



**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 David Laughlin

Activity Date: October 24, 2022

Authoring Agent: Special Agent Cory Momchilov #64

**Narrative:**

On October 24, 2022, at approximately 1409 hours, Special Agent (SA) Cory Momchilov (Momchilov) interviewed Captain David Laughlin (Laughlin) of the Akron Police Department. Captain Laughlin was present during Dupri Whatley's (Whatley) conditional job offer interview with the Akron Police Department.

SA Momchilov advised Captain Laughlin that it was his understanding that Jayland Walker (Walker) was brought up during Whatley's pre-employment interview. Captain Laughlin advised that was correct and stated, "Going back in time, we were having protest, Summit County Sheriffs helped ride patrol and actually someone sent me a picture of Mr. Whatley at the Civic Center, you know taking a picture with Jayland and you know, some, big thing they had a picture of him and at the funeral service and he was with a couple other people who were highly involved in the protest. So I became aware of him in that regard, so I mean, I knew his connection with Jayland."

Captain Laughlin explained that during Whatley's interview, Whatley was asked about his relationship with Walker. SA Momchilov asked Captain Laughlin if Whatley mentioned that he may have discussed police tactics with Walker in the past.

Captain Laughlin stated, "Yeah, he, I don't remember if he really gave a, he didn't really give a timeline on how soon, prior to the officer-involved shooting. I think he just indicated that, you know, at some point in time, prior to that, they were together, just having conversations and Jayland just asked him, you know, 'what would someone need to do' or 'what would' you know, 'how would somebody get the police to shoot them' I think it was kind of how, somewhere along those lines."

Captain Laughlin continued, "Mr. Whatley replied, he said you know, if the officer perceives some kind of a threat, you know, where it would be, you know, whether you have a weapon or not, like raising your hand towards them where officers could think that you had a gun in your hand, um, then there's a good chance officers would shoot you." Captain Laughlin then stated, "At that point in time, in Mr. Whatley saying that, it started giving me chills because, I mean, that's, you know, pretty much what happened, from my knowledge."

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SA Momchilov stated, "You said he didn't give a timeline, is it possible this could have been a couple years ago, or did you get that impression." Captain Laughlin replied, "You know, I got the impression that it was closer in time than that. How much closer in time, he didn't say..."

SA Momchilov asked Captain Laughlin when the pre-employment interview with Whatley took place. Captain Laughlin advised that he believed the interview was conducted on Thursday, October 20, 2022.

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

**Attachments:**

The audio recording of the interview is attached to this Investigative Report.

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