

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

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FSU's Karlos Williams named in drug deal robbery case

Sean Rossman, Tallahassee Democrat 5:19 p.m. EDT October 29, 2014



A Tallahassee man who was robbed during a drug deal gone bad in June said the transaction was set up by Florida State University running back Karlos Williams, according to a Tallahassee Police Department incident report.

According to a TPD incident report, the victim said Williams was his "hook up" for marijuana. He explained to police that he would contact Williams, who then would contact a drug dealer to set up a place to meet.

The victim said in the police report that Williams set up such a deal on June 23, in which three men showed up at his house just a few blocks west of Doak Campbell Stadium, so he could buy an eighth of an ounce of marijuana for \$50.

At about 5:25 p.m., the dealer, later identified in a police lineup as Daravius "Gutta" Lawrence, then 17, arrived at the home. The victim paid Lawrence who then went outside to his car to get some change. When Lawrence left, the two other suspects pulled out handguns, made the victim lie down on the floor and demanded the marijuana and all of his money, the report said.

[Attorney urges TPD to drop Karlos Williams case](#)

The suspects took the victim's money, marijuana and phone then drove away. All three were captured on the victim's surveillance camera.

Someone called 911 to alert officers to the scene. The victim, according to a probable cause affidavit, called investigators that same day saying he thought he found Lawrence on social media. He also turned over all of his home's surveillance footage.

Lawrence, now 18, was charged as an adult on a count of armed robbery. He told investigators he was helping the two other suspects buy marijuana from the victim and drove away with them because he was scared, the report said.

Williams is listed as an associate on the TPD report and has not been charged.

TPD spokesman Officer David Northway said Monday the department got little cooperation from Williams in that case. Northway said police set up a time to talk with Williams at the police station, but Williams never showed up. They then tried to call him, and he never answered his phone. Eventually, Northway said, they got in touch with his girlfriend who said the two had a lawyer and did not want to talk to police.

Chief Assistant State Attorney Georgia Cappleman said her office went ahead with charges against Lawrence without talking to Williams because they had enough evidence to do so. He was not charged because, even though the victim said he was there to buy drugs, there was no evidence the transaction ever happened and no drugs were recovered, Cappleman said. She said, in an unrelated incident, he was charged with a misdemeanor drug charge related to marijuana being delivered to his house.

Williams, Cappleman said, is not a suspect.

"The victim suspects that (Williams) was involved in setting up the robbery, other than that there is no other evidence he was involved," she said.

Tallahassee attorney Tim Jansen, who is representing Williams in a domestic battery investigation, said Williams is at most a witness and not under investigation in the case. He said Williams was never contacted last week to discuss the robbery as has been reported by other media outlets.

"Using the term 'associated' was an inflammatory device to inflame readers," Jansen said in an email Tuesday morning. "It's irresponsible to lead the public to believe that Mr. Williams was somehow involved in the incident."

Rumors started last week that Williams would be suspended, but the reason was unknown. Head coach Jimbo Fisher, however quashed any rumors at a Friday news conference.

"No, there's another false report," Fisher said. "It's amazing how things happen out here. Whoever's got sources and whoever's got rumors need to check who they're talking to because that is about as far from the truth as there is."

Jansen claimed Williams is the target of ongoing negative press the football team has received related to football players and their legal run-ins.

"I think it's not fair to Karlos that he is being used as a target now," he said.

In addition to Winston and Williams, starting wide receiver Jesus "Bobo" Wilson was arrested this year for stealing a scooter and several players face criminal mischief charges for firing BB guns. Earlier this year, Prince represented former wide receiver Greg Dent who was charged with sexual battery, but pleaded to a lesser charge. In January, another FSU football player was involved in a domestic dispute.

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