



**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: Phone Interview with Officer  
 Involves: Detective Bertina King (O), BCI (O)  
 Activity Date: 10/17/2022  
 Activity Location: Phone Call  
 Authoring Agent: SA Charles Moran #67

**Narrative:**

On Monday, October 17, 2022, at 1418 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chuck Moran (Moran) spoke with Akron Police Department (APD) Detective Bertina King (King) by phone.

The call to Detective King was in reference to her phone call with Dupri Whatley on July 7, 2022. The call between Detective King and Dupri Whatley occurred after SA Momchilov spoke with Dupri Whatley by phone that day.

Previously, on October 14, 2022, at 1508 hours, SA Moran called Detective King and left a voicemail requesting a return call. On Monday, October 17, 2022, at 0902 hours, Detective King returned the call and left a voicemail for SA Moran.

During the call on October 17, 2022, SA Moran explained that APD Sergeant Starvaggi had informed BCI that Detective King informed him about a phone call with Dupri Whatley. Detective King initially said she did not talk to Dupri Whatley, and then immediately recalled that she did speak with him and that he was a sheriff's deputy.

Detective King said Jayland Walker was a "good friend" of Dupri Whatley, and Dupri Whatley wanted to know about the investigation and which agency was investigating. Detective King told him that BCI was investigating the incident. Detective King said Dupri Whatley told her that Jayland Walker's family wanted him to come and "march" with them, and he explained to them that he could not because he was a law enforcement officer.

Detective King reiterated that Dupri Whatley and Jayland Walker were "very good" friends and "shot together" and "hung out together." SA Moran asked Detective King if she believed that Dupri Whatley was seeking "advice" from her. Detective King responded, "Yes." She explained that Dupri Whatley was a member of the sheriff's office, and he knew he could not "stand out there in a sheriff's uniform." She mentioned Jayland Walker's family having "press conferences," and they were asking Dupri Whatley why he was not there with them. Detective

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King told Dupri Whatley that he could support the family, but he needed to contact the sheriff before being present for any press conferences or making any public statements.

SA Moran asked Detective King if she knew who Dupri Whatley was before their phone call or if he called her unexpectedly. Detective King said she knew who Dupri Whatley was, but she did not have much interaction with him. Detective King said they had a "mutual friend," and Dupri Whatley called her and she told him to call Detective King. She said Dupri Whatley was upset because he did not know what to do, and his friend [Jayland Walker] had recently been killed. Detective King said she performed the next-of-kin death notification to Jayland Walker's family after the incident with Sergeant Starvaggi.

SA Moran asked Detective King if she spoke with Dupri Whatley before or after his interview with the Euclid Police Department (EPD). She said she believed she spoke with him "after" because there was a statement that Dupri Whatley made that the EPD "didn't like or something." SA Moran explained that the EPD spoke with Dupri Whatley, and he told them something that was different than normal interviews. Detective King said she believed what Dupri Whatley said was "taken out of context" because when he explained it to her, it "didn't seem that bad." She said she was unsure of the question that was asked by the EPD.

SA Moran asked Detective King what Dupri Whatley specifically told her about what he told the EPD. Detective King said she could not remember exactly what Dupri Whatley told her about what he said to the EPD, but he did tell her "in detail." SA Moran asked, "So, do you, do you recall at all was Dupri saying anything about Jayland asking about like, police tactics at all?" Detective King answered, "No. Not at all." She said she knew that Dupri Whatley and Jayland Walker went to the shooting range and shot guns. She said Dupri Whatley told her that going to the shooting range is what he does to relieve stress. Detective King stated, "And he was talking about how he was something like, I don't know if he [Jayland Walker] was depressed or something that he was concerned about and he [Dupri Whatley] had told him like, 'Why don't you come on and go to the range with me?' "

SA Moran asked Detective King if she believed that Dupri Whatley was being "straightforward" with her. Detective King answered, "Oh yeah." She explained that Dupri Whatley applied at other departments for law enforcement jobs; and, when he told her about what he said to the EPD, that it did not seem that bad, but Dupri Whatley "got the vibe from them that it was something he shouldn't have said." Detective King said she called Dupri Whatley the next day (possibly July 3, 2022) to check on him.

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SA Moran asked Detective King if she believed Dupri Whatley spoke to her for “advice” or if he was “trying to get his story straight.” Detective King said she believed Dupri Whatley called her for advice, especially about appearing with Jayland Walker’s family. SA Moran told Detective King that BCI agents spoke with Dupri Whatley twice. Detective King reiterated that she believed Dupri Whatley called her for information about “what to do, what not to do.”

SA Moran mentioned to Detective King that BCI agents were unsure if Dupri Whatley called Detective King to “vet” BCI. Detective King stated, “Oh no, he just called, he wanted to know like, what, do we think it would look bad if he did this like, how would it be perceived and I said you know, I gave him what I would do for good advice.” She said she told Dupri Whatley that BCI was investigating the incident and that BCI agents might contact him. She told him to “just be honest,” if he was contacted.

SA Moran asked Detective King if there was anything else Dupri Whatley told her about Jayland Walker. Detective King stated, “Just that they were friends and you know, they hung out a lot. And um, he [Dupri Whatley] thought he [Jayland Walker] was going through something right before this, but he didn’t elaborate as to what. Oh, and then that girl had just got killed.” Detective King explained that Dupri Whatley knew that Jayland Walker’s fiancé had recently died. Detective King said Dupri Whatley told her that he thought Jayland Walker was “in a bad place.” She reiterated that Dupri Whatley did not provide specific information about that.

SA Moran asked Detective King if she was certain that Dupri Whatley did not tell her about Jayland Walker asking about police procedures and tactics. She replied, “No. No, yeah, ‘cause I would have remembered that and I would have asked more questions.” SA Moran asked Detective King if Dupri Whatley mentioned that he spoke with BCI agents. Detective King said Dupri Whatley did not say anything to her about speaking with BCI agents. She believed that she spoke with Dupri Whatley before BCI agents knew about him because she spoke with him shortly after the incident.

The phone call ended at about 1432 hours. The phone call was audio recorded.

Attachment:

The audio-recorded phone call was attached to this report.

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