



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: Case Closing
Involves: Norwood Police Department (O)
Date of Activity: 06/11/2025
Activity Location: Ohio BCI – 1560 State Route 56, London, OH 43140
Author: SA Douglas Eveslage, #66

To: Hamilton County Prosecuting Attorney Connie Pillich

CC: BCI Special Agent Supervisor Kevin Barbeau

From: BCI Special Agent Doug Eveslage

Date: July 8, 2025

Case Title: Officer-Involved Critical Incident – 4411 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, Ohio
(Hamilton County)

Case Number: 2025-1227

Investigative Request:

On Wednesday, April 16, 2025, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) was requested by the City of Norwood Police Department (NPD) to conduct an independent investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding an Officer Involved Critical Incident that occurred in the area of 4411 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, City of Norwood, Hamilton County, Ohio, involving Akeem Holtz (Holtz) and the Norwood Police Department.

Preface:

This report serves as a synopsis of the investigation into the April 16, 2025, officer-involved critical incident in the City of Norwood, Hamilton County, Ohio. This report only summarizes the information that the investigative team determined to be the most useful in achieving an overall understanding of what occurred in this incident. Not all facts and details are presented in this summary report. Therefore, it is recommended that each individual report from which this document is derived be read in order to obtain a complete understanding of this investigation. Further, audio and/or video recordings exist for the majority of the interviews

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conducted, revealing further details of statements given regarding the incident. This investigation was conducted with the purpose of determining, to the extent possible, the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. As unbiased collectors of fact, the investigative team has not and will not render any opinion of the legality of officers' actions. Instead, it is anticipated that this investigation will provide the basis of information for decisions to be rendered by the appropriate authorities.

Investigative Team:

BCI Special Agent Doug Eveslage was assigned as the lead Special Investigations Unit case agent. BCI Special Agents Kenneth Smith, Rick Ward, and Lauren Frazier assisted with portions of the investigation. Additionally, BCI Crime Scene Unit Technician Holly Ryczek responded to process the scene by documenting and collecting pertinent evidence. The investigation was supervised by Special Agent Supervisor William Jones and Special Agent Supervisor Kevin Barbeau. Additionally, personnel from the BCI Laboratory Division performed a scientific analysis on submitted items of potential physical evidence.

Summary of Investigative Process:

The following is a partial list of investigative activities or methods which were employed during the course of this investigation, by the investigative team, in an effort to thoroughly and accurately locate and document all pertinent facts and circumstances regarding this incident:

- Recorded interviews of Norwood Police Officers: [REDACTED] all of whom were identified as officers with some level of involvement in the incident or otherwise deemed to potentially have relevant information
- Interviewed Karita Thomas, civilian present during incident, and girlfriend of Akeem Holtz
- Interviews with multiple civilian witnesses who captured portions of the incident via cell phone video or were present during portions of the incident
- Death notification to Holtz's family members
- Recorded interview with Norwood Fire Department medical personnel
- Special agent attendance of the post-mortem examination (autopsy) of Holtz
- Requested the post-mortem examination and toxicology reports, which will be received on a later date
- Obtained and reviewed police reports of Holtz's prior law enforcement contacts
- Obtained and reviewed open and closed-source biographical information on the subject involved, to include criminal history reports, OHLEG, driving records
- Review of all available body-worn cameras involved in the incident
- Review of all available cell phone camera footage provided
- Processing of the scene and involved vehicle for potential evidence (photographing, searching, measuring, documenting, and collecting)
- Reviewed audio communications on radio frequencies utilized during incident
- Review of 911/phone communications related to the incident
- Review of dispatch/CAD records pertaining to the incident

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- Review of the Norwood Police Department's incident reports, photographs, and investigative materials related to the incident, excluding any Garrity statements or information derived from compelled statements
- Conducted forensic laboratory examinations
- FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) checks on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine if reported stolen)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) trace on any non-law enforcement weapons involved in the incident (to determine ownership history)
- Collected and reviewed the departmental personnel files of the officers involved, including training and disciplinary records (if any)
- Reviewed firearm qualification and training records of the officers involved
- Verified the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) certification status of the officers involved
- Obtained the Norwood Police Department's policies and procedures regarding use of force, for prosecutorial review
- Obtained & reviewed EMS records pertaining to the response/treatment administered
- Reviewed Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati EMS protocols
- Reviewed tips, social media posts, and pertinent statements made in the media regarding the incident

Incident Summary/Overview:

The following information is based on the statements of the involved law enforcement officers, witnessing officers, statements made by 911 callers, civilian witness interviews, video footage, evidence collected, and dispatch/CAD information.

On April 16, 2025, at approximately 1038 hours, the Hamilton County Communication Center received a phone call reference a homeless male letting his white dog wonder around a parking lot at 4425 Montgomery Road and the dog almost attacked someone. At approximately 1054 hours the Norwood Police officers located the male subject, Akeem Holtz (Holtz), on the second floor of 4411 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Holtz was located in the elevator on the second floor with multiple German Shepard dogs and a female named Karita Thomas (Thomas). The Norwood Police requested the Hamilton County Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) to respond to their location and were advised that the MCT was 38 minutes away. The Norwood Police also requested the Hamilton County dog warden to respond to assist.

