

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT Tallahassee●com

Karlos Williams not charged in domestic battery case

Sean Rossman, Tallahassee Democrat 6:27 p.m. EST November 12, 2014



The Tallahassee Police Department ended the domestic battery investigation involving Karlos Williams without filing any charges against Florida State University's running back.

TPD released the full four-page report of the investigation into the alleged Oct. 22 incident Wednesday afternoon. The case, which was under investigation for about three weeks after it was reported to TPD Oct. 25, is still considered open and active.

The report details Williams' former live-in girlfriend's conversations with investigators. The woman, who has one child with Williams and is pregnant with another, requested the help of a victim advocate but was adamant Williams not be charged in the case, according to the report.

The inquiry began when FSU general counsel Carolyn Egan alerted TPD Chief Michael DeLeo that a woman believed to be Williams' girlfriend posted a photo of her bruised body on Facebook with a message suggesting domestic violence.

"Domestic violence is never OK," the post said. "And I have learned why women keep secrets and scared (sic) to come forward, I'm ashamed to say I did the same thing."

DeLeo passed the post down his chain of command to an investigator who contacted the woman, who said she had taken down the post due to "all the feedback" and was hesitant to give a statement.

"If I just make a statement without prosecuting him is that possible?" she emailed the investigator. "Or would me making a statement mean that I'm prosecuting him?"

The woman told a victim advocate assigned to the case that two other people were at the house during the alleged incident. She wouldn't reveal who they were but did say they were in another room and came in when they heard a noise.

The woman still chose not to move forward with charges.

"I have decided to not press any charges or make any statements

regarding the issue. I will, however, take help from victims advocate to help me withdrawal (sic) from school and start a new beginning with my life," the woman emailed to investigators Oct. 27, the day TPD alerted the public Williams was a suspect in the investigation.

"Thank you for your concern, this is my own personal decision that I have thought about for a few days, would be best for me and my kids."

The victim advocate assigned to the case made more repeated attempts to get the woman to make a formal statement to authorities and reached out to Refuge House director Meg Baldwin. Tim Jansen, Williams' attorney, told authorities his client wouldn't be making any statements either. Nathan Prince, the woman's attorney submitted a sworn affidavit Oct. 29 requesting the case be discontinued.

With no statements from each side, the case could not move forward. "At the time of this report the victim has chosen not to make a statement or meet with an investigator," the report said. "Without a statement or additional evidence there is no way to further this case." The case sparked national attention as Williams, the Seminoles' leading rusher, continued to play for the undefeated team throughout the investigation. FSU said his status was under review, but he never missed a minute of playing time due to the allegations.

"It was exactly what they expected them to find," Jansen told the Democrat on Wednesday. "My client maintains he did nothing wrong. Their investigation has basically concluded the same thing at this point."

Jansen told the Democrat that FSU football players are under a microscope.

"FSU athletes are under a higher scrutiny at this time in this climate," he said. "I think it's at a boiling point right now."

Reprinted with permissions from Tallahassee Democrat