



**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: Second Interview with Dupri Whatley  
Activity Date: August 25, 2022  
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) interviewed Dupri Whatley (Whatley) on July 2, 2022. After that interview, agents interviewed multiple Euclid Police Department administrative personnel. Agents learned there was some discrepancies between what Euclid officers advised that Whatley said during his employment interview and what Whatley stated to SA Momchilov during his interview.

See the following Investigative Reports for further detail:

- Euclid PD Chief Scott Meyer Interview
- Euclid PD Captain Donna Holden Interview
- Euclid PD Captain Mitch Houser Interview
- Euclid PD Captain Janson Interview
- Euclid PD Captain Jeffrey Cutwright Interview
- Euclid PD Lt. Dave Olszewski Interview
- Interview with Dupri Whatley

On Thursday, August 25, 2022, at approximately 1755 hours, Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and Special Agent Chuck Moran (Moran) traveled to Dupri Whatley's residence located at [REDACTED] Akron, Ohio, 44313.

Agents were able to make contact with Whatley at that residence. SA Momchilov introduced himself to Whatley and advised him that they had previously spoken on the phone.

SA Momchilov advised Whatley that after they he had spoken to him, he interviewed multiple Euclid officers who were present during Whatley's employment interview. SA Momchilov advised Whatley, that the Euclid officers told SA Momchilov what they believed he said or what he did say. SA Momchilov then stated, "Kind of what you told me is something different."

Whatley stated, "So when I talked to them it wasn't, hey he [Jayland Walker] called me and said how do I get a cop to shoot me. This is when, prior to me becoming law enforcement, when I was in the academy he asked me about it and that's, I told him. So when I was talking to them, I said it's not like he don't know the dos and the don'ts, me and him talked about work. I never said he called me and asked me how to get somebody to shoot him."

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SA Momchilov asked Whatley if he talked about police tactics with Walker. Whatley replied, "This was way before the incident. This was back in 2019, when I was going through the police academy. He would come over, we would talk about stuff, like this is before I even became a sheriff. He asked me, why do people do this, how do people get them, how do people get cops to shoot them and stuff like that. This was way before that."

Whatley advised that he was upset that someone called and said that he said that because according to him, he did not say what Euclid police said that he said. Whatley stated that he did not complete the required paperwork for Euclid Police to continue with the hiring process because he was upset.

Whatley stated, "Me being in the middle of all this, like I said, I'm in law enforcement but that's my best friend. So this is like, for somebody to say, well he came to us and he said this, that is not what I said. And they still telling you like, what that's what he told us when he was here at the interview, that's what they telling you. That don't sit right with me, because that is not what I said."

Whatley stated that if his best friend had called him and said, "Hey, how do I get a cop to shoot me" he would not have let him get off the phone and would have called somebody.

SA Momchilov explained that when he was initially told this information, it was relayed that Walker, point blank asked Whatley, how do I get the police to shoot me. SA Momchilov further advised that after he spoke with Euclid police personnel in person, it was discovered that perhaps the questions that Walker was asking were more police tactical questions. SA Moran then stated that the Euclid police knew about Walker's fiancé's death and maybe they equated that Walker's police tactics questions were more recent.

Whatley advised that Euclid police could have contacted him and asked him questions about the information they were unsure about. Whatley stated, "Me dealing with this and me still trying to go to work and get through everything, while everything is going on and I got his mom, sister calling me and I'm going through all of this and to have you call me and say, well Euclid told me this and you like I gotta get down to the bottom of this because Euclid told me this. So, I'm like hold on, I'm like that ain't what I told them. Like if I told them that, I would tell you that but I was like, no."

SA Momchilov advised that Whatley had previously said that he and Walker went to a gun range. SA Momchilov further advised that agents were able to obtain security video from the gun range on June 7, 2022. Whatley advised that another one of his friends from California was also at the gun range with them. Whatley once again stated that he was on his way to the gun range

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when he passed Walker on the highway and Whatley invited Walker to join them. SA Momchilov asked Whatley what kind of gun he was shooting. Whatley advised that he was shooting a Glock 17. SA Momchilov asked if anyone was shooting a Glock 45, 9mm. Whatley replied, "I couldn't tell you."

SA Momchilov then explained to Whatley the reason why he was asking. SA Momchilov advised Whatley that Walker went back to that gun range on June 20, 2022 and purchased a Glock 45, 9mm, and that gun was recovered from his vehicle. Whatley replied, "I didn't even know that." Whatley continued, "So, when we went there, I was shooting my gun. I don't know what my friend from California was shooting but he was with me the whole time. It was, he didn't know he was doing at all. He didn't know what he was doing at all."