While the Norwood Police were interacting with Holtz and Thomas, a physical altercation ensued after Holtz and Thomas were not complying with the officers' requests. Reportedly, the physical altercation order of events were as follows: Holtz used a butane lighter on an uniformed officer, the police used OC spray, the physical fight began, Holtz bit an uniformed officer, an officer hit Holtz with a closed fist, Holtz attempted to take a uniformed officer's firearm, Holtz was handcuffed with multiple pairs of handcuffs, the Norwood paramedics administered 5mg of Versed to Holtz, and Holtz was transported to the University of Cincinnati Hospital via life squad where life saving measures took place, and pronounced deceased thirty minutes after arrival by the on-duty physician, Dr. Jean Summers. Holtz's

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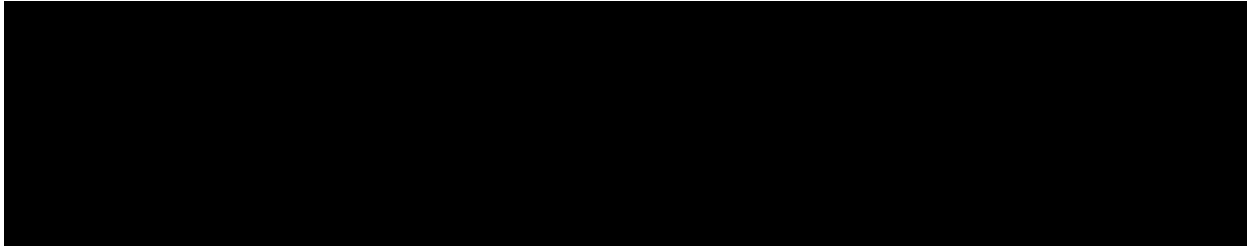
official time of death was documented as 1219 hours by Dr. Jean Summers.

Holtz was transported from University Hospital to the Hamilton County Coroner's Office for a post-mortem examination (autopsy).

Decedent:

Holtz was a 40-year-old male, living in the Cincinnati, Ohio area. He was the registered owner of a 2010 red Dodge Caravan bearing OH plate# KLK3414. Holtz's computerized criminal history and/or court records search reviewed the following:

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Prior Norwood Police Encounters:

2025-04-15_1905 hours Norwood Police Contact 1: Akeem Holtz and Karita Thomas are at the Norwood Police Department with "King Henry" their "service dog." Holtz enters the police department's lobby barefoot. Holtz tells the officer at the counter that he was in an accident on April 12, 2023 involving two semi-trucks. Holtz requests to speak with someone in the "forensics department". Holtz writes down his information for the department. Holtz talks about "King Henry" with the officer at the counter and says "even though I'm mental health, safety and security is everybody's business." (Reference: NPD Interaction 1 is three videos)

2025-04-15_2123 hours Norwood Police Contact 2: Akeem Holtz and Karita Thomas enter into the vestibule of the Norwood Police Department with "King Henry," press the button to talk to someone at the police department, and walked out of the building prior to talking to anyone. (Reference: NPD Interaction 2 is one video)

2025-04-16_0006 hours Norwood Police Contact 3: Norwood Police Officer Massey assists Akeem Holtz and "his care taker" with his red minivan stopped in the middle of the roadway. After the officer assists Holtz's vehicle to the United Dairy Farmer gas station on Montgomery Road, Holtz exits the vehicle and thanks the officer. Holtz's stated that he would shake the officer's hand but he was "covered in dog poo". (Reference: Norwood BWC 4-15-25)

2025-04-16_0127 hours Norwood Police Contact 4: Akeem Holtz enters into the vestibule, presses the button to talk to someone at the police department, and walked out of the building prior to talking to anyone. Reference: NPD Interaction 3 is one video)

Autopsy Report:

The postmortem examination was conducted by Forensic Pathologist Dorothy Dean. Preliminary findings show that the cause of death was "[REDACTED]" with a contributory cause of death of "[REDACTED]"

██████████ The manner of death was ruled "██████████" The final autopsy report and toxicology report are attached (See attachment #01).

Physical Evidence:

The BCI Crime Scene Unit was requested to respond to the scene, to document and preserve any items of potential evidence. The scene was processed, to include photographing and mapping the area, as well as the search for, documentation of, and collection of items of evidence. Detailed crime scene reports were completed, with the below information only summarizing some of the findings:



Holtz's red Caravan parked at incident location

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Holtz's handgun located inside red Caravan



Various marijuana and CBD located inside Holtz's red Caravan



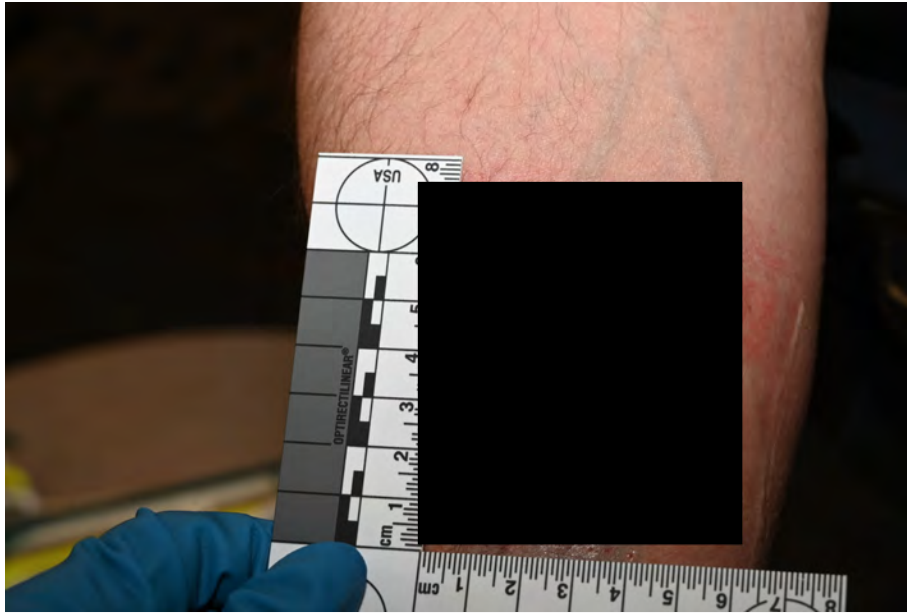
Holtz's shoes located in entryway of business 4411 Montgomery Road



