



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 1305 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Doug Eveslage and Richard Ward interviewed Norwood Police Department [REDACTED]. The interview took place at the Norwood Police Department Training Center, located at 2600 Park Avenue, Norwood, Ohio 45212. [REDACTED] had Attorney Scott Rubenstein and Attorney Robert Merkle present during his interview.

[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. The interview was audio and video recorded.

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

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 Supervisor: Chief
Radio Channel Utilized: Ham Co East	Mobile Data Terminal: Yes
Cruiser Description: [REDACTED]	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: Driver's seat
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: No	Spotlight: Yes
Emergency Lights: Yes	Siren: Yes
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: Active
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: Tues Evening
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 short sleeves, duty belt	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: OC
Ballistic Vest: Yes	Body Worn Camera: Yes
Other Recording Devices: No	Partner: No
Injuries: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	Equipment Damage: BWC knocked off, OC knocked away
Training or Areas of Specialty: 2017 DT Instructor	OPOTC Certification: [REDACTED]
Military Experience/Training: No	Use-of-Force Training: 7 hr with new hire
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: No

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:

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	N/A
Discharged During Incident: N/A	Primary or Backup Weapon: N/A
Rounds Remaining After Incident: N/A	Number of Rounds Fired: N/A
Right/Left-Handed Carry: Right	Ownership: N/A
Last Qualification Date: N/A	Type of Holster, if any: Safariland 6360RDS-832 Glock 17/22 IT M3 Light 14 21 made in Mexico

### Narrative:

On April 16, 2025, [REDACTED] said that he heard Norwood officers being dispatched to Speedway, so he responded because he was in the area. As he responded more officers were dispatched to 4411 Montgomery Road, which is close to Speedway. When he arrived, there were numerous officers present, and Officer Phipps was supposed to finish his [REDACTED] day at [REDACTED] hours, so [REDACTED] told Officer Phipps to secure for the day. He remembers a white dog on a leash that was "kind of aggressive" and barking at the officers, and also a van that was backed up into the bushes at the business with the tailgate open. [REDACTED] ran the license plate on the van and he said it was registered to Akeem Holtz with a Springfield, Ohio address.

He explained that [REDACTED] went inside 4411 Montgomery Road and saw "dog feces and puppies everywhere." [REDACTED] said that as they were figuring out what was going on at that location, another call for service was dispatched for an "erratic man" in the area, [REDACTED] was shown a picture of Akeem Holtz and [REDACTED] thought that could be the man he saw. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went inside and spoke to two people involved with the Ohio Media School and learned that they were familiar with Akeem Holtz and he was having a psychological issue. The people from the Ohio Media School told the officers where Akeem Holtz was located currently and how to get up to his location.

[REDACTED] said that as they were in the stairwell looking for Akeem Holtz (Holtz), he could hear singing and thought that the person singing was going to be Holtz. When the officers located Holtz, he was in the elevator laying down with an umbrella open, several dogs, and an adult female, who was identified as Karita Thomas. [REDACTED] explained how they tried talking to Holtz, but he was not very responsive with them through conversation. Officers also attempted to talk to Karita Thomas (Thomas), but she was not helping either and was refusing to get out of the elevator and also going through "some sort of psych incident herself." Officers asked for the MCT (Mobile Crisis Team) to respond to their location.

[REDACTED] stated that he was holding the elevator door open and he felt "exposed" so he asked his officers to "be ready...just in case the dog came out or something." He said that Holtz would open the umbrella and completely block their view of both individuals, which made him very uncomfortable, so he grabbed the umbrella and tossed it into the hallway. [REDACTED] switched positions with [REDACTED] so he could talk to the Ohio Media School employees about Thomas. The Ohio Media School employees told [REDACTED] that Thomas was also a student at the school and that she also seemed to be going through a psych episode and that Thomas told them that the churches on the next street over were trying to kill them.

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██████████ went back inside and tried to assist with deescalating the situation and get Holtz and Thomas help with their mental health. He said that they were trying to get Holtz and Thomas outside because there were a lot of different "obstacles" to deal with, the elevator, the umbrella, an aggressive dog, several puppies, a female having issues and a male clearly having something going on also. Officers continued to try and deescalate the situation with no success. Thomas told officers that "King," the larger dog in the elevator was Holtz's "guard dog" and that he would attack the officers. ██████████ remembers one of the officers asking if he had seen a gun in the elevator because ██████████ noticed an empty, inside the waistband, holster on Holtz's person. ██████████ said they were still trying to get Thomas to "help me help him" and that the paramedics were on-scene outside to make sure that Holtz and Thomas get home safely.

