



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2025-1227

Officer Involved Critical Incident – 4411 Montgomery Road,
Norwood, Ohio (Hamilton County) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Karita Thomas (W)
Date of Activity: 05/21/2025
Activity Location: Thomas, Karita – Home – 860 Glenwood Avenue Apt 24,
Cincinnati, OH 45229
Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On May 21, 2025, at 1231 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Lauren Frazier and Doug Eveslage interviewed Karita Thomas (Karita), regarding the in-custody death of Akeem Holtz (Akeem), which occurred on April 16, 2025. The interview took place outside of 860 Glenwood Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain additional information regarding Akeem's behavior and mental health history.

The following summary of the recorded interview highlights the key points that the author deemed most relevant, although it does not provide a verbatim account. Additionally, this report was placed in chronology to enhance the reader's understanding of the information elicited during the interview. However, it is important to note that this may not reflect the actual order of the questions posed. Therefore, it is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed.

Karita stated that Akeem was her boyfriend and that he had a "PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) moment" on the elevator. Karita said that she was not scared of Akeem but that she was worried about his mental state. Below is a summary of the timeline and events which were discussed:

April 12, 2023:

- This incident happened prior to Karita meeting Akeem. She explained that Akeem told her that he was involved in an automobile accident involving him being smashed between two semi-trucks, where he nearly died. She said that due to this experience, it created PTSD for Akeem.

August 7, 2024:

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- Karita said that Akeem had his first episode around her and he was not acting normal.
- She said that Akeem was at the school and then he started panicking and shaking. She said that he was on a new medicine and had a seizure.
- She said that Akeem went to UC Hospital, and she went with him in the ambulance.

December 2024:

- Karita said that Akeem was back on his medication and doing well. Karita said that she had to remind Akeem to take his medication and that sometimes he would take his medication with alcohol.

April 12, 2025 (Saturday):

- Akeem and Karita had several people over for karaoke. She said after that night, Akeem began acting weird.

April 13, 2025 (Sunday):

- Akeem was with Kayla Jackson aka "KJ" at the Rockdale Market.
- Karita described KJ as a female around 28 years old who lives nearby. She said KJ's phone number is [REDACTED].
- Karita said that Akeem gave KJ \$10 to buy drinks. KJ went into the store for Akeem, since he had his dogs with him. Akeem became upset because the store didn't give him the correct change back and he yelled at the attendant, saying he wanted his money.
- Karita said that KJ recorded this incident between the attendant and Akeem.
- Karita said that she has another video that Akeem recorded on her phone, where he was talking about this incident. She said that Akeem recorded it because he thought that someone was following him. She said that Akeem said if anything happens to him, that she should show someone this video.
- She said that she asked Akeem how long he had been off his medication and Akeem said that he didn't know how long.

At some point over the weekend, Karita said that KJ came over to her apartment and said that someone had been shot at KJ's apartment, located near Maple Street. Karita and Akeem became paranoid that something might happen to them.

April 14, 2025 (Monday):

- Akeem was walking around in the field next to Karita's apartment with all his puppies. She said that Akeem said that someone was following them.
- Karita took a video of Akeem, which was provided to investigators.
- Karita told Akeem that he needed to get some rest and go to sleep because he was not sleeping.

Some time that week, Karita and Akeem had gone to the doctor at Neighborhood Health. Karita said that after the elevator incident occurred, the doctor told her that Akeem was not

acting right at the last doctor appointment. Additionally, at some point, Akeem had mentioned that he did not want to be resuscitated if something happened to him.

April 15, 2025 (Tuesday):

- Karita and Akeem were up all night. They were switching clothes with each other. She said that they did this because if something was going to happen, she said it would happen to both of them.

April 16, 2025 (Wednesday):

- Police helped Akeem and Karita push his van out of the road because the tire was flat.
- The elevator incident occurred later at the school.

Karita said that Akeem had recently made a film about his homelessness. She said that due to his near-death experience in April of 2023, it caused Akeem to have a lot of PTSD. Karita said that Akeem was ready to go. In 2024, she said that Akeem would tell people he wasn't going to be here that long. She went on to say that Akeem had pictures of his mom, LLC paperwork, and his gaming station set up like he was ready to go (pass away). Karita said that Akeem has talked about suicide with his therapist. She said that he didn't specifically mention suicide but would talk about not being around for long.

Around the time of the elevator incident, Karita said that Akeem wanted them to have their cell phones off so that no one could follow them. She said that Akeem called his mom at one point and told her a little bit about what was going on. Karita said that she was in the classroom when he called her. Karita said that Akeem also kept a paper with license plates written down, of vehicles that he believed were following him.

SA Eveslage asked Karita about Akeem's gun. She said that Akeem got the gun in Atlanta and said it was registered to him. She said that Akeem carried the gun when he was normal and not for any specific reason. Karita said that Akeem had some difficulty walking up all the stairs to her apartment.

All videos received have been uploaded in Axon/Evidence.com (see references). The interview concluded at 1328 hours. The interview was audio recorded and is attached to this report (attachment #01).

References:

Axon Justice: Videos taken by Karita Thomas

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-05-21 Karita Thomas Audio Interview