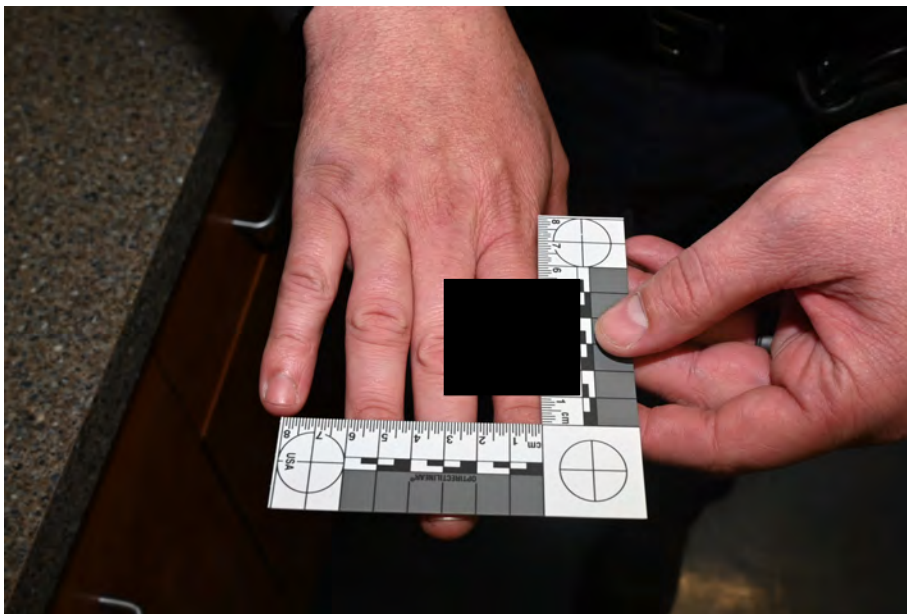
Dog feces and urine inside business



Incident location: Elevator and holes in the wall



[REDACTED] bite wound



[REDACTED] hand injury



boots

Officer Interviews:

The following paragraphs are abbreviated versions of each officer's account of his or her actions pertaining to this incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview.

NPD [REDACTED] Interview:

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], 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. ██████ 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.

█████ 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. ██████ switched positions with ██████ so he could talk to the Ohio Media School employees about Thomas. The Ohio Media School employees told ██████ 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.

█████ 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." ██████████ 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 ██████████ forearm. He announced that Holtz was biting him, so ██████████ hit Holtz three or four times in the face to get Holtz to release his bite on ██████████ forearm.

After that, officers attempted to control Holtz's head more and ██████████ 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. ██████████ 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 ██████████ was fighting to try and get his left hand out from underneath of Holtz's body.

██████████ 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, ██████████ 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 ██████████ 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 ██████████ to explain where each officer was and how they were positioned holding Holtz. He said ██████████ was around the top right portion of Holtz's body, ██████████ had Holtz's "feet area" and ██████████ 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 ██████████ to the hospital to have his injuries treated.

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] and he was advised that Holtz's blood was tested for disease which the results were negative.

NPD [REDACTED] Interview:

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

██████████ and other officers went inside the business and as they proceeded up the stairs they noticed dog feces and urine in multiple locations. ██████████ 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. ██████████ 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, ██████████ 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. ██████████ said he stepped in as ██████████ 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. ██████████ remembers hearing an officer inform everyone that Holtz potentially had a firearm because they saw an empty holster on his person.

██████████ 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." ██████████ described Holtz "wailing" and also "hitting the emergency alarm" on the elevator while trying to get the door to close. ██████████ 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 ██████████ right boot. This is when ██████████ deployed his pepper spray against Holtz because he was burning his boot. ██████████ 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 ██████████ boot.

██████████ stated that he deployed his OC spray for a second time, and ██████████ attempted to go hands on with Holtz. "At some point, I think ██████████ also deployed his OC spray," said ██████████. The dog appeared to be getting agitated so ██████████ deployed the OC spray on the large dog in the elevator to hopefully "take the fight out of him." As ██████████ dragged Holtz into the hallway, ██████████ stepped into the elevator because Thomas was trying to get involved with the physical confrontation. ██████████ said that he grabbed the dog, put it back in the elevator, and then was able to move Thomas into the hallway.

██████████ 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. ██████████ was still dealing with Thomas, who was refusing to listen, so he placed her on her stomach and handcuffed her. ██████████ 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. ██████████ met Officer Town in the parking lot and advised Ofc. Town that Thomas needed to see the medics.

SA Eveslage asked ██████████ to explain his statements about an officer being bitten and Holtz

grabbing an officer's firearm, but ██████ said he only heard those statement and did not witness those happening because the physical confrontation with Holtz was occurring behind him. ██████ 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.

██████ 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 ██████ because the situation escalated from a mental health crisis to an assault on a police officer.

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

NPD ██████ Interview:

On April 16th, late morning hours, ██████ was dispatched to a suspicious persons / animal complaint; Black male [Akeem Holtz] and female [Karita Thomas] with an associated red van at 4411 Montgomery Road. Once ██████ arrived, he observed a unrestrained white German Shepherd in the parking lot. ██████ described the van back onto the landscape near the building's side door. The van's door was open with items strewn about the interior. Once officers entered the building / parking garage, ██████ observed German Shepherd puppies and dog excrement along the way, but no people. ██████ spoke with female employee of the media school who stated Holtz was a student and was not acting right. The employee believed Holtz has schizophrenia. While speaking with the employee outside, he observed a Black male banging on a window above him. Based upon the information and observations, ██████ communicated to have a Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) respond. Officers were given a thirty-eight minute response time.