██████████ said that at one point Holtz started having conversations with officers when they mentioned having to tow Holtz's red van parked in the bushes, and said Holtz would meet them outside. Holtz would push the emergency button on the elevator so the alarm would go off, and also constantly scream. ██████████ explained that he wanted Holtz and Thomas to go downstairs with them and they could not let the elevator door close because he thought the next time the elevator door came open Holtz or Thomas could have had a firearm in their hand. Holtz wanted the door closed, but officers were not going to let that happen, so Holtz responded by using a "blowtorch" butane lighter on ██████████ holding the elevator door open.

██████████ thought that Holtz was going to burn ██████████ hand, as he could see the "blue flame" coming from the end of the lighter, he was not sure if ██████████ hand was burned but Holtz moved the flame and started burning ██████████ boot. When this started, ██████████ used his "pepper spray" on Holtz. ██████████ attempted to grab Holtz but Thomas laid on top of Holtz, so he went to grab Thomas but stopped because of the larger dog named "King" in the elevator with Holtz and Thomas. Holtz still had the flame out on the blowtorch, so ██████████ pepper sprayed him in the face. He said his primary focus was to make sure he did not get burnt by the flame and when he grabbed it, it seemed to have broken in his hand but the flame was still burning. ██████████ said that he continued to fight with Holtz over the lighter, but eventually Holtz dropped it.

██████████ explained that he dragged Holtz out of the elevator by his feet, Holtz was laying on his stomach, and ██████████ was in the "mount" position on top of Holtz's hips and sitting on his buttocks. He was trying to control Holtz's left arm and ██████████ was up near the right shoulder trying to control Holtz's right arm. ██████████ said that "dispatch" knew they were having trouble with a subject, so dispatch kept asking for an updated status, and when he "keyed up" to tell them they were fighting, he lost control of Holtz's arm and was "bucked" off by Holtz. ██████████ continued to struggle over Holtz's left arm and remembers ██████████ stating that Holtz was "going for your gun." ██████████ described feeling his gun being pulled up and holster moving as it was being pulled up.

██████████ struck Holtz a couple times as Holtz was attempting to gain access to ██████████ handgun. ██████████ said that he may have struck Holtz in the right shoulder or side of his face to try and break the grip Holtz had on his firearm, but he "can't

really remember." [REDACTED] describes "planting" his right hand near Holtz's face, Holtz grabbed his right arm, brought it in front of Holtz's face and started biting [REDACTED] forearm. He announced that Holtz was biting him, so [REDACTED] hit Holtz three or four times in the face to get Holtz to release his bite on [REDACTED] forearm.

After that, officers attempted to control Holtz's head more and [REDACTED] remembers telling Holtz to stop trying to bite officers. He described Holtz "posting out" his left arm so he struck him in the left shoulder area, attempting to regain control of Holtz left arm, but said that Holtz was stronger than him and it was difficult. [REDACTED] describes being out of breath and that the "OC spray" was starting to really effect him and other officers. Officers were eventually able to get a handcuff on Holtz's right hand, but Holtz had his left hand underneath him, so [REDACTED] was fighting to try and get his left hand out from underneath of Holtz's body.

[REDACTED] describes finally getting Holtz's left arm behind his back but was struggling to get the teeth on the handcuff to "click" and secure. He said that he was panicking over the wound on his right forearm and did not realize that Holtz was secured with four linked pairs of handcuffs. Once Holtz was handcuffed, [REDACTED] walked down to the paramedics to have his wound treated. He heard over the radio that officers were still fighting with Holtz, so he went back upstairs and realized that his body worn camera was knocked off.

When [REDACTED] arrived back at the second floor hallway, he said three or four officers were still struggling with Holtz but the officers seemed to have control, so he told dispatch that no more police units were needed. SA Eveslage asked [REDACTED] to explain where each officer was and how they were positioned holding Holtz. He said [REDACTED] was around the top right portion of Holtz's body, [REDACTED] had Holt's "feet area" and [REDACTED] was on the left side of Holtz. While he was up there, he saw his body worn camera and OC spray laying on the floor, so he picked them up and left the scene. Detective Matt Murphy drove [REDACTED] to the hospital to have his injuries treated.

