



## *Office of Coroner Nathaniel R. Overmire, D.O.*

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Coroner's Office releases autopsy report for Ky'air Thomas**

COLUMBUS, OH – The autopsy on the body of Ky'air Thomas, a 6-month-old black male, was performed at the Franklin County Coroner's Office on January 30, 2023. The decedent was pronounced dead at Nationwide Children's Hospital at 11:44 p.m. on January 28, 2023.

The autopsy revealed that the circumstances surrounding the death as reported by Columbus Police Department Detectives following their investigation includes the infant was placed face down (prone) on an adult bed with excess bedding and pillows (unsafe sleep environment), unsupervised, and in a post-prandial state. It is well documented that infants under the age of 8 months have limited strength in the neck musculature to reposition their airway when encountering possible obstructions.

This is a form of oxygen deprivation (anoxic brain injury), however, because a contributory component of mechanical or obstructive asphyxia can be neither confirmed nor excluded in this infant's death as determined by the investigation and circumstances, the manner of death is best ruled as Undetermined.

The cause of death is ruled Sudden Unexplained Infant Death with other significant conditions including unsafe sleep environment; post-prandial infant placed facedown, unsupervised, on an adult bed, surrounded by excess pillows and blankets.

In addition to a thorough internal and external examination which reveals no evidence of trauma, foul play, abuse, or neglect, extensive ancillary testing including microbiology, toxicology, histology, and skeletal radiological survey were unremarkable and non-contributory to the cause of death.

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