

1 18-3729-cr  
2 *United States v. Walker*

3  
4 UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
5 FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

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7  
8 August Term, 2019

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10 (Argued: January 9, 2020) Decided: July 14, 2020

11  
12 Docket No. 18-3729  
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16 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

17  
18 *Appellee,*

19  
20 v.

21  
22 JAQUAN WALKER,

23  
24 *Defendant-Appellant.*  
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26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27  
28 Before: CALABRESI, POOLER, and CARNEY, *Circuit Judges.*

29  
30 Appeal from an order of the United States District Court for the Northern  
31 District of New York (Thomas J. McAvoy, *J.*) denying Walker’s motion to  
32 suppress statements made and narcotics discovered during a search incident to  
33 arrest. We hold that the officers lacked an objectively reasonable belief of legal

1 wrongdoing to justify stopping Walker. We further hold that the attenuation  
2 doctrine does not apply. Suppression of the narcotics and Walker's statements  
3 during the search was accordingly warranted as the fruit of an illegal search  
4 conducted in violation of the Fourth Amendment.

5 Reversed and remanded.

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7 MOLLY K. CORBETT, Assistant Federal Defender, *for*  
8 Lisa A. Peebles, Federal Public Defender for the  
9 Northern District of New York, Albany, NY, *for*  
10 *Defendant-Appellant*.

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12 PAUL D. SILVER, Assistant United States Attorney, *for*  
13 Grant C. Jaquith, United States Attorney for the  
14 Northern District of New York, Albany, NY, *for Appellee*.

15

16 POOLER, *Circuit Judge*:

17 Jaquan Walker appeals from the December 13, 2018 judgment of  
18 conviction entered in the United States District Court for the Northern District of  
19 New York (Thomas J. McAvoy, J.) and challenges the denial of his motion to  
20 suppress statements Walker made and narcotics that police officers found in the  
21 course of a search incident to arrest following the stop of Walker and discovery  
22 of an unrelated arrest warrant.

1           The Fourth Amendment requires that officers enacting an investigatory  
2 stop have reasonable suspicion that the detained individual is committing, or has  
3 committed, a criminal offense—and “courts agree that race, when considered by  
4 itself and sometimes even in tandem with other factors, does not generate  
5 reasonable suspicion for a stop.” *United States v. Swindle*, 407 F.3d 562, 569-70 (2d  
6 Cir. 2005). Nonetheless, the officers in this case stopped Walker on the basis of a  
7 photograph that provided little meaningful identifying information to the police  
8 besides the race of a suspect. Because the police therefore lacked specific and  
9 articulable facts giving rise to a reasonable suspicion of criminal wrongdoing, we  
10 hold that the stop violated the Fourth Amendment.

11           The resultant taint of illegality was not purged by the officers’ subsequent  
12 discovery of an unrelated arrest warrant. We conclude that the search of Walker  
13 yielding the narcotics and statements at issue was insufficiently attenuated from  
14 the unconstitutional stop. The officers’ justification for the stop falls much too  
15 short of what the Fourth Amendment requires. Additionally, any suspicion,  
16 reasonable or otherwise, would have dissipated when the officers approached  
17 Walker and could see up close that he did not resemble the photographed  
18 suspect. The subsequent search for outstanding warrants was consequently

1 purposeful and flagrant conduct. We therefore hold that the attenuation doctrine  
2 does not apply, and suppression of the statements and narcotics remains the  
3 appropriate remedy.

4 Accordingly, we reverse the district court's denial of Walker's motion to  
5 suppress and remand for further proceedings consistent with this opinion.

### 6 **BACKGROUND**

7 At approximately 6:50 pm on September 2, 2017, Sergeant Peter Montanino  
8 of the City of Troy Police Department was on patrol in the Central Business  
9 District of Troy, New York. As he drove southbound down Church Street alley,  
10 two black males—Jaquan Walker and his friend Javone Hopkins—entered the  
11 alley and walked north past Montanino. The area in which Walker and Hopkins  
12 were walking was considered a safe area, and it was not uncommon for people  
13 to be walking around in this area at the time.

14 As Walker and Hopkins walked by, Montanino said he recalled an email  
15 he had received a day before that sought the identification of a suspect in a  
16 shooting that took place two days earlier. The email included a photograph along  
17 with the message that the sender was “trying to ID suspect #2 in this photo,”  
18 mentioned the name of another suspect, and asked that anyone who knew the

1 identity of “suspect #2” or had interacted with the other suspect reach out to the  
2 lead officers on the case. App’x at 123. Montanino pulled up this email on his  
3 iPhone 6 after Walker and Hopkins walked by, looked at the photograph, and  
4 then decided that he needed to identify who the two individuals were.

