



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 Law Enforcement
 Involves: Chief Scott Meyer (O), Euclid Police Department (O), BCI (O)
 Activity Date: 7/5/2022
 Activity Location: Euclid Police Department –
 545 East 222nd Street, Euclid, Ohio 44123
 Authoring Agent: SA Charles Moran #67

Narrative:

On July 5, 2022, at 1238 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Chuck Moran (Moran) and SA Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) interviewed Euclid Police Department (EPD) Chief Scott Meyer (Meyer).

Chief Meyer said the EPD was in the process of trying to hire police officers. Chief Meyer said he and several other EPD ranking officers recently interviewed a candidate for a potential lateral law enforcement hire named Dupri Whatley (Whatley). Chief Meyer said Whatley is a jail detention deputy for the Summit County Sheriff's Office.

Chief Meyer said the interviews are not “structured” events and are meant for the interviewers to understand the candidate’s personality and ability to communicate. Chief Meyer said conversation with Whatley brought up the recent incident in Akron involving Jayland Walker. Chief Meyer said Whatley brought up the incident and was in a “very emotional state.” Chief Meyer said Whatley asked him if he knew of the incident in Akron; Chief Meyer told him that he heard about but did not know any details. Chief Meyer said it was “clear” that Whatley wanted to talk about it.

Whatley told Chief Meyer that he was “good friends” with Jayland Walker for “years.” Chief Meyer reiterated that it was clearly a “very emotional thing” for Whatley. Chief Meyer said Whatley told the interviewers that Jayland Walker had been going through “some difficult times.” Whatley specifically mentioned the death of Jayland Walker’s girlfriend/fiancée and how that “really impacted him,” and he had been “talking kind of crazy.”

Chief Meyer said he could tell by Whatley’s “body language” and he asked Whatley, “Are you saying this could have been suicide-by-cop?” Chief Meyer said he could not recall exactly what Whatley’s response was verbatim, but it was “affirmative” and was like, “Yeah, I think so” or “Maybe.”

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Whatley continued to talk more and it seemed like he wanted to “get it off his chest.” Whatley said he was friends with Jayland Walker and he was a “good kid.” Chief Meyer said there was discussion of “suicidal ideation” and Whatley said he had been talking to Jayland Walker because he knew he was “very down” and “very depressed.”

Chief Meyer said Whatley spoke about how Jayland Walker asked about “tactical and technical questions about police work.” Chief Meyer stated, “I don’t remember the exact context, but it’s you know, along the lines of him asking, ‘What if I did this? What would the police do then? What reaction would the police have?’ And it was, I can’t remember the exact context, but he’s [Whatley] like, you know, ‘Don’t ever do those kind of things. You do those kind of things you could get yourself shot.’ ”

SA Momchilov asked, “Did you get the impression he was asking him, ‘How do I get the police to shoot me?’ Would that be fair to say?” Chief Meyer responded, “That’s the impression I took and that’s what I believe what he was trying to relay to myself, to the others.” Chief Meyer said that even though there was a small group in the room, it seemed like he and Whatley were having a “direct conversation” and it appeared that Whatley “really needed to talk about it more than, more than anything.”

Chief Meyer said Whatley did not tell him exactly when Jayland Walker asked him those types of questions, but Chief Meyer said the context of the conversation led him to believe it was “relatively recent.” SA Moran asked Chief Meyer if he believed the questions and comments by Jayland Walker were made recently due to the emotions that Whatley showed when discussing the matter. Chief Meyer said Whatley was “shaking” and was on the verge of crying. Chief Meyer said it was clear that Whatley was “affected by this.” Chief Meyer said Whatley was “personable” and he had a tough upbringing in the inner city of Akron.

Chief Meyer said he believed that interview with Whatley occurred on June 29, 2022. Chief Meyer said the job interviews are not recorded. They are conducted, especially for potential lateral hires, to ascertain the candidate’s “people skills” and “social intelligence.”

The interview with Chief Meyer was audio recorded.

Attachments:

The audio recorded interview with Chief Meyer was attached to this report.

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