██████ along with ██████ and ██████ were informed Holtz and Thomas were on the third floor, but were located on the second floor. When ██████ arrived, officers were speaking with Holtz and Thomas. ██████ observed the medics who he informed to stage near where the police vehicles were parked to be closer.

Holtz and Thomas were located in an elevator along with a dog. Officers asked Thomas if she could restrain the dog and she replied no; the dog is Holtz's guard dog and will attack. ██████ requested someone retrieve a dog pole from the police department. ██████ and ██████ were attempting to communicate with Holtz who continued to scream and activate the elevator button, but was blocked by ██████ observed an empty, inside the pants, holster on Holtz's waist. Because of all the clutter in the evaluator, officers could not discern what was inside with Thomas and Holtz. Officers asked Thomas to exit the elevator, but she refused, stating she did not trust the officers. Holtz agreed to come out, but wanted to ride the elevator down, but was blocked again by ██████ Holtz used a butane lighter on ██████ foot/boot; ██████ kicked the lighter way, but Holtz did it again. ██████ deployed OC spray onto Holtz. Even though his view inside the elevator was somewhat obstructed, ██████ observed

officers attempting to remove Holtz from the elevator. [REDACTED] observed a second deployment of OC spray, but did not see which officer deployed the spray. [REDACTED] communicated for additional officers. Holtz was removed from the elevator by [REDACTED] and both and he [REDACTED] go "hands on" with Holtz.

Once Holtz was out of the elevator, [REDACTED] from Holtz's right side, attempted to handcuff him. [REDACTED] was on Holtz's left side and had straddled Holtz's buttocks. [REDACTED] stated Holtz rolled and he lost his grip on Holtz's right hand. [REDACTED] observed Holtz's right hand on [REDACTED] handgun. [REDACTED] announced to [REDACTED] Holtz's right hand was on his handgun as he peeled Holtz's hand off [REDACTED] gun. [REDACTED] delivered closed fist hand strikes to Holtz's head area as a pain compliance to distract from the handgun. [REDACTED] observed Holtz grab [REDACTED] wrist into his face and bit his forearm. [REDACTED] delivered two of three closed fist strikes to Holtz's eyebrow and forehead area for him to release the bite, which worked [REDACTED] was able to handcuff Holtz's right hand and there was a brief lull. [REDACTED] had both arms behind Holtz's back, but Holtz's sweatshirt was bunched up and made the handcuffing process difficult.

[REDACTED] heard [REDACTED] announce live ammunition was falling from Holtz's pocket. With the four handcuffs on, Holtz continued to attempt to bring his left arm underneath his body. Holtz continued to use the gap between the elevator floor to pull away from officers and he screamed the entire time. [REDACTED] requested the medics respond and administer Verset. After the injection, the medics informed officers the Verset would take effect in three minutes and will affect Holtz's respiratory system and to sit him up when practical. Within thirty seconds of the administration of Verset, the resistance by Holtz stopped. Officers were able to readjust the handcuffs and Holtz was sat up. [REDACTED] stepped out for some air and when he walked back in the hallway, he observed the medics attending to Holtz. When asked, [REDACTED] did not know if Holtz was breathing when against the wall or when removed by medics.

NPD [REDACTED]:

In the late morning hours of April 16th, [REDACTED] and other officers were dispatched to a disturbance call at 4411 Montgomery Road with a male and female. According to [REDACTED] dogs were mentioned in the dispatch, which [REDACTED] stated the information relayed was "weird". [REDACTED] arrived simultaneous with other officers in the area. [REDACTED] observed a van closely backed into front area of an office building. [REDACTED] noticed a white German Shepherd walking outside unrestrained and began to bark at officers. Shortly thereafter, [REDACTED] arrived on scene.

[REDACTED] engaged with a female who he observed was filming and inquired about the call. The female directed the officers to the building manager who arrived in a white truck. The manager informed officers a male [Akeem Holtz] was yelling and running through the building / parking garage and had dogs with him. Shortly thereafter, officers entered the parking garage and made contact with a male and female who worked in the office building and directed the officers to a possible location of Holtz. While walking through the parking garage with [REDACTED] they observed puppies and dog excrement along with high pitched screaming. Officers were able to located Holtz, a female [Karita Thomas] and a large German Shepherd seated in an evaluator attached to a small enclosed

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hallway, which connected the building to the parking garage on the third floor. Because Holtz appeared to be suffering from a mental event, a call was made to the Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) to respond. ██████ requested medics and animal control for the dogs. According to ██████ the medics can administer Verset if needed to calm Holtz down. Officers repeatedly tried to engaged Thomas and Holtz, but Thomas responded for Holtz and indicated Holtz has mental issues. ██████ asked Thomas what can calm Holtz down and Thomas replied, "nothing". ██████ made contact with medic crews that arrived on scene and briefed them about the situation who then staged in the parking lot.

While outside with the medics, ██████ heard via the radio officers were "fighting one". ██████ observed through a window a glimpse of a struggle in the area the officers were interacting with Holtz and Thomas. When he ran back into the building, the white German Shepherd nipped his pant leg. Once upstairs, ██████ observed Holtz who was now out of the elevator engaged with officers. ██████ observed Thomas who was removed from the elevator by ██████ and informed her to leave the immediate area. According to ██████ officers were engaged with Holtz trying to handcuff him, but Holtz was resisting. ██████ observed Thomas come back into the hallway who was eventually secured by ██████. Thomas was "hindering" the the activities of the officers. ██████ described Holtz as screaming while in the prone position. ██████ was on Holtz's waist area and ██████ on the other side. ██████ was attempting to handcuffed Holtz and ██████ remembered observed, "handcuffs everywhere".

