon questioned the authenticity of the first few minutes of the video, which recorded Moore's contact with Renfro, and the relevance of the rest of the recording, which includes fellow officers rushing to the scene and trying to save Moore's life.



"Quite frankly, your honor, it is relevant," countered Kootenai County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney David Robins, who said the video captured the shooting by Renfro and also shows the defendant removing Moore's handgun while Moore was still alive.

First District Senior Magistrate Barry Watson, who is presiding over the preliminary hearing in a courtroom at the Kootenai County Jail, sustained the public defender's objection – for now. He took a lunch recess and said the attorneys could resume the debate this afternoon.

(In photo, above right, Officer Pleger receives a hug at the funeral of Sgt. Greg Moore. Kathy Plonka/The Spokesman-Review)

Renfro, 27, (pictured, below, in booking photo) is charged with first-degree murder and five other felony charges. If convicted, he could be given the death penalty.



Renfro allegedly shot Moore as the officer questioned him early in the morning in a quiet neighborhood a mile northwest of Lake City High School. Moore died later that day at Kootenai Health.

The first officers to arrive on the scene that morning described in court this morning how they scrambled to help their mortally wounded comrade, including performing CPR until fire department medics arrived.

They found Moore sprawled on his back with blood covering his face.

Coeur d'Alene Police Officer Jacob Pleger, the first to arrive, testified that he detected no pulse from Moore and that blood appeared to be coming out of Moore's mouth, nose and eyes. He and another Coeur d'Alene officer, Hank Dunham, began chest compressions on the fallen officer.

Pleger, who described Moore as a friend, had worked with him on a call earlier in the shift at a Motel 6. When Pleger arrived at the scene of the shooting, he saw Moore "laying on his back with his face toward me."

Pleger said he resorted to his medical training, including from his Marine Corps service. "I was looking for wounds because I knew we had to stop the bleeding and start the breathing."

Dunham testified he heard Moore on his police radio calling in the name “Renfro” to dispatch. Dunham said he raced to the scene and saw Moore in the street with blood and what looked like brain matter under his head.

Coeur d’Alene Police Sgt. William Tilson Jr. also took the stand this morning. An technology expert with the department, Tilson explained how he took possession of Moore’s body camera at the police station in the hours after the shooting, downloaded the recorded videos to a laptop computer, and then watched the video that included the shooting.

Tilson testified that the cameras worn by all the city’s officers automatically place a digital date and time stamp on each video recording when the officers activate the cameras. He also said the date and time on Moore’s camera was the same as the police department’s server date and time when he plugged the camera into the computer system that day.

Renfro was on felony parole at the time of the shooting and told investigators he feared Moore would find the stolen handgun he was carrying in his pocket – an offense that would have sent him back to prison, according to court documents.

Renfro has not entered a plea to the charges he faces, which also include:

- Grand theft – for possession of the stolen Glock handgun.
- Concealment of evidence – the stolen Glock.
- Removing a firearm from a law enforcement officer – Moore.
- Robbery – for taking Moore’s handgun after he allegedly shot the officer.
- Eluding a peace officer – for fleeing police in Post Falls while driving Moore’s patrol car.

Renfro, who is being held on \$2 million bond, previously was sentenced for grand theft in Kootenai County, and for grand theft and battery upon a jailer in Latah County.

Others subpoenaed for the preliminary hearing include Dr. William Ganz of Neurosurgery and Spine Northwest, who treated Moore in the emergency room, and Cinda Allen, who lives on West Wilbur Avenue near the scene of the shooting.

Moore, 43, was on patrol alone that night when he stopped to check on a suspicious person about 1:20 a.m. Moore spoke with the man and ran his identification through police dispatch to check if he had outstanding warrants, then asked him to step over to his patrol car.

Moore’s body camera recorded what happened next, investigators say. “At that point Renfro is observed shooting Sgt. Moore,” Idaho State Police Senior Detective Michael Van Leuven said in an affidavit. “After being shot, Sgt. Moore falls to the ground, causing his body camera to point skyward. A short time later Renfro’s face comes back into frame. Renfro is seen using a flashlight while searching Sgt. Moore’s person.

“A few seconds later the voices of a man and a woman can be heard in the background. Renfro leaves the frame of the camera again. A car door can be heard shutting and a vehicle driving away.”

About 1:35 a.m. a police dispatcher repeatedly tries to reach Moore using the officer’s radio identification, K27. There’s no response.

Allen called 911 about 1:34 a.m. to report hearing a loud noise from the street outside her house. “She went outside and observed a patrol vehicle drive away from the area and saw someone laying in the street,” Van Leuven wrote.

Renfro stole Moore’s patrol car a few minutes after the shooting, Van Leuven said in an affidavit. The car’s dash-mounted camera system recorded Renfro’s flight to Post Falls, where the car sped past Post Falls Police Officer Christopher Thompson at 90 mph, twice the speed limit, on Seltice Way, the detective said.

Thompson turned on his lights and siren and gave chase, and Renfro accelerated to speeds exceeding 100 mph, the affidavit states.

Van Leuven interviewed Renfro after his arrest. According to his affidavit, Renfro told the investigator, “And then I was driving, uh, speeding more and more and more. I had the car governed out. There were lights behind me, so I drove up a side street, tried to take a right and stopped right there.”

The stolen police car was found abandoned at Pointe Parkway and Beck Road. Renfro told investigators he ditched the car “because he believed law enforcement was tracking it using an on-board GPS tracking system,” Van Leuven said in an affidavit.

Police using a K-9 unit found Renfro hiding under a semi-trailer near a Wal-Mart store. He had 9 mm bullets in his pocket, investigators said, and Moore’s service pistol was found near him. A second 9 mm pistol was found in a nearby field along with Moore’s flashlight and Renfro’s eyeglasses, the affidavit states.

During a police interview, Renfro also said he had used hydrocodone and methamphetamine the day before the shooting, court documents show.

Moore, the first Coeur d’Alene police officer killed in the line of duty, was married and had two children. Thousands attended his funeral May 9 at Lake City High, where he previously worked as a school resource officer. Police officers and first responders from all over the Northwest attended the service and provided an escort that stretched for miles to the cemetery.

Moore’s service is remembered in “K27” decals widely displayed on police and fire vehicles and civilian cars and trucks across North Idaho.