5 Montanino testified that Walker and Hopkins reminded him of the suspect in the  
6 email because both Walker and Hopkins were “medium to dark skin toned black  
7 males. They were thin build. Both were wearing glasses at the time. One had  
8 little longer length, longer than shoulder length hair. The other one had what  
9 appeared to be short hair. . . . Both had facial hair. . . . Both appeared to have  
10 goatees.” App’x at 45. Without explaining his suspicions, Montanino then called  
11 two of his subordinates, Officers Owen Conway and Martin Furciniti, and asked  
12 if they could identify the two pedestrians.

13         When the officers could not, Montanino asked Conway and Furciniti to  
14 “stop out” and identify them. App’x at 47-48. Stopping out is a practice of the  
15 Troy Police Department in which officers stop and exit their vehicle, approach  
16 pedestrians, request information and identification from the pedestrians, and  
17 check for outstanding warrants, which Furciniti testified was part of a standard  
18 procedure. Montanino testified that it was a “common course of practice, if

1 somebody is willing to give us, you know, their information, as a course of  
2 business, so to speak, we will run their names." App'x at 49-50. Montanino  
3 testified that the stop out practice is typically employed with individuals  
4 unknown to the officers who are set to patrol a certain zone.

5 The "stop out" of Walker and Hopkins occurred in the following fashion:  
6 Conway and Furciniti pulled up ahead of Walker and Hopkins, and Montanino  
7 pulled up behind them before they all converged. Walker testified that he and  
8 Hopkins were instructed to stop by the officers. Furciniti testified that the officers  
9 asked if they could have a word with the men. No police vehicle lights were  
10 flashing, but all the officers were uniformed with weapons on their sides.

11 The officers asked for identification, and Walker, feeling that he had no  
12 other option, gave over his identification. Montanino showed Furciniti the  
13 photograph in the email. Conway and Furciniti collected Walker and Hopkins's  
14 information and ran a file check for warrants and driver licenses. He also showed  
15 the photograph to Hopkins. It was later determined that Walker was not the  
16 person depicted in the photograph on which Montanino relied.

17 When the officers discovered the outstanding arrest warrant for Walker,  
18 Walker was placed in handcuffs. Hopkins was allowed to leave. Walker was

1 brought to the police car where Furciniti conducted a search incident to arrest.  
2 He found marijuana on Walker and continued to pat him down when he felt a  
3 bulge in Walker's groin area. Furciniti then asked Walker if "there was anything  
4 else [Furciniti] need[ed] to know," to which Walker replied that he possessed  
5 approximately fifty grams of crack cocaine. App'x at 95. Walker offered to  
6 retrieve the narcotics and also provided officers with information about drug and  
7 gun activity.

8 Walker was then charged with possession with intent to distribute a  
9 controlled substance in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1). He moved to suppress  
10 the drug evidence and any statements made during his arrest. The district court  
11 ultimately denied the motion. The district court found that Montanino thought  
12 Walker and Hopkins "reassembled [sic] a picture of a suspect in a shooting  
13 incident that had occurred on August 31, 2017 . . . about five blocks from where  
14 Sgt. Montanino first observed the men walking." App'x at 128. It also found that  
15 Walker, Hopkins, and "the shooting suspect were medium-to-dark skinned  
16 Black males, had similar builds, wore glasses, and had facial hair. The shooting  
17 suspect and Walker both had long hair." App'x at 128. It then held that the  
18 officers had reasonable suspicion to stop Walker because "Montanino observed

1 that Defendant resembled a shooting suspect depicted in a picture of the  
2 shooting scene,” and this reasonable suspicion could be imputed to Furciniti and  
3 Conway under the collective knowledge doctrine. App’x at 131. It concluded that  
4 because Walker was lawfully stopped and then arrested on an outstanding  
5 warrant, the “fruit of the poisonous tree” doctrine did not apply, and  
6 suppression of the found narcotics and Walker’s statements was thus not  
7 required. The district court further held that Furciniti’s question to Walker was  
8 not a custodial interrogation requiring *Miranda* warnings, so suppression of  
9 Walker’s response was not required.

10 After the court’s denial of his motion, Walker entered a conditional plea.  
11 The plea agreement allowed Walker to appeal the issue of “whether police  
12 lacked reasonable suspicion to stop the defendant on September 2, 2017 such that  
13 the cocaine base and post-arrest statements obtained from him should be  
14 suppressed under the Fourth Amendment.” App’x at 137. Should Walker  
15 prevail, he would be free to withdraw his plea.