Because of the confined area, ██████ moved to the back and buttock area to hold Holtz down. ██████ retrieved a pair of handcuffs from the ground and attempted to hand the handcuffs to someone. ██████ observed live bullets falling out of Holtz's pocket, which he announced to other officers. Earlier during the interaction between officers and Holtz, officers observed an empty, inside the pants, holster on Holtz's right hip.

████████ observed Holtz's sweatpants had fallen down and only his boxer shorts were visible. Officers were concerned Holtz may be in possession of a handgun, which may be under his body. Holtz began to kick holes into the hallway wall while still in the prone position. ██████ arrived and assisted with holding down Holtz's feet while ██████ requested the medics to administer Versed. The medic responded and administered the Versed to Holtz's left leg and informed officers it may take five to ten minutes to take affect. Within a minute after the medics administered the Versed, Holtz's body went limp. Once Holtz went limp, the handcuffs were reassessed and adjusted. Holtz was patted down for weapons and sat up against the wall. Once placed against the wall, the "medics took over". Minutes after the medics administered the Versed, Holtz stopped resisting and talking. Agent Ward asked ██████ if, when Holtz was placed against the wall, was he was breathing. ██████ replied that he did not know.

Agent Ward asked ██████ if he observed Holtz bite anyone and he stated no, but heard officers talking about a bite. ██████ now knows Holtz bit ██████ did not observe or was told Holtz attempted to grab a handgun, but may have not been present.

NPD ██████ Interview:

On April 16, 2025, ██████ responded to the ACB (all county

broadcast) advising that Norwood officers were fighting with someone [REDACTED] arrived on scene and when he went upstairs he saw [REDACTED] walking Karita Thomas (Thomas) out in handcuffs, [REDACTED] was on the upper part of Akeem Holtz's (Holtz) body, [REDACTED] was on the other side of Holtz's body, and [REDACTED] was trying to control Holtz's legs.

[REDACTED] explained that he went over to [REDACTED] side of Holtz and assisted with securing him in handcuffs. Once that was complete, [REDACTED] assisted [REDACTED] with controlling one of Holtz's legs. [REDACTED] stated that officers removed a couple pairs of handcuffs from Holtz, the paramedics gave Holtz a shot of medicine to calm him down, and then he was sat up and attended to by the medics. [REDACTED] said that the medics moved Holtz from the hallway upstairs, to the ambulance, and he rode in the back of the ambulance with the medics down to the University of Cincinnati Hospital.

SA Eveslage asked if the medics said anything, and [REDACTED] recalled the medics telling the officers that he would need an arm or a leg to administer the medicine he had in a needle for Holtz. [REDACTED] let the medics know that they could use the leg he was holding, the medics gave Holtz the shot, and the medics told the officers it could take a couple minutes for the medicine to work. [REDACTED] said that the officers stayed in their positions until the could feel Holtz relax and become "compliant."

SA Eveslage asked if the medics directed the officers to sit Holtz up or how that decision was made, but [REDACTED] stated that he did not remember the medics giving them directions and if they did, he did not hear them. [REDACTED] described the decision to roll Holtz over on his side as a group decision, to get Holtz off his stomach. SA Eveslage asked [REDACTED] if he felt any tension in Holtz's leg as he was holding it down, and [REDACTED] said that Holtz was "actually kicking a whole bunch of holes in the drywall." [REDACTED] described Holtz using the wall to try and get up, so he was just trying to "mitigate" that as much as possible.

After the shot, [REDACTED] said that he just slowly stopped being tense, the officers fixed the handcuffs, and sat up Holtz. [REDACTED] said that when Holtz was sat up, he was leaning on him and another officer, so they decided to keep him sitting up but lean him against the wall and medics could treat him. SA Eveslage asked if [REDACTED] could describe Holtz's behavior as he was sitting up with the medics, but [REDACTED] said he did not remember and just knew that the medics were with him. SA Eveslage asked if he remembers anything the medics were talking about in relation to the condition of Holtz, and [REDACTED] believes the medics said Holtz had a pulse. [REDACTED] further explains that when he was in the back of the ambulance, the medics put Holtz on an [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said that he was in the hallway collecting the medical equipment and trash that was laying around after Holtz was loaded into the ambulance. One of the medics approached the officers in the hallway and said they needed an officer to ride in the back of the ambulance with them, so [REDACTED] rode with them. While in the back of the ambulance, [REDACTED] describes the medics talking about the [REDACTED] being [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

SA Eveslage asked if Holtz was still laying down while being treated by the medics and if Holtz

was still handcuffed, either to the bed or behind his back. [REDACTED] said he does not remember, but thought the handcuffs were still on Holtz, behind his back, as Holtz was laying on them. [REDACTED] said that as they were arriving to the hospital, the medics asked him to open the back doors of the ambulance. The medics "wheeled" Holtz out of the ambulance and into one of the rooms inside the emergency area, which was the last time [REDACTED] saw Holtz.

Paramedic Interviews:

The following paragraphs are abbreviated versions of each officer's account of his or her actions pertaining to this incident. More detailed accounts can be found by reading the separate reports written by the interviewers and by reviewing the recordings of each interview.

