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Attorney urges TPD to drop Karlos Williams case

Sean Rossman, Tallahassee Democrat 7:11 p.m. EDT October 28, 2014



The attorney representing the alleged victim in a domestic battery case involving Florida State University running back Karlos Williams wants the Tallahassee Police Department to drop its investigation.

TPD sent out a news release Monday saying Williams, the Seminoles' leading rusher, was a suspect in a domestic battery case related to a Wednesday incident. Williams hasn't been charged with any crime and head coach Jimbo Fisher said Tuesday evening that Williams will play Thursday night against Louisville. His status had earlier been "under review." Fisher refused to comment any further.

Tallahassee attorney Nathan Prince told the Democrat he informally told TPD to stop the investigation and would formally submit a request to terminate it Tuesday. His client, he said, will not talk to investigators, has not filed a complaint and did not notify TPD or FSU about any alleged domestic battery incident.

The investigation of Williams comes as the university moves forward with a student conduct code disciplinary hearing related to an alleged sexual assault involving quarterback Jameis Winston and a female student. The university is under investigation for possible Title IX violations by the United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights.

Prince said the victim and Williams used to be a couple and lived together. They have one child together and another on the way. He said he doesn't believe there will be probable cause for Williams' arrest since there will be no witness testimony. He wouldn't comment on whether his client believes she was the victim of domestic violence or if she was harmed in a domestic violence incident.

"She doesn't want to make any comments on the facts of the case," Prince told the Democrat. "There aren't any witnesses that have provided testimony."

Prince said he thinks someone alerted FSU and authorities after Internet rumors started this weekend that Williams' girlfriend had been battered.

Tallahassee attorney Tim Jansen, who is representing Williams, told the Democrat he didn't know about Prince's effort to stop the investigation.

Jansen said he and Williams were invited to a meeting at the State Attorney's office to discuss the domestic violence incident. He said he did not know when that would happen since Williams and the rest of the football team were scheduled to leave Tuesday for Louisville, where they'll play the University of Louisville Cardinals on Thursday night.

Neither TPD nor the FSU Police Department have reports on the incident. Chief Assistant State Attorney Georgia Cappleman said her office isn't investigating the matter and does not have a case file on a domestic battery involving Williams.

TPD said the report came from FSU, but it's unclear from whom specifically. TPD officials, who said Monday the department is investigating the matter, did not respond to Democrat inquiries Tuesday.

Jansen said he hasn't received anything from the FSU Dean of Students related to a student conduct code hearing. FSU officials did not reply to a request for comment.

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