

Officials: Gunman took aim at police - Video - Times, The (Trenton, NJ) - April 10, 2018 - page A1

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princeton

A man armed with a BB gun who was killed by police inside a Panera Bread restaurant last month raised his gun and pointed it in the direction of the officers before he was fatally shot in the head and upper torso.

The state Attorney General's Office made the assertion in text edited over a copy of the surveillance video footage from inside the restaurant in Princeton.

The five-minute video shows a split screen of two different vantage points from inside the restaurant. One vantage point is from behind an officer, who is clad in black tactical gear and is pointing an M4 rifle at **Scott Mielentz**, who is seen holding a handgun at his waist. The other angle is a side view of Mielentz.

Mielentz, 56, was shot after he kept authorities at bay for five hours in the afternoon on March 21. Customers and employees were able to escape the building, and no one else was injured during the incident.

The shooting remains under investigation by the Attorney General's Office's Shooting Response Team. The office released the video footage, along with 911 calls and CAD reports, in response to requests under the state's Open Public

Records Act and common law.

The video released by the Attorney General's Office starts with a 911 call from a patron inside the restaurant, who tells a dispatcher that "There's a guy with a gun at Panera."

Police descended on the Nassau Street location, a block from Princeton University's Nassau Hall, around 10 a.m.

Police negotiators spent several hours trying without success to convince Mielentz to "surrender peacefully," according to a statement from the Attorney General's Office.

He was pronounced dead inside the restaurant shortly before 3 p.m.

The footage released by the attorney general doesn't have audio, so the negotiating tactics used by police cannot be heard.

The video shows Mielentz holding a black gun by his waist but pointing it at officers. Authorities

later determined the gun was a Crosman PFM BB gun.

Around the 3½-minute mark in the video, authorities say, Mielentz raises the gun and points it at the officers.

An officer crouched behind a trash basket can be seen firing his M4 rifle at Mielentz.

Several other officers, who are also decked out in tactical gear with protective shields, can be seen rushing over to Mielentz as he lay motionless on the ground.

Mielentz was a self-described “loner” who suffered from hallucinations, anxiety and depression after a stint in the U.S. Army, according to information found in public records.

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