NFD Paramedic Andrew Schmidt Interview:

Paramedic Andrew Schmidt stated that they were dispatched to a psych emergency at 4411 Montgomery Road. Schmidt confirmed en route that the police department had also been dispatched. They were dispatched by the Hamilton County Communications Center. Schmidt and Paramedic Mark Porter (Porter) responded in the Medic Unit. Porter was driving. Only the Medic Unit was dispatched, they eventually called for an Engine to respond later in the run. The Medic arrived on the scene and staged in the front parking lot. They were staged there for 15 to 20 minutes and were requested to come around to the back side of the building. A police officer got the Medics attention from the second floor of the parking garage and asked them to move the Medic Unit to the area behind the Ohio Media School. A police officer [REDACTED] came out and explained that there was a situation on the second floor and that they were dealing with numerous dogs. Schmidt and Porter got the cot out and got out the drug bag and the first in bag and stood in the parking lot waiting for further instructions. A second officer came down who had a bite wound on the right arm. Schmidt [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The wounded officer then went back upstairs with other arriving officers from other agencies. A third officer came down and advised the Medics that they would need to sedate the subject on the second floor. Schmidt drew up 5mg of Versed in a 1mL syringe. Schmidt and Porter then responded to the second floor with their aid bags and the syringe. There was a lingering pepper spray odor in the hallway and Schmidt described that the police were fighting with the subject on the ground. There were two or three officers involved with restraining the subject. SA Smith asked Schmidt to further explain what fighting with the police meant to him. Schmidt responded with "He was trying to get up and they didn't want him to." Schmidt approached the subject and went between two of the police officers so that he could access his left posterior thigh area that was exposed and administered the Versed intramuscularly. Schmidt stated that 5mg of Versed intramuscular is the NFD protocol. Schmidt advised the police that this (Versed) will affect the subject's respiratory drive, and he needs to be rolled over as soon as possible. Schmidt estimates that within a minute, the subject was rolled over and put in a seated position against the wall. Schmidt and another officer from an agency other than Norwood, supported the subject against the wall. The subject had a pulse and was breathing at that time. Schmidt then sent Porter down to get the green oxygen bag. The subject was placed on high flow oxygen as soon as Porter returned with it. When the Versed was administered they had called for an Engine company to respond to the scene. Schmidt called for the additional manpower for

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assistance moving the subject and for the additional paramedic for the ride to the hospital. Schmidt kept the subject in the seated position and maintained his airway while waiting for the additional manpower. The subject was unconscious. Schmidt saw that the subject's respirations were slowing and they began to assist breathing with a bag valve mask. The Engine company brought the cot up and had to walk it up the parking garage. The subject was placed on the cot in a semi-sitting position and they continued to assist his breathing to the squad. The subject was loaded in the squad and placed on a cardiac monitor. They left for the hospital. Schmidt called University Medical Center (UMC) and advised that they were en route and what they had done to that point as well as the condition of the patient at that time. The subject's heart rate was [REDACTED] during the first part of the transport and [REDACTED] on the monitor, Schmidt felt for a pulse and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Schmidt and Porter were in the rear treating the subject with Paramedic Reed driving. Upon arrival at UMC there were a number of staff waiting for their arrival. The subject was taken straight inside and care was transferred to UMC staff. UMC staff immediately put a [REDACTED] on the subject and that was all that Porter observed. They gathered their equipment and returned to Norwood FD.

NFD Paramedic Mark Porter Interview:

Paramedic Mark Porter advised that they were dispatched to 4411 Montgomery Rd. for a psych run. After reading through the dispatch notes, they called and made sure that the Police had been dispatched as well. Porter stated that the Police were already on scene, so they staged in the front lot on the Montgomery Road side of 4411. They then pulled around on Courtland near the parking garage to be able to respond to the second floor where the call was. One of the officers yelled from the second floor that it was better for the Medics to drive around to the other side of the building where the police cars and the scene ended up being. They drove around, parked and waited for the PD to direct them where to go. At the time they still hadn't received any information of what was going on or where the subject was. They were eventually notified that the patient was upstairs on the second floor in the elevator. They were advised that there was also a female subject on scene, and they were all barricaded in the elevator with several aggressive dogs. They remained staged with their first in bag, drug bag and the cot and moved towards the door. At the door they could see an altercation upstairs and an officer came down with a bite wound on his right forearm. They treated that wound and then were requested to go upstairs and chemically sedate the subject. When they arrived upstairs the subject was handcuffed on the ground. The PD had notified them that they had used pepper spray. The subject was laying partially on his side and stomach. Prior to responding upstairs, the medics had prepared 5mg of Versed in a syringe for the subject. Paramedic Schmidt administered the Versed in the subject's posterior left thigh. They then advised the PD that they needed to immediately roll the subject over to protect his airway. The subject was set upright, leaning against the wall, and they observed that he was breathing and had a pulse. Schmidt asked Porter to go get the oxygen bag as a precaution. Porter retrieved it and came back up to the second floor. They prepared to load him onto the cot. They had called for Engine 2 when they had sedated the subject, and the Engine had brought the cot to the second floor. The subject was placed on the cot and had some blood on his right nostril from the altercation. They began moving towards the squad and put the subject on a bag valve mask to protect his airway. Once in the ambulance, the subject was hooked up to the cardiac

monitor. The subject's pulse was [REDACTED]. At one point the monitor read, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Schmidt and Porter were in the back with the subject while Paramedic Phil Reed drove them to the hospital. The subject was hooked up to another monitor to monitor his breathing and they ended up [REDACTED] to assist his breathing. At one point Schmidt noticed that the subject's [REDACTED] and made the suggestion that they start CPR. They performed a pulse check and agreed on CPR. They began compressions as they were getting off of Interstate 71 to Martin Luther King Drive, so they knew they were close to the hospital. Schmidt was [REDACTED] and Porter was [REDACTED]. They arrived at the hospital and passed care for the subject over to UC Medical staff in the parking lot. They followed inside and advised of the care administered including the Versed and when they had started CPR. SA Smith asked Porter at what point the subject had gone unconscious. Porter responded that the subject was conscious at the scene and that it was in the middle of the transport he became unconscious. The subject made no statements during treatment. SA Smith asked about the severity of the bite wound to the officer. There were definitely distinguishable teeth marks, [REDACTED]