16 Walker timely appealed.

17 **DISCUSSION**

1           “On review of a challenged suppression order, we examine the district  
2 court’s findings of fact for clear error, reviewing *de novo* questions of law and  
3 mixed questions of law and fact, including the existence of reasonable suspicion  
4 to stop or extend a stop.” *United States v. Santillan*, 902 F.3d 49, 56 (2d Cir. 2018).  
5 Our review is informed by the totality of the circumstances from the view of a  
6 reasonable and cautious officer on the scene. *Id.*

7           The Fourth Amendment protects “[t]he right of the people to be secure in  
8 their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and  
9 seizures.” U.S. Const. amend. IV. Though officers may “approach a person for  
10 purposes of investigating possibly criminal behavior even though there is no  
11 probable cause to make an arrest,” *Terry v. Ohio*, 392 U.S. 1, 22 (1968), the stop  
12 must be justified on the basis of reasonable suspicion “that the person to be  
13 detained is committing or has committed a criminal offense,” *Dancy v. McGinley*,  
14 843 F.3d 93, 106 (2d Cir. 2016) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

15           Walker argues that the officers lacked reasonable suspicion to stop him  
16 because: (1) the email that Montanino relied on did not contain specific or  
17 articulable facts to suggest that the depicted individual had committed any  
18 crime; and (2) even assuming the email could provide reasonable suspicion of

1 criminal activity, the photograph was not detailed enough and matched too  
2 many individuals to provide reasonable suspicion to stop Walker. The  
3 Government asserts that even if the officers lacked reasonable suspicion, the  
4 search was sufficiently attenuated from the unconstitutional stop by the  
5 discovery of an unrelated warrant so that suppression is not required under the  
6 attenuation doctrine. Walker responds that the attenuation doctrine does not  
7 apply because his stop was conducted pursuant to a policy by which police  
8 officers may stop any pedestrian and search for warrants, and the warrant check  
9 occurred after any suspicion would have been dispelled, making the stop  
10 purposeful and flagrant conduct.

11 **I. The Officers Lacked Reasonable Suspicion**

12 “Reasonable suspicion demands specific and articulable facts which, taken  
13 together with rational inferences from those facts, provide detaining officers with  
14 a particularized and objective basis for suspecting legal wrongdoing. In assessing  
15 reasonable suspicion, courts look at the totality of the circumstances through the  
16 eyes of a reasonable and cautious police officer on the scene, whose insights are  
17 necessarily guided by his experience and training. Courts do not, however,

1 merely defer to police officers' judgment." *United States v. Wallace*, 937 F.3d 130,  
2 138 (2d Cir. 2019) (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

3 We have little trouble concluding that the officers in this case lacked  
4 reasonable suspicion to stop Walker.<sup>1</sup> The justification for the stop revolved  
5 around an emailed photograph of an individual, who Montanino claimed was a  
6 suspect in a recent shooting and looked like Walker.<sup>2</sup> There are multiple reasons  
7 why the Government's justification falls far short of what the Constitution  
8 requires.

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<sup>1</sup> The Government conceded as much at oral argument. In response to Judge Pooler's question of whether the Government "concede[s] there was no reasonable suspicion, the photograph is not revealing enough to identify . . . either of these two black men, there was no reasonable suspicion, they shouldn't have been able to ask for the ID, and they shouldn't have been able to do a warrant search," counsel for the Government responded, "I'm with you up to the last point, your honor." Oral Argument at 24:02-24:23; *see also* Oral Argument at 23:34-42 ("conceding" the lack of reasonable suspicion to stop Walker).

<sup>2</sup> We find it noteworthy that Montanino, in contravention of usual practice, did not inform Conway and Furciniti that he thought Walker or Hopkins had been involved in a shooting, or were otherwise suspected to be dangerous, when he ordered the stop out. This omission is peculiar in light of the proffered justification. However, because an officer's subjective beliefs are irrelevant to our inquiry, *United States v. Bayless*, 201 F.3d 116, 133 (2d Cir. 2000), we nonetheless accept the Government's justification for purposes of conducting our analysis.

