



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 Officer  
**Involves:** [REDACTED]  
**Date of Activity:** 04/28/2025  
**Activity Location:** Norwood Police Department – Business – 4701 Montgomery Road,  
Cincinnati, OH 45212  
**Author:** SA Douglas Eveslage, #66

On Monday, April 28, 2025, at approximately 1547 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Doug Eveslage and Richard Ward interviewed Norwood Police Department [REDACTED] in the presence of Attorney Scott Rubenstein. The interview took place at the Norwood Police Department Training Center, located at 2600 Park Avenue, Norwood, Ohio 45212. The interview was audio and video recorded.

[REDACTED] was identified as being a police officer who witnessed and/or had some level of involvement in the April 16, 2025 officer-involved critical incident, which occurred in the area of 4411 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information about the incident known or observed by this officer.

[REDACTED] was read the BCI Criminal Investigation Notification form, which he signed and stated that he understood (Attachment #01).

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 a 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.

Preliminary and Demographic Information Worksheet:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]
Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate [REDACTED]
Radio Channel Utilized: LE East	Mobile Data Terminal: Yes
Cruiser Description: Norwood marked	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating

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	Positions: Driver
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: Yes
In-Car Camera: No	Spotlight: Yes
Emergency Lights: Yes	Siren: Yes
Shift Day of Incident [REDACTED]	Duty Status: [REDACTED]
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: No
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: 7 hrs	Consider Self Well Rested: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): No	Corrective Lenses: No
Uniform Worn: NPD, exterior vest	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: OC, Baton
Ballistic Vest: Yes	Body Worn Camera: Yes
Other Recording Devices: No	Partner: No
Injuries: No	Equipment Damage: Right Boot
Training or Areas of Specialty: No	OPOTC Certification: [REDACTED]
Military Experience/Training: No	Use-of-Force Training: Def. Tactics
Prior Shooting Incidents: No	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: No
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: No	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: No
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours: No	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: One week prior

Officer's Firearm(s):

Weapon #1

Make: Glock	Model: G17
Caliber/Gauge: N/A	Serial: N/A
Type: N/A	Method of Carry: N/A
Magazine Capacity: N/A	Total Rounds as Carried (including chamber): N/A
Extra Magazines: N/A	Number of Rounds in Extra Magazines: N/A
Discharged During Incident: N/A	Primary or Backup Weapon: Primary
Rounds Remaining After Incident: N/A	Number of Rounds Fired: N/A
Right/Left-Handed Carry: N/A	Ownership: N/A
Last Qualification Date: N/A	Type of Holster, if any: N/A

Narrative:

On April 16, 2025, [REDACTED] responded to a call for service behind the

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Speedway on Montgomery Road for a suspicious person and loose dog complaint. When he arrived on scene with at least two other officers, he noticed a white dog with a harness on walking around. [REDACTED] thought the dispatcher told them that this loose dog was aggressive, and as he approached the dog, it growled at him so he left it alone. [REDACTED] went to the area of the Ohio Media School and noticed a red van parked partially on the sidewalk and in an area it should not have been parked.

[REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] was talking with an employee from the Ohio Media School and reported the issue of a student, identified as Akeem Holtz (Holtz), letting his dogs run around the building unattended, and the dogs were "defecating everywhere." During this conversation, [REDACTED] heard "pounding on a window", looked up, and saw a Black male "pounding on the window." [REDACTED] went back and talked to the other officers on scene who had checked the registration of the red van and showed [REDACTED] a picture of the registered owner, Holtz. [REDACTED] thought that the registered owner "might be" the same person as the male in the window he saw moments ago.

[REDACTED] and other officers went inside the business and as they proceeded up the stairs they noticed dog feces and urine in multiple locations. [REDACTED] spoke with two other employees from the Ohio Media School on the second floor who explained that Holtz and his girlfriend, Karita Thomas (Thomas), had several mental health issues and that they were being "disruptive" and causing problems. [REDACTED] and other officers located Holtz and Thomas in the elevator on the second floor with another "large adult dog and a number of puppies."

Initially, [REDACTED] took the lead while dealing with Holtz and Thomas, attempting to get them out of the elevator. At one point, Holtz "deployed an umbrella" and the officers took it away from Holtz and out of the elevator. [REDACTED] said he stepped in as [REDACTED] and other officers were discussing a plan to deescalate the situation safely because they were concerned about two adults not cooperating, and a trained "guard dog" all being in a close space inside the elevator. [REDACTED] remembers hearing an officer inform everyone that Holtz potentially had a firearm because they saw an empty holster on his person.