Body Worn Camera Timeline of Events:

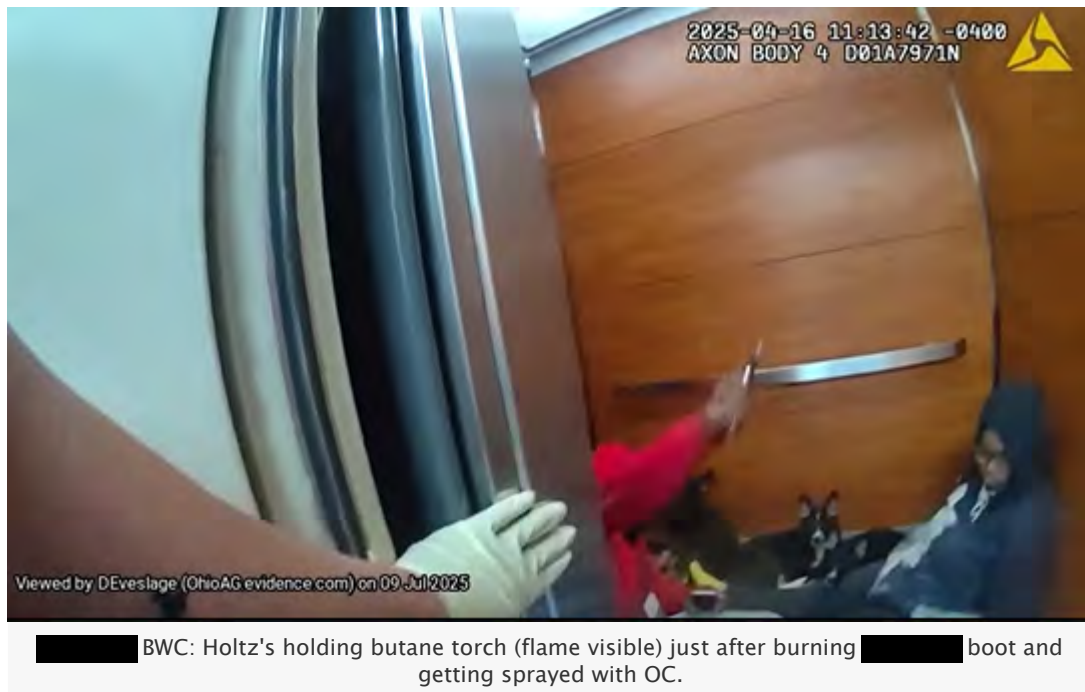
The documented times are from multiple body worn camera videos and these events only summarize some of the details that occurred during the officer involved critical incident. Review body worn camera videos for further details.

- 10:54:24 – NPD locates Akeem Holtz and Karita Thomas in elevator with dogs
- 10:55:23 – [REDACTED] tells [REDACTED] to have OC spray ready for dogs
- 10:56:31 – [REDACTED] says can't come in elevator because dogs look like they will attack
- 10:57:16 – [REDACTED] tells other officers about Akeem's gun holster on right side of body
- 10:58:15 – Akeem starts hitting umbrella on floor multiple times and starts howling
- 10:59:39 – Akeem opens umbrella blocking view [REDACTED] attempts to remove umbrella, Akeem holds on and keeps it [REDACTED] says dog appears aggressive and no other option but to use OC spray
- 11:00:50 – [REDACTED] moves umbrella out of elevator, Akeem howling
- 11:02:00 – [REDACTED] talks about moving Akeem, Karita tells officer "this is his guard dog and he will attack"
- 11:03:31 – [REDACTED] tells Akeem and Karita they will have to use OC spray if they don't come out
- 11:09:16 – [REDACTED] says all they care about is Akeem and Karita's safety and they want the life squad to evaluate them. [REDACTED] requests squad stage outside.
- 11:11:12 – Call for service dispatched reference "gun threats"
- 11:12:40 – Holster visible on [REDACTED] BWC
- 11:12:56 – Akeem talks to officers
- 11:13:41 – [REDACTED] sprays OC (approx. 1 second spray)
- 11:13:56 – Akeem crawls out of elevator and then goes back in, pulls arms away from officers, holding car keys in right hand
- 11:14:00 [REDACTED] sprays OC (approx. 1 second spray) and fighting with Akeem while Karita

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- is laying over him saying "No"
- 11:14:10 [REDACTED] sprays OC (approx. 1 second spray) towards the largest dog
 - 11:14:20 – [REDACTED] pulls Akeem out of elevator by ankles, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attempting to gain control of Akeem
 - 11:14:49 – Unknown officer states "He has his hand on your gun"
 - 11:15:05 – Akeem bites [REDACTED] right forearm, Akeem punched in head by officer
 - 11:15:17 – Karita walks out of elevator into hallway
 - 11:15:57 – [REDACTED] has a hand on Akeem's neck and head, officers still attempting to gain control of Akeem
 - 11:16:08 – [REDACTED] states quit biting me (unknown location/second bite)
 - 11:16:09 – Akeem rolls on side not handcuffed
 - 11:16:29 – [REDACTED] BWC turns off
 - 11:17:02 – Akeem flat on chest
 - 11:18:09 – Akeem handcuffed with approximately 4 pairs of handcuffs
 - 11:19:30 – Versed mentioned by unknown officer
 - 11:22:19 – Medics on floor/present on BWC
 - 11:22:49 – Versed administered to Akeem, medic stays in the area with officers
 - 11:24:00 – Officers adjusting/removing pairs of handcuffs
 - 11:24:33 – Akeem sitting up and being assessed by medics
 - 11:35:29 – Akeem on stretcher with medics

