



**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: 04/16/2025

Activity Location: University of Cincinnati Hospital – 3188 Bellevue Avenue,
Cincinnati, OH 45219

Author: SA Lauren Frazier, #129

Narrative:

On April 16, 2025, at 1555 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent Lauren Frazier interviewed Karita Thomas (Karita), regarding the in-custody death which took place on April 16, 2025. The interview took place at the University of Cincinnati Hospital (UC Hospital), located at 3188 Bellevue Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain all relevant information of the incident known or observed by this individual.

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.

Karita was located in room D40 at UC Hospital. She said that she is originally from Michigan, but has lived in Ohio for the past two years. Karita goes to Ohio Media School for filming in Norwood and has been there for approximately two years. She said that school hours are usually from 0930 to 1330 hours. Karita said that she has an apartment, located at 860 Glenwood Avenue Apt 24, Cincinnati, Ohio, where she has lived for nearly a year.

Karita said that she met Akeem at Ohio Media School approximately one year ago. She said that Akeem used to live in his van and would park at the school. Karita started letting him stay with her and he would park outside of her apartment complex in the parking lot. She said that her and Akeem were more than friends and that he was her boyfriend.

Karita explained that Akeem has mental health issues, to include PTSD, manic depression disorder, and high blood pressure. She said that she has gone to the doctor with Akeem and

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said that he sees a female doctor, but could not recall the doctor's name. Karita said that Akeem went to Neighborhood Health, located in downtown Cincinnati on E McMicken Ave. She said that Akeem was on several medications and that he had taken all of his medication today.

Karita said that her and Akeem stayed up all night, from April 15th to April 16th, because they believed people were chasing them. She said that they were trying to stay away from her apartment because they believed people were trying to get into the apartment. Karita said that they were trying to protect each other because they believed that people were out to kill them and were stalking them.

Over the past weekend, Karita said that her associate Kayla Johnson aka KJ, came over to her apartment and said that a man was shot in the face at a nearby apartment complex. Karita said that she began feeling unsafe because she was unsure who KJ was involved with. She believed people may have followed KJ and then began following her and Akeem. To note, SA Frazier asked what she meant by associate and stated that those are her friends.

Karita said that they drove around all night. She said that they were in Akeem's vehicle, a 2012 red Dodge Caravan. Karita told Akeem that they needed to read the bible to keep away evil. At some point during the night, her and Akeem went to the school. She said that it was still dark out, maybe around midnight. The school was locked, so they sat in the vehicle, in the parking garage.

Karita described that people kept following them. She said that there were different cars and people stalking them. She said that they were telling their associates, that people were watching them. Karita and Akeem walked to Kroger, across the street from the school, around 0600-0750 hours. She said that they bought some mango and fruit.

School started at 0930 hours, and Karita and Akeem went in to the school. Karita said that she tried to tell the school director, Ms. Jay, that people were chasing them. She said that they brought the fruit and took it to the school, to see who would eat the fruit or not. Karita believed that the person following them could have been from the school. She said that she went to class and began getting her equipment. At some point, Karita and Akeem switched clothes with each other several times, while at the car and later at school.

Around 1030-1100 hours, Karita and Akeem (with their dogs) were at the school and were going up and down on the elevator for approximately 20 to 30 minutes. At the elevator, she said they saw a strange man in a construction outfit and other people following them in the school. At one point, the police arrived and the construction guy allegedly came towards Akeem. She said that the police were telling them to get off the elevator.

Several officers used pepper spray on Karita and Akeem, while they were on the elevator. The police told them to get off the elevator, but Karita told them, that they didn't feel safe. She said that she told the police to stop and tried telling them that Akeem was disabled and has mental health issues. Karita said that Akeem pushed the emergency elevator button and an officer put his foot inside the elevator to prevent it from moving. Karita said that she blocked the officers and got in front of Akeem to protect him. She said that Akeem started screaming "no", was having a PTSD episode, and began singing music.

She said that approximately 3–4 officers were on scene at this time. Karita said that just outside of the elevator, she was placed in handcuffs on the ground. She said that she saw officers take Akeem aggressively to the ground. She said that the officers said that Akeem was resisting and multiple officers were struggling with him. Karita said the Akeem was trying to save their lives. Eventually Akeem was placed in handcuffs and then taken to medics on scene, who gave him medicine to calm down. Karita said that Akeem was still screaming, which he usually does. After that, Karita was placed in the back of a police cruiser and did not have any additional contact with Akeem.

Karita said that she has been diagnosed with [REDACTED] [REDACTED], since she was 21 years old. She said that while she was handcuffed in the back of the cruiser, she got hot and had [REDACTED]. At some point, Karita was uncuffed and transported via ambulance to UC Hospital.

Karita believes that there are several people who are involved in the stalking and following of herself and Akeem. She said that an old associate, Kelly Harold (male), is who Akeem used to live with. Karita believes that Harold and Kayla Jackson were following her and Akeem.

The interview concluded at 1644 hours. The interview was audio recorded and is attached to this report (attachment #01).

References:

No references.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-04-16 Karita Thomas Audio Interview

Exhibit 1

Included as a separate file.