



## Roop Gupta Murder Investigation

### Best Overall Investigative Job Leading To Solution Of Crime

In February 2021 Roop C. Gupta was senselessly murdered during an aggravated robbery of his Madeira Beverage convenience store. This tragedy was the first homicide experienced by the Madeira community since 1984. Mr. Gupta was not just a respected 68-year-old business owner but called Madeira home as well. He was described by many as a neighbor and a friend.

Madeira investigators surveyed the scene that night and initially started with a meager amount of evidence that included a grainy video of the gunman and a small caliber bullet casing. Immediately requests for assistance from the Hamilton County law enforcement community and beyond were made. These requests were answered by agencies at the Federal, State and local level. Numerous agencies contributed greatly in the collection and processing of evidence, gathering of intelligence, preparation and service of warrants, surveillance and every type of support imaginable. This included the issuance of a cash reward by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and an anonymous donor. The tremendous outpouring of assistance and contributions augmented the resources of a small suburban agency to help arrest the people responsible for the untimely and tragic death of Mr. Roop Gupta.

A flawless team effort in a rapidly growing and evolving investigation revealed the **MURDER** of Mr. Gupta was linked to a two-day crime spree that included five aggravated robberies of Southwest Ohio convenience stores. Investigators identified Willie James Attaway, 30, of Cincinnati, and Lamond Johnson, 35, most recently of Cincinnati as the men responsible for the robberies and murder. Both men had criminal pasts, Attaway being known for possessing drugs and Johnson being a convicted rapist. Within a month, investigators tracked down Attaway and Johnson, but these arrests would prove to be eventful. A short vehicle pursuit and foot chase resulted in an undercover vehicle being rammed and a gun being pointed at a pursuing officer where a shot was fired. Johnson was apprehended the day of the pursuit and Attaway later turned himself in to police.

The joint efforts of the dedicated investigators led to Attaway and Johnson being charged in a fourteen-count federal indictment. This indictment includes the possibility of the death penalty. The number of resources selflessly given by area agencies attributed to a successful conclusion of an extremely complex and difficult case. The cities of Blue Ash, Hamilton (Butler County), Lebanon (Warren County) Madeira and Deerfield Township (Warren County Sheriff's Department) were all impacted by this two-day crime spree. The collection of agencies and their personnel's drive to bring these individuals to justice is worthy of recognition as Best Overall Investigative Job Leading To Solution Of Crime.

#### **United States Attorney's Office**

Vipal J. Patel, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio  
Assistant United States Attorney Julie D. Garcia

#### **Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office**

Joe Deters, Hamilton County Prosecutor



# Madeira Police Department

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David A. Schaefer  
Chief of Police

## **Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms**

Special Agent in Charge Roland Herndon  
Resident Special Agent in Charge Francesco Occhipinti  
Special Agent Derek S. Graham  
Special Agent Michelle Nelson  
Special Agent John D. Remick-Cook

## **Blue Ash Police Department**

Detective Mark Niehaus  
Detective Brendan McKinney  
Detective Jeff Lewis

## **Cincinnati Police Department**

Officer Chris Vogelpohl  
Detective Dave Gregory

## **Green Township Police Department**

Officer John Mulholland

## **Hamilton Police Department**

Detective Mel Gray

## **Lebanon Police Department**

Detective TM Cooper

## **Madeira Police Department**

Detective Rick Byram  
Officer Joe Freeman

## **Warren County Sheriff's Office**

Major Steve Arrasmith  
Lieutenant Chris Peters  
Sergeant Brian Hounshell  
Detective Brian Lewis  
Deputy Christopher Wong  
Deputy Brandon Abshear