Several photographs were taken from pertinent portions of the officer's body worn cameras and cruiser video recordings. These pictures represent still-shot images that occurred during the course of the incident. See below:



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██████████ BWC: Holtz (red sleeve) grabbing ██████████ gun



██████████ BWC: Holtz ██████████ right forearm



██████████ BWC: ██████████ punching Holtz's face as Holtz is biting ██████████



██████████ BWC: Positioning of ██████████ (changes multiple times throughout the confrontation)

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██████████ BWC: Versed being administered into Holtz's left leg

Karita Thomas Interviews:

Karita Thomas Interview #1:

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 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.

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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 bought 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], 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.

Karita Thomas Interview #2:

Karita stated that Akeem was her boyfriend and that he had a "PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) moment" on the elevator. Karita said that she was not scared of Akeem but that she was worried about his mental state. Below is a summary of the timeline and events which were discussed:

April 12, 2023: This incident happened prior to Karita meeting Akeem. She explained that Akeem told her that he was involved in an automobile accident involving him being smashed between two semi-trucks, where he nearly died. She said that due to this experience, it created PTSD for Akeem.

August 7, 2024: Karita said that Akeem had his first episode around her and he was not acting normal. She said that Akeem was at the school and then he started panicking and shaking. She said that he was on a new medicine and had a seizure. She said that Akeem went to UC Hospital, and she went with him in the ambulance.

December 2024: Karita said that Akeem was back on his medication and doing well. Karita said that she had to remind Akeem to take his medication and that sometimes he would take his medication with alcohol.

April 12, 2025 (Saturday): Akeem and Karita had several people over for karaoke. She said after that night, Akeem began acting weird.

April 13, 2025 (Sunday): Akeem was with Kayla Jackson aka "KJ" at the Rockdale Market. Karita described KJ as a female around 28 years old who lives nearby. She said KJ's phone number is [REDACTED]. Karita said that Akeem gave KJ \$10 to buy drinks. KJ went into the store for Akeem, since he had his dogs with him. Akeem became upset because the store didn't give him the correct change back and he yelled at the attendant, saying he wanted his money. Karita said that KJ recorded this incident between the attendant and Akeem. Karita said that she has another video that Akeem recorded on her phone, where he was talking about this incident. She said that Akeem recorded it because he thought that someone was following him. She said that Akeem said if anything happens to him, that she should show someone this video. She said that she asked Akeem how long he had been off his medication and Akeem said that he didn't know how long. At some point over the weekend, Karita said that KJ came over to her apartment and said that someone had been shot at KJ's apartment, located near Maple Street. Karita and Akeem became paranoid that something might happen to them.

April 14, 2025 (Monday): Akeem was walking around in the field next to Karita's apartment with all his puppies. She said that Akeem said that someone was following them. Karita took a video of Akeem, which was provided to investigators. Karita told Akeem that he needed to get some rest and go to sleep because he was not sleeping. Some time that week, Karita and Akeem had gone to the doctor at Neighborhood Health. Karita said that after the elevator incident occurred, the doctor told her that Akeem was not acting right at the last doctor appointment. Additionally, at some point, Akeem had mentioned that he did not want to be resuscitated if something happened to him.

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April 15, 2025 (Tuesday): Karita and Akeem were up all night. They were switching clothes with each other. She said that they did this because if something was going to happen, she said it would happen to both of them.

April 16, 2025 (Wednesday): Police helped Akeem and Karita push his van out of the road because the tire was flat. The elevator incident occurred later at the school.

Karita said that Akeem had recently made a film about his homelessness. She said that due to his near-death experience in April of 2023, it caused Akeem to have a lot of PTSD. Karita said that Akeem was ready to go. In 2024, she said that Akeem would tell people he wasn't going to be here that long. She went on to say that Akeem had pictures of his mom, LLC paperwork, and his gaming station set up like he was ready to go (pass away). Karita said that Akeem has talked about suicide with his therapist. She said that he didn't specifically mention suicide but would talk about not being around for long.

Around the time of the elevator incident, Karita said that Akeem wanted them to have their cell phones off so that no one could follow them. She said that Akeem called his mom at one point and told her a little bit about what was going on. Karita said that she was in the classroom when he called her. Karita said that Akeem also kept a paper with license plates written down, of vehicles that he believed were following him.

SA Eveslage asked Karita about Akeem's gun. She said that Akeem got the gun in Atlanta and said it was registered to him. She said that Akeem carried the gun when he was normal and not for any specific reason. Karita said that Akeem had some difficulty walking up all the stairs to her apartment.

Conclusion:

All known people who have relevant information regarding this investigation have been interviewed, and all known records have been obtained and reviewed. BCI has striven to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into this OICI. BCI will continue to offer investigative assistance to any newly identified witnesses or information related to this criminal investigation. It appears that BCI's investigation into this OICI is concluded, unless such new information or witnesses are identified through the grand jury or other processes. As always, we remain available for consultation and look forward to your assessment of this investigation and your decision as to any additional efforts, processes, or further assistance or involvement you might determine to be necessary.

The preceding information comprises only a portion of facts and circumstances collected during the investigation of the officer-involved critical incident. For further review of specific information or documentation collected during the investigation, please refer to the individual reports and documents from which this summary was derived.

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: Coroner's Report

References:

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No references.

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