



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 Janson-Euclid Police Department

Activity Date: July 5, 2022

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

Narrative:

On July 5, 2022, at 1317 hours, Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) and SA Chuck Moran interviewed Euclid Police Department (EPD) Captain Mike Janson (Janson) at the Euclid Police Department, located at 545 E. 222nd Street, Euclid, Ohio.

SA Momchilov stated to Captain Janson, "I know we spoke on Saturday briefly and you relayed some information to me, if we could maybe go over that again and you know, basically discuss what happened on Wednesday, with a candidate named Dupri Whatley (Whatley)."

Captain Janson explained that Whatley came in for an interview as a lateral candidate and that Whatley is a Summit County Deputy Sheriff assigned to the jail. Captain Janson explained that something came up between Chief Scott Meyer and Whatley about the Akron Police Department. Whatley then mentioned that the individual (Jayland Walker), who was shot by Akron Police, was Whatley's best friend growing up. Captain Janson stated he did not recall if Whatley mentioned the individual's name.

According to Captain Janson, Whatley stated that Walker's fiancé or girlfriend died in a car crash, and Walker felt semi-responsible for it, even though he wasn't involved in the crash. Whatley advised that Walker was depressed and talked about having suicidal thoughts. Captain Janson stated, "We kind of let him talk and part of what he said was, then he started, Jayland started asking me about, well what if I did this, he asked a few questions like, what if I did this, could I get the police to shoot me."

According to Captain Janson, Whatley said he told Walker, "Don't do that to any police officers, they will have to live with it, but I understand if you feel like you want to hurt yourself." Captain Janson stated that Whatley became a little emotional when talking about Walker and at one point wiped his eyes.

Captain Janson stated, at the end, Chief Meyer asked Whatley, "What do you think happened here." According to Captain Janson, Whatley replied, "I definitely think it was suicide by cop." Captain Janson advised he mentioned to Whatley that it was being reported that Walker shot at police during the pursuit and asked Whatley if Walker was known to have a gun. Captain Janson stated that Whatley replied, "No, but that's not saying he didn't have one."

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SA Momchilov asked Captain Janson if Whatley stated when his conversations with Walker occurred. Captain Janson stated, "The only thing he said was something to the effect of, well he's, wont talk to me lately, like I think maybe because Dupri wouldn't go along with the program and help him out with his questions and stuff, that he stopped, he said, he just recently wouldn't return my calls or my texts."

SA Momchilov asked, "Would it be fair to say that it was after his fiancé was killed in the car crash?"

Captain Janson replied, "Yeah, because he knew all about that and that's when he said the depression started full swing and he couldn't talk him out of it."

The interview with Captain Janson was audio recorded. That recording is attached to this Investigative Report.

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