

**TO:** Ohio Reporters and Editors  
**FROM:** Courtney Rice, Friends of Nan Whaley Communications Director  
**DATE:** September 8, 2021  
**RE:** Fact Check on Unfounded Claims Against Nan Whaley

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This document lays out information regarding the 2014 search warrant and unfounded claims made against Nan Whaley. Below you can find information on the following:

- 1) Nan Whaley was not the target of this investigation. This investigation clearly centered on Steve Rauch, who has since pleaded guilty of conspiracy to engage in mail fraud.
- 2) The recent unsealing of this document indicates that the FBI is no longer investigating this matter. Further, they never contacted Whaley to discuss this claim and she only found out about the existence of this warrant when asked by a reporter on Monday.
- 3) The individual who made these claims against Whaley is someone whom Whaley has never interacted with, nor met, but was an employee of Rauch's company and was involved in other illegal schemes.
- 4) Dayton city electeds have little to no influence over contracts with the city and Whaley has never inserted herself into the city contracting process.
- 5) In 2019, when Whaley learned of the corruption in Dayton, she took action to strengthen procurement and reporting structures to prevent something similar from happening again.

**Statement from Nan Whaley:**

*"These seven-year-old claims are baseless and categorically untrue. In the course of federal investigations into illegal activity in Dayton, unfounded claims were made against me. Investigators did exactly what they should do: thoroughly looked into it and found nothing. I can only assume investigators saw through these claims because I only learned about them this week, but I'm glad they were taken seriously and I'm grateful for the FBI's work to root out corruption. Unlike our current governor, when I realized that there was a corruption problem in my city I took immediate action to address it and prevent it from happening again."*

**Whaley was not the target of this investigation, which was clearly focused on Rauch.**

Steve Rauch [has been at](#) the center of a variety of criminal investigations for years. The search warrant makes clear that the focus was on Willis Blackshear Sr. and Steve Rauch (paragraph 20).

20. The investigation relates to the public corruption and fraud against the government activities of WILLIS BLACKSHEAR and others (both known and unknown to law enforcement). Investigators believe that matters relevant to the offenses under investigation have been and continue to be discussed using Cellco Partnership DBA Verizon cell phone number (937) 416-7953 (i.e., the Target Cell Phone). Cellco Partnership DBA Verizon is an electronic communication service provider doing business in Bedminster, New Jersey. The listed subscriber for this number is WILLIS E. BLACKSHEAR and investigators believe the phone is currently being used by WILLIS BLACKSHEAR, a target of this investigation.

The document specifically focused on an upcoming (July 2014) meeting between Blackshear and Rauch (paragraph 19).

19. In approximately July 2014, CHS-4 reported that RAUCH and BLACKSHEAR intend to meet on or about July 9, 2014. The meeting is expected to include a payment from RAUCH to BLACKSHEAR for BLACKSHEAR's involvement in SRI's City of Dayton contracts in furtherance of the above described violations of federal law. It is expected that this meeting will occur in the Southern District of Ohio.

**The recent unsealing of this document indicates that the FBI is no longer investigating this matter.** The timeline of the DOJ's requests to keep this document sealed make clear that they have moved on from this case. This document was scheduled to unseal in 2019. The DOJ requested that it remain sealed because it was a part of an ongoing criminal investigation:

4. That the disclosure of certain information and statements contained in said documents would hamper an ongoing criminal investigation.

This same language was used in 2019 and January 2020 - during which time investigations were ongoing against Joey Williams and Steve Rauch. Motion to seal in July of 2020 was changed to say:

2. This matter relates to a series of interrelated investigations, some of which that have resulted in pending indictments before this Court. Because the full scope of these investigations has not been made public and disclosure of the warrants would reveal investigative techniques actively being used in other active matters, the case should remain sealed.

Rauch [pleaded](#) guilty to mail fraud charges (not bribery) in November 2020. In July 2021, the DOJ did not ask for the document to remain sealed - presumably because they are no longer pursuing any cases that it would be pertinent to. All of these filings are available on PACER.

**These unfounded claims were second-hand and made by someone Whaley never interacted with.** All of the claims against Nan Whaley made in this search warrant came from Dan Feucht, the comptroller at Steve Rauch's company. Whaley has never interacted with him. The [Dayton Daily News separately found](#) that he appeared to have lied to the City of Dayton to illegally obtain minority business contracts for Rauch's company.

**Dayton city electeds have little to no influence over contracts with the city.** That power mainly rests with the City Manager's office. That is one of the reasons flags were [raised](#) when then-City Commissioner Joey Williams inserted himself into the contracting process with City Manager Shelley Dickstein. Please see [this](#) article for reference. Furthermore, Whaley has never once inserted herself in the city contracting process.

**When Whaley learned of corruption in Dayton in 2019, she took action.** Under Whaley's leadership, the city [took action](#) to ensure corruption like in the Joey Williams and Steve Rauch case never happened again. In addition to an independent audit, Dayton changed its procurement and reporting structures to ensure such illegal activity could not happen again.