



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2022-1356

Officer-Involved Critical Incident - 1659 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio
44301

Investigative Activity: Interview with Captain Jeffrey Cutwright-Euclid Police Department

Activity Date: July 19, 2022

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On July 19, 2022, at approximately 1030 hours, Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) interviewed Euclid Police Department Captain Jeffrey Cutwright (Cutwright) at the Euclid Police Department, located 545 E. 222 Street, Euclid, Ohio.

SA Momchilov explained to Captain Cutwright that it was his understanding that he was present during an interview of Dupri Whatley (Whatley) for a lateral police officer position with the Euclid Police Department; Captain Cutwright advised that was correct.

SA Momchilov explained that Ohio BCI was investigating an officer-involved shooting that occurred in Akron, Ohio, involving an individual named Jayland Walker. Captain Cutwright stated that he is aware of the incident but does not know many details of the event.

SA Momchilov asked Captain Cutwright if Whatley mentioned anything about the Akron shooting incident during the interview.

Captain Cutwright stated that without being prompted, Whatley stated he knew the person who was shot by the Akron Police Department and that person was his best friend. SA Momchilov asked captain Cutwright if Whatley mentioned anything about that person's mindset or anything along those lines.

Captain Cutwright stated that Whatley said his friend was depressed, and "He even went as far to say he was suicidal, um, he even mentioned that he was worried that his best friend was going to get in an incident whereby, it would result in suicide by cop."

Captain Cutwright advised that Whatley was asked if he knew if his best friend had a gun. According to Cutwright, Whatley stated he was unaware that his best friend even had a gun but did state, "He was not surprised that his best friend would of provoked the police into shooting him."

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SA Momchilov asked Captain Cutwright, "Did he give any specifics of, did Mr. Walker ask him how to, you know, get into a conflict with police." Captain Cutwright stated to the best of his recollection, Whatley advised him not to get into any conflicts with the police and that would be a bad idea.

Captain Cutwright stated of Whatley, "Certainly he was concerned about his friend, being depressed, being suicidal." SA Momchilov asked Captain Cutwright if Whatley mentioned any specifics that Walker asked him about getting into conflict with police. Captain Cutwright stated he could not recall but did state that Whatley was "upset" during the interview, and he was concerned about his friend prior to the incident.

Captain Cutwright stated that Whatley said that Walker had a lot of questions about why the police do what they do and how they do what they do. Captain Cutwright explained, "I don't know if that, you know, specifically meant provoking the police into a shooting but Whatley feared that he was going to get into a conflict with the police, whereby the police would kill him."

The interview with Captain Cutwright was recorded via audio. The audio recording is attached to this Investigative Report.

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