



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



2025-1227

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 4411 Montgomery Road,
Norwood, Ohio (L)

Investigative Activity: Scene Processing
Involves: Norwood Police Department
Activity Date: 04/16/2025
Activity Location: 4411 Montgomery Road, Norwood Ohio 45212 (Scene #1)
Hamilton County Coroner's Office, 4477 Carver Woods Drive, Blue Ash, Ohio 45242 (Scene #3)
Authoring Agent: Crime Scene Technician Holly Ryczek #205

Scene #1: 4411 Montgomery Road

On Wednesday, April 16th, 2025, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by the Norwood Police Department (NPD) to investigate an officer involved critical incident. Reportedly, NPD patrol officers were dispatched to a suspicious persons call involving Akeem Holtz (Holtz) and Karita Thomas. Once officers arrived, Holtz was allegedly non-compliant and got into a physical fight with [REDACTED]. BCI was advised that Holtz reached for the officer's firearm, and therefore physical force and OC spray were utilized before Holtz was secured in handcuffs. Holtz was taken into custody, however, he was then transported to University of Cincinnati hospital due to [REDACTED] and was later pronounced deceased. Crime Scene Technician (CST) Holly Ryczek was assigned to the request for assistance.

CST Ryczek arrived on scene at approximately 1340 hours. Upon her arrival, she met with BCI Special Agent (SA) Kenny Smith. He advised the incident occurred inside the elevator of 4411 Montgomery Road, which belonged to a multi-use office building that also housed the Ohio Media School, where the subjects were enrolled. He advised there was a vehicle outside of the building that belonged to the involved subjects, and numerous items related to the incident were scattered throughout the building. The scene was documented through photography.

The building was described as a three-story multi-use office building with a three-story parking garage. An entrance door was located on the north side of the back of the building. A vehicle was observed on the sidewalk leading up to this doorway. The vehicle was a red Dodge Grand Caravan with Ohio license plate KLK 3414 and VIN 2C4RDGCG7CR213762. A shopping cart containing a container of dog food was located outside the building, to the east of the vehicle. Immediately outside of the door of the building, a black croc shoe was located. Directly after entering the building in

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the first-floor hallway, a pair of green Nike brand shoes with the name "Holtz" were located. On the carpet of the first floor hallway, suspected dog feces was observed.



Image 1. Red Dodge Grand Caravan OH/ KLK 3414

On the west side of the first-floor hallway, a doorway provided access to a stairwell. At the base of the stairwell, suspected dog feces were observed. On the first landing, suspected vomit was present. Further up, on the second-floor hallway within the stairwell, additional dog feces were found. On the stairs leading to the third floor, a pair of green socks was observed. At the top of the stairwell on the third floor, an Ohio Identification Card bearing the name "Akeem Holtz" was located.

The second floor of the building included a small elevator waiting area and an elevator. In the waiting area, various coins were scattered on the floor, and visible damage was observed on the south wall. The elevator was emergency-stopped on this level with its doors remaining open.

On the west wall of the first-floor stairwell, a door led into the parking garage. Immediately upon entering the garage, scattered dog food was observed on the floor.

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At the south end of the garage, near a green transformer box, additional dog feces and a yellow purse were observed.

While on scene, NPD advised they had collected a wooden baton from the scene prior to CST Ryczek's arrival which was in the back of a cruiser. The baton was observed to be an 18-inch wooden tire thumper and collected as Item #1.

No additional items of evidentiary value were located inside the building. CST Ryczek prepared a printed inventory for the building (Scene #1). CST Ryczek cleared from the scene at approximately 1525 hours and went to the Norwood Police Department to document the involved officers (See *Processing of Involved Officers* report).

Scene #3: Property from Autopsy

On April 17th, 2025, CST Ryczek attended Akeem Holtz's autopsy at the Hamilton County Coroner's Office at approximately 0900 hours. She collected the evidence obtained during the autopsy at approximately 1150 hours. CST Ryczek processed the items at BCI Headquarters at approximately 1315 hours. These items included:

- Facial hair
- Right nail clippings
- Left nail clippings
- Nail clippers
- 1 Jacket
- 1 pair of pants
- 1 pair of underwear
- Blood card
- Buccal swabs

The clothing items were collected as Item #1. The blood card and buccal swabs were collected as Item #2. All other items of evidence were collected together as Item #3.

While at BCI Headquarters, CST Ryczek documented Holtz's clothing items (Item #1) that were recovered during autopsy through photography. These items included a red Polo Ralph Lauren zip-up jacket, a pair of marijuana-themed boxer briefs, and a pair of grey Lacoste sport sweatpants which had a hole in the back. All clothing items appeared to have been cut by medics.

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Disposition of Evidence

On April 17th, 2025, the following items were submitted to the BCI laboratory at approximately 1417 hours:

Scene #2 (Norwood Police Department): Item #1 (Swab of touch DNA)

Scene #3 (Autopsy): Item #2 (Blood card and buccal swabs)

The following items were submitted to Cyber Locker #1 at approximately 1440 hours:

Scene #2 (Norwood Police Department): Item #2 (iPhone with a red case) and Item #3 (iPhone with a translucent case)

All remaining items were placed into temporary evidence locker #1 to be submitted into the major crimes evidence vault at approximately 1440 hours.

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