Whatley advised that Walker did not know how to load the gun and loaded the bullets in the wrong way. Whatley also advised that he showed Walker how to hold the gun.

Whatley advised that he had no idea that Walker went back and purchased a firearm. Whatley advised that Walker's mom and sister said, "They said that he had a gun and I'm like I don't know." Whatley advised that Walker's family asked if he ever had a gun and Whatley told them he never knew him to have a gun.

SA Momchilov asked Whatley if he spoke to anyone from Akron (Akron Police) or Summit County (Summit County Sheriff's Office) about agents speaking with him. Whatley advised that the only time was when SA Momchilov had called him. Whatley explained that he was working when SA Momchilov initially left him a phone message on July 2, 2022. Whatley further explained that he spoke with somebody at Summit County to make sure it was okay to speak with SA Momchilov. Whatley advised that he had previously been told that deputies need to get the okay before "Talking to anybody first." Whatley was later given the okay to speak with SA Momchilov.

SA Momchilov replied, "Anybody from Akron." Whatley replied, "I have not talk to anyone from Akron." SA Momchilov then replied, "What about Detective King." Whatley asked, "Detective who?" SA Moran responded, "Bertina King."

Whatley stated, "I've talk to a, I've talk to like a few people from Akron about the situation." Whatley then asked if agents were asking if anyone from Akron had come and interviewed him. SA Momchilov advised that Detective King brought it to someone's attention that she had a conversation with Whatley about the incident but that she did not discuss specifics about what was said.

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Whatley replied, "Nah, I just talked to her. That's it. Like, somebody that know me and Jayland for Westland, they called me, asked me was I okay and I'm like it's a struggle still coming to work and dealing with this. So she gave people my number to talk to, so I could talk to them about the whole situation and about law enforcement." Whatley continued, "I just talked to her about, talk to her about, not like the same stuff I'm talking to you about, is what I talked to her about. That, that's pretty much about it. Like she talked to me, she told me, it's basically like, don't let this discourage you cause I was at a point where I was like, I don't think I really wanna, but that's mainly what it was about."

SA Momchilov stated that someone had previously mentioned that Walker may have cut off ties with talking to Whatley or "Go dark on you." Whatley replied, "So when he called me, he called me on the phone, he said, 'hey I just wanna tell you that I love you,' I'm like, I love you too, I said, 'What's going on?' then he would like, cry for a while, he was like 'They took my girlfriend from me.' This was prior to us going to the gun range. So, like I had that call, So, I know, so basically like how I told them, I know how I get when I go through certain stuff, I just cut everybody off for a while. I don't wanna talk to nobody, so I was giving him his space figuring out, if I gave him his space he will be fine, he'll call me if he need me. So, like, it's never like he went dark, I was just like giving him his space, like."

SA Momchilov responded that he believed he heard that information from Euclid and that they advised at some point Whatley tried to reach out to Walker and Walker did not respond. Whatley replied, "Yeah, I tried to call but, you know, but like I said I'm the same way. It ain't like he went completely dark on me, it's just like I called he ain't answer. So, I was just giving him his space cause I know how I get."

SA Moran asked if he was ever able to connect with Walker to schedule the visit to the gun range. Whatley explained that he just happened to see Walker on the highway when he was on his way to the gun range and then called Walker. Whatley did state that he did talk with Walker at the gun range and in the parking lot. Whatley later stated that he believed that was the last time he spoke with Walker.

Whatley further explained that he continued to give Walker space and stated, "I know how I get so I'm not about to hound you. Cause like, me, I just feel like if you continue to keep checking on somebody and doing this and doing that, it make them do something that they probably really don't want to do. That's how I think about most stuff, so that's why I just gave him his space. And if he called he called."

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SA Momchilov stated, "Just so I'm clear, you guys didn't have a conversation recently about police tactics it was back when you were in the academy." Whatley replied, "This was back when I was in the academy, getting my job going into Summit County."

SA Momchilov asked Whatley if he and Walker discussed, "General stuff?" Whatley stated, "Just, you know, I'm in the police academy, you know, you know how some people just be curious. Like my little brother, my little brother going through right now. My little brother use to ask me stuff all the time and I told him, you know show me your hands, you tell somebody to show me their hands, they turn around real quick, you don't know what they got, you know, so that's how most people end up getting shot because they don't listen. All they got to do is just listen. Show me your hands."

