



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: Akeem A. Holtz (S)
Date of Activity: 04/28/2025
Activity Location: Norwood Police Training Center – 2600 Park Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45212
Author: SA Richard Ward, #55

Narrative:

On Monday, April 28, 2025, at approximately 1413 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Richard Ward and Doug Eveslage 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 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:

Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]
Badge Number: [REDACTED]	Cruiser/Vehicle Number: [REDACTED]

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Radio Call Sign: [REDACTED]	Immediate [REDACTED]
Radio Channel Utilized: Hamilton East	Mobile Data Terminal: Present & Utilized
Cruiser Description: Standard marked SVU vehicle	Occupants of Cruiser and Seating Positions: One
Assignment: [REDACTED]	Normal Shift: [REDACTED]
In-Car Camera: Not Present	Spotlight: Present; Not utilized
Emergency Lights: Present; Not Utilized	Siren: Present & Utilized
Shift Day of Incident: [REDACTED]	Duty Status: On-Duty
Days Off: [REDACTED]	Prior Overtime or Extra Details within Preceding 48 Hours: None
Hours of Sleep Prior to Incident: Yes	Consider Self Well Rested?: Yes
Total Length as Officer: [REDACTED]	Length at Current Agency: [REDACTED]
Physical Disabilities (to include hearing aid): None	Corrective Lenses: No Corrective Lenses
Uniform Worn: Standard navy-blue uniform	Equipment and Less-Lethal Options Carried on Person/Belt/Vest: ASP / OC spray
Ballistic Vest: External Armor	Body Worn Camera: Present & Used
Other Recording Devices: None	Partner: None
Injuries: None	Equipment Damage: None
Training or Areas of Specialty: SWAT, CIT	OPOTC Certification: [REDACTED]
Military Experience/Training: [REDACTED]	Use-of-Force Training: Yes
Prior Shooting Incidents: None	Prior Discipline or Use-of-Force Complaints: None
Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair Your Duties at Time of Incident: None	Medications, Prescriptions, or Drugs that might Impair You Now for Interview: None
Alcohol in Past 24 Hours? None	Last Consumed Alcohol Prior to Incident: N/A

When asked, [REDACTED] had no other prior interactions with Akeem Holtz. On April 16th, late morning hours, [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] arrived, he observed a unrestrained white German Shepherd in the parking lot. [REDACTED] 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, [REDACTED] observed German Shepherd puppies and dog excrement along the way, but no people. [REDACTED] 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, [REDACTED] communicated to have a Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) respond. Officers were given a thirty-eight minute response time.

[REDACTED] along with [REDACTED] were informed Holtz and Thomas

were on the third floor, but were located on the second floor. When [REDACTED] arrived, officers were speaking with Holtz and Thomas. [REDACTED] 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. [REDACTED] requested someone retrieve a dog pole from the police department. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were attempting to communicate with Holtz who continued to scream and activate the elevator button, but was blocked by [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED] Holtz used a butane lighter on [REDACTED] foot/boot; [REDACTED] kicked the lighter way, but Holtz did it again. [REDACTED] deployed OC spray onto Holtz. Even though his view inside the elevator was somewhat obstructed, [REDACTED] 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 [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.

The audio and video recorded interview with [REDACTED] was concluded at 1458 hours.

References:

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

Axon BWC Video of [REDACTED] interview

Attachments:

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

—

2025-1227



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation



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).

[Redacted]

4-28-25 1415
Date / Time

[Redacted]

 #66
BCI Agent (Printed)


BCI Agent (Signature)