[REDACTED] explained that they were talking to Holtz for a while because they were trying to avoid getting into a confrontation in the elevator, and he warned Thomas that the officers might have to deploy "OC spray due to the circumstances." [REDACTED] described Holtz "wailing" and also "hitting the emergency alarm" on the elevator while trying to get the door to close. [REDACTED] placed his foot in front of the elevator door to make sure to keep the door open, and Holtz had a "butane torch" which he ignited the flame and put the flame onto the front of [REDACTED] right boot. This is when [REDACTED] deployed his pepper spray against Holtz because he was burning his boot. [REDACTED] said the pepper spray did have an effect on him because he stopped burning his boot and moved out of the elevator briefly, but quickly returned to burning [REDACTED] boot.

[REDACTED] stated that he deployed his OC spray for a second time, and [REDACTED] attempted to go hands on with Holtz. "At some point, I think [REDACTED] also deployed his OC spray," said [REDACTED]. The dog appeared to be getting agitated so [REDACTED] deployed the OC spray on the large dog in the elevator to hopefully "take the fight out of him." As [REDACTED] dragged Holtz into the hallway, [REDACTED] stepped into the elevator because



Thomas was trying to get involved with the physical confrontation. [REDACTED] said that he grabbed the dog, put it back in the elevator, and then was able to move Thomas into the hallway.

[REDACTED] recalls an officer saying, "Get off my gun, or he's grabbing my gun, or something along those lines and I also remember them saying he bit me," but does not remember the exact order of events. [REDACTED] was still dealing with Thomas, who was refusing to listen, so he placed her on her stomach and handcuffed her. [REDACTED] was worried about the dog in the hallway, so he tried to take Thomas down the elevator, but he realized they were too close to the "struggle" and the elevator was "heavy in OC." He was able to get Thomas out of the hallway and into the parking lot. [REDACTED] met Officer Town in the parking lot and advised Ofc. Town that Thomas needed to see the medics.

SA Eveslage asked [REDACTED] to explain his statements about an officer being bitten and Holtz grabbing an officer's firearm, but [REDACTED] said he only heard those statement and did not witness those happening because the physical confrontation with Holtz was occurring behind him. [REDACTED] said that he did not see "the type of force that was used" by officers or if Holtz did or did not grab an officer's gun.

[REDACTED] recalls a lot of additional officers responding and eventually he returned to the hallway where the physical confrontation occurred and requested that an officer secured "the burner" Holtz used on [REDACTED] because the situation escalated from a mental health crisis to an assault on a police officer.

SA Eveslage asked [REDACTED] if he saw any interactions with Holtz and the paramedics, but [REDACTED] did not see that. SA Eveslage asked if he remembers the condition that Holtz was in when the paramedics were treating him, but [REDACTED] said was not a part of that and did not remember. [REDACTED] explained that his last interaction with Holtz was when he assisted [REDACTED] with dragging Holtz out of the elevator, and after that he was focused on Thomas.

This interview was concluded at approximately 1607 hours. This interview was video/audio recorded. See recording for further details (Reference #01).

#### References:

Axon BWC videos

#### Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-04-28 [REDACTED] BCI notification

2025-1287

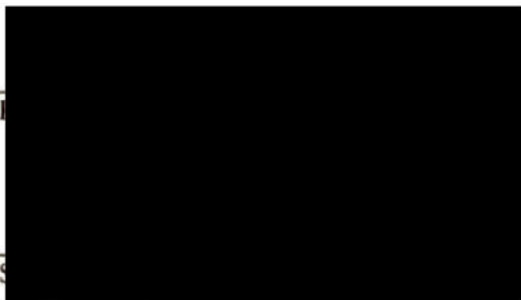


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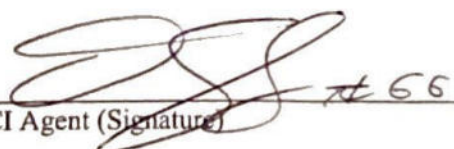
**Criminal Investigation Notification**

1. This investigation is being conducted in order to determine whether any criminal laws have been violated on the part of those involved in this incident. Specifically, to collect facts and information to be provided to the prosecutor and/or grand jury in order for them to determine whether the conduct involved is authorized or prohibited by criminal statutes.
2. Your participation in this interview is voluntary and you may decline to answer or cease the interview at any time. You are entitled to have an attorney present if you wish.
3. The criminal investigation is separate from any internal, administrative investigation which your employer may or may not be independently conducting. You are not being compelled to give any statement or answer any questions. This is not a "Garrity" interview (where you could be required to answer).



4/28/25 1549  
Date / Time

  
BCI Agent (Printed)

  
BCI Agent (Signature)