SA Eveslage asked [REDACTED] to explain the position Holtz was in as he was secured with four pairs of handcuffs. [REDACTED] said that Holtz was on his "belly," and he moved off of Holtz and had his left knee "locked into" Holtz elbow to keep Holtz from continuing to move his left arm. He noticed that as he was pulling Holtz's left arm, Holtz was holding onto his clothing and that is how [REDACTED] believes his finger was injured. SA Eveslage asked [REDACTED] to describe where his weight was throughout the physical confrontation, and he said he stayed in the rear mount position throughout the struggle but at one point he was "holding down his left shoulder, then holding down his left arm, and then holding down his head to keep him from biting." [REDACTED] described his weight distribution changing as the confrontation continued but he maintained the rear mount position.

SA Eveslage asked [REDACTED] to describe the handcuffing process during the confrontation, and [REDACTED] said at some point his handcuffs "went flying." Another officer produced handcuffs and also handcuffed Holtz's wrists, but he was just focused on trying to connect one pair of handcuffs to another but needed someone to steady his hands to get the teeth to connect. [REDACTED] said that if he knew that there were four pairs of handcuffs on Holtz, "he might as well not even been cuffed because there is so much slack, he

wasn't that big of a guy that required four but in the moment everyone was just cuffing cuffs because of a lot of confusion going on."

SA Eveslage asked [REDACTED] to explain if officers were still controlling Holtz due to the four pairs of handcuffs, but he said that he did not know that there were four pairs of handcuffs on Holtz "until way after the fact," but he saw officers removed two pairs of handcuffs so Holtz was secured with only two pairs, "which is pretty standard for a bigger guy." [REDACTED] explained that Holtz still had "an incredible amount of mobility" with four pairs of handcuffs and was able to fight almost as if he did not have handcuffs on.

SA Eveslage mentioned the MCT (Mobile Crisis Team) responding with a 38 minute estimated time of arrival, and asked [REDACTED] who made the decision to not wait any longer. He said Holtz made the decision due to his "aggressive act" with using the blowtorch on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] explains that he has tried to be prepared, throughout his career, for different situations that he may encounter but never imagined a situation like this critical incident: two people going through psychiatric or drug related episodes, in a confined space like the elevator, with numerous puppies, an aggressive dog and now the police have to figure a way to get them safely out.

[REDACTED] described the situation as a "logistical nightmare" describing if the elevator door closes and they go downstairs, then when the door opens Holtz has a firearm; how should we handle that? [REDACTED] discussed multiple scenarios that officers would have to deal with given all the factors they were evaluating during this incident. SA Ward asked [REDACTED] is he thought Holtz was a threat to the safety of the public, and [REDACTED] said Holtz was a threat to the officers on scene and anyone in the area. SA Ward asked if [REDACTED] thought the situation was safe enough for the MCT to start talking to Holtz and Thomas if they were on scene, and he said no, the officers would have had to deescalate the situation further before MCT were involved and he would have not allowed the MCT to stand in the hallway with the elevator door open to try and help because the situation had too many potential threats to their safety.

SA Ward asked [REDACTED] if he saw any actions during the incident or while he was reviewing body worn camera footage of the incident that violated Norwood Police Department's use of force policy, and [REDACTED] stated, "No." SA Ward asked if he thought there was any other option to deal with Holtz and Thomas, other than what they did on April 16, and [REDACTED] stated, "No." [REDACTED] explained that he was given a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and he was advised that Holtz's blood was tested for disease which the results were negative.

This interview was concluded at approximately 1356 hours. See audio/video recording for further details (Reference #01).

#### References:

Axon BWC videos

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**Attachments:**

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

2025-1227

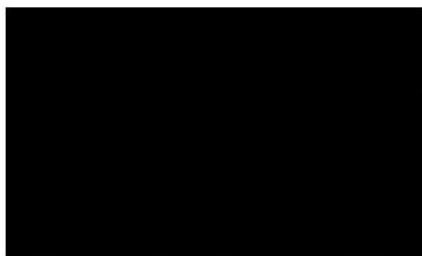


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Criminal Investigation Notification

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).



Signature of Interviewee

4/28/2025 1:06 PM  
Date / Time

S/R. W. W. W.  
BCI Agent (Printed)

[Signature]  
BCI Agent (Signature)