SA Momchilov then asked, "And that is what you guys discussed." Whatley replied, "Like, we talked about that. We talked about pursuits, like handcuff tech, we just talked about it."

During the interview, Whatley advised that he spoke at Walker's funeral. At Walker's gravesite Whatley stated he was asked if Walker had his gun. Whatley stated he told them he did not.

SA Momchilov stated, "I guess the weird thing I got here and the thing I'm trying to figure out is, you know, I think Jayland, you know, obviously knew better then to like shoot (shooting from the vehicle), I mean was this, was he trying to go down the road of suicide. I mean, was he a religious person where he can't you know, can't kill himself....that's what we're trying to figure out."

Whatley replied, "To this day, to this day, I, I still, like he got the one speeding ticket and that was because of me. Because he came and picked me up from Sam's Club, from down there and I was like bro, you driving slow. Like, he was never." SA Momchilov responded, "There's no reason for him to do what he did, I guess is what I'm getting at, you know."

Whatley replied, "That's what people ask me. I'm like, I don't know, I wasn't there, I can't tell you what he was going, like what he was going through." SA Momchilov responded, "We can't either, we're just looking at it from the outside, I can't get into his head, but it's just."

Agents asked Whatley if he knew if Walker was working anywhere else besides Uber Eats and Doordash. Whatley stated from what he recalled Walker was working at Amazon. Agents informed Whatley that Walker was no longer working at Amazon. Whatley stated that Walker never told him that he left Amazon and Whatley stated that he didn't know what Walker was "door dashing full time."

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SA Momchilov advised Whatley that Walker was working at Uber Eats and Doordash. SA Momchilov explained that on the night of the incident, records indicated that Walker was not working on the night of the shooting, however, he was driving all around Akron. SA Momchilov stated that Walker did not stop at anyone's house and he did not call or text anyone to say he was coming over.

Whatley then advised that he heard that Walker got stopped the night before in New Franklin. SA Momchilov replied, "They tried to stop him." Whatley replied, "They tried to stop him but he?" SA Momchilov then stated, "Took off." Whatley replied "So, I was hearing a whole bunch of stuff and I'm like man, this, this not the, this not the goofy dude that I know, that I use to, so."

The interview with Whatley was audio recorded, that recording is attached to this Investigative Report.

After investigators initially learned that there was some discrepancies between what Whatley may have told Euclid Police personnel and what he told SA Momchilov during his first interview, a subpoena was issued for Whatley's phone records.

SA Momchilov reviewed the records and documented the following:

The records indicate that SA Momchilov called Whatley on July 2, 2022 at 1527 hours.

Whatley returned SA Momchilov's phone call on July 2, 2022 at 1652 and the duration of that conversation was 1541 seconds.

Between SA Momchilov's initial call to Whatley until Whatley returns SA Momchilov's call, Whatley receives a call at approximately 1536 hours from phone number 330-634-4913. The duration of that call is 946 seconds. Robert Jay Hubbard is the possible registered owner of that phone number. According to an Akron Beacon Journal article dated July 4, 2022 Robert Hubbard appears to be Jayland Walker and Dupri Whatley's former wrestling coach.

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Jayland Walker, center, at a 2020 wrestling tournament he went to watch. He is shown with, from left, his former Buchtel wrestling coach Robert Hubbard and fellow alumni Jaren Watts and Blake Lewis; kneeling. Submitted Photo

Figure 1

*Figure 1 is a photograph taken from the July 4, 2022, Akron Beacon Journal Article.*

At approximately 1623 hours, Whatley makes a phone call to number 330-245-4911. The duration of that call is 893 seconds.

After SA Momchilov's conversation with Whatley, numerous outgoing phone calls are made by Whatley. SA Momchilov noticed two noteworthy calls made by Whatley.

At approximately 1737 hours, Whatley makes an outgoing phone call to phone number 330-786-8103. That phone number belongs to Jada Walker, Jayland Walker's sister and the duration of that call is 3 seconds. At approximately 1743 hours, Jada calls Whatley and the duration of that call is 542 seconds.

At approximately 1931 hours, Whatley makes an outgoing phone call to phone number 330-801-0176. That phone number belongs to Bertina King, a detective with the Akron Police Department. The duration of that call is 2474 seconds.

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Detective King was interviewed reference to her conversation with Whatley (See Investigative report titled, "APD Detective Bertina King phone interview" for further detail.

The phone records obtained for Whatley was placed onto a DVD; that DVD was placed in the item section of the physical case file, labeled as Item H.

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**Supervisor Approval: SAS Jon Lieber #50**

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