



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



2024-2614

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1309 Yellowstone Road,
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121

Investigative Activity: Median, News Reports and Facebook Posts Review
Involves: Christian Alexander Tyson Thomas (S)
Activity Date: 10/02/2024
Activity Location: BCI-Richfield
Authoring Agent: SA Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) reviewed various news media coverage of the officer-involved shooting involving Christian Alexander Tyson Thomas and the Cleveland Heights Police Department. The officer involved shooting garnered significant media attention and for that reason not all news coverage could reasonably be saved and reviewed.

News Articles and Videos

The following news articles were obtained and reviewed:

- 3 Cleveland Heights officers shot, killed 18-year-old after domestic dispute_ Police - Channel 19 News
- Cleveland Heights mayor, family of teen killed by police hold separate press conferences Channel 19 news 09-10-24
- Cleveland Heights police shooting - fox8 news
- Family of teen shot and killed by Cleveland Heights police addresses media - Fox 8 News Article 09-10-24
- Family of teen shot by Cleveland Heights police speaks out - wkyc.com Channel 3 News 09-11-24
- New details about police shooting of 18-year-old man in Cleveland Heights - Channel 5 news
- Teen fatally shot by Cleveland Heights police; BCI to review - wkyc.com

The articles did not reveal or mention any previously unknown witnesses.

A total of 11 news videos were also obtained.

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Facebook Posts

A total of 10 Facebook posts were also obtained by investigators. The posts did not reveal any previously unknown witnesses.

- Catrina Ellis FB Post
- Cleveland Remembrance Page 09-03-24 Screenshots
- FB screenshot of info about incident
- Jennifer Woda FB Post
- Jennifer Woda's FB Post about gofundme
- Jennifer Woda's FB Post about Press Conference
- Mariko Harper FB Post
- Peter Billington FB Post
- William Brian Thornton FB post about gofundme
- William Brian Thornton FB Post

Jennifer Woda (Woda), a witness who was previously interviewed by investigators, made the following Facebook post:

Jennifer's Post ✕

Jennifer R. Woda is with William Brian Thornton. ...

September 2 at 12:57 PM · 🌐

Go Fund Me Link:
<https://gofund.me/c23b1c82>

TW: Police violence, gun violence

On Thursday evening, August 29th, our next door neighbors called the police for assistance. Less than 20 minutes later, the Cleveland Heights Police had shot and killed Christian Thomas, aged 18. He was shot as he ran in front of our house, and he died in our driveway.

Christian was a typical goofy teenager. My strongest memories of him are of him walking his chunky bulldog, Cassius, Christian often without a shirt on and jeans low slung, causing him to walk like a cowboy who just got off of his horse.

He teased his sister for overdoing it at the gym and puking in her front yard. He teased my daughter like a big brother, as she has spent countless nights over at their house. He was beloved by all of his family, including his parents, his big brother Ferrell, his sister Genny, his sister Jackie, and his grandmother Mary, who is also a friend of mine. There are so many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who have been visiting next door to support the family, we feel lucky to have been able to connect with them and hopefully support them in this difficult time.

Everyone in our home and our next door neighbor's home is traumatized, and trying to make sense of what happened. Myself, Maya and Maddi were in the house when the police opened fire on Christian. Brian was on tour with the orchestra, but they let him come home to be with us.

The Thomas family are more than neighbors to our family; we consider them extended family. We truly love them and are struggling mightily with what has happened to Christian, this typical teenager, born and raised in Cleveland Heights by a typical Cleveland Heights Family.

We have had a Black Lives Matter sign in our front yard for years. I never thought a young Black life would be taken less than 10 feet away.

I'm hoping to organize a Go Fund Me for the family to help with funeral expenses, and I'll be sure to post it when I can.

In the meantime, I have a request: Please be sure your words are kind, true and supportive when you speak about this incident, the Thomas family and Christian. Do not speculate if you didn't know him well, do not try to deduce what may have happened that night, and take what you read and hear in the media with a grain of salt. This family is in so much pain and they need your thoughts, your prayers and your support.

Thank you so much.
Jen and Brian

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GoFundMe

Woda also organized a GoFundMe page.

Support the Thomas Family



Jennifer Woda is organizing this fundraiser on behalf of Ferrel Thomas.

Donation protected

Support the Thomas Family

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\$20,005 raised of \$25,000 goal

219 donations

Share

Donate now



Debbie Bates

\$20 · [Recent donation](#)



Anonymous

\$4,500 · [Top donation](#)



William Brian Thornton

\$500 · [First donation](#)

See all

See top

All of the obtained news articles, news videos, Facebook Posts and GoFundMe information were placed onto a USB thumb drive; the thumb drive was placed into the item section of the physical case file, labeled as Item P.

References:

Reference Item P-News Articles, News Videos, Facebook Post and GoFundMe information

Attachments:

None

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