1           First, Montanino lacked reasonable suspicion to stop Walker based on the  
2 photograph. As we have repeatedly said, “race, when considered by itself and  
3 sometimes even in tandem with other factors, does not generate reasonable  
4 suspicion for a stop.” *Swindle*, 407 F.3d at 569-70. For instance, we have said that  
5 the description of a suspect as “thin, black, and male” was “too vague . . . to  
6 justify a stop of anyone meeting it.” *Dancy*, 843 F.3d at 109. Here, the  
7 characteristics of the suspect identified by the district court based on the  
8 photograph—black male, medium-to-dark skin tone, glasses, facial hair, and  
9 long hair—is likewise a “description [that] fit[s] too many people to constitute  
10 sufficient articulable facts on which to justify a forcible stop.” *Id.*

11           The use of “black male” and “medium-to-dark” skin tone alone captures a  
12 wide swath of individuals. Nor are the other traits, such as glasses, long hair, or  
13 facial hair, of which there are numerous types, any more particularized. Even  
14 with the combination of these characteristics, we are simply not convinced that  
15 the description fits a narrow enough subset of individuals to constitute a specific,  
16 articulable fact upon which reasonable suspicion may be based. *See Terry*, 392  
17 U.S. at 15 (“Under our decision, courts still retain their traditional responsibility  
18 to guard against police conduct which is over-bearing or harassing, or which

1 trenches upon personal security without the objective evidentiary justification  
2 which the Constitution requires.”).

3         Second, the fact that Walker was walking near the crime scene also fails to  
4 support reasonable suspicion. As the officers themselves testified, it was not  
5 unusual to see individuals walking around in the Central Business District of  
6 Troy where Walker was stopped. Therefore, although Walker and Hopkins were  
7 “found walking within several city blocks of the crime scene, such proximity was  
8 innocuous given the unremarkable nature of the area in question.” *Dancy*, 843  
9 F.3d at 109.

10         Finally, though the district court concluded that Montanino believed the  
11 photographed individual was a suspect in a shooting, this finding is clearly  
12 erroneous. Although Montanino testified that the email related to a shooting  
13 suspect, the email containing the photograph itself simply states that the sender  
14 was “trying to ID suspect #2,” without any mention of any crime, let alone a  
15 shooting, or the depicted suspect’s criminal involvement. App’x at 123. In  
16 addition, Montanino admitted that he did not know where the photograph was  
17 taken or whether the depicted individual was even the shooter. As such, the  
18 district court’s decision to credit Montanino’s testimony that he believed the

1 photograph showed a shooting suspect is clear error. *See Anderson v. City of*  
2 *Bessemer City*, 470 U.S. 564, 575 (1985) (“Documents or objective evidence may  
3 contradict the witness’ story; or the story itself may be so internally inconsistent  
4 or implausible on its face that a reasonable factfinder would not credit it. Where  
5 such factors are present, the court of appeals may well find clear error.”).

6 This lack of evidence is critical. Absent any indication that the  
7 photographed individual had been involved in the shooting—that is, “specific  
8 and articulable facts which . . . provide . . . a particularized and objective basis for  
9 suspecting legal wrongdoing,” *Dancy*, 843 F.3d at 106—Montanino lacked  
10 reasonable suspicion to justify stopping the person depicted in the photograph.  
11 As a result, Montanino’s claim that Walker looked like the individual in the  
12 emailed photograph could not provide him a sufficient basis upon which to stop  
13 Walker.

14 Because there was no indication in the email that the individual depicted  
15 in the attached photograph had committed a crime, and because attributes  
16 derived from the photograph fit too many people to constitute sufficient  
17 articulable facts, we conclude that the Troy Police Department officers did not

1 have reasonable suspicion that Walker had engaged in criminal activity to justify  
2 stopping him.

3 **II. The Attenuation Doctrine Does Not Apply**

4 Although the stop in this case was unconstitutional, that does not  
5 necessarily mean that the evidence against Walker must be suppressed. While it  
6 is true that typically “the exclusionary rule—the rule that often requires trial  
7 courts to exclude unlawfully seized evidence in a criminal trial—became the  
8 principal judicial remedy to deter Fourth Amendment violations,” that rule has  
9 exceptions. *Utah v. Strieff*, 136 S. Ct. 2056, 2061 (2016). One such exception is the  
10 attenuation doctrine: “Evidence is admissible when the connection between  
11 unconstitutional police conduct and the evidence is remote or has been  
12 interrupted by some intervening circumstance, so that the interest protected by  
13 the constitutional guarantee that has been violated would not be served by  
14 suppression of the evidence obtained.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citation  
15 omitted).

16 Whether the doctrine applies turns on three factors. “First, we look to the  
17 temporal proximity between the unconstitutional conduct and the discovery of  
18 evidence to determine how closely the discovery of evidence followed the

1 unconstitutional search." *Id.* at 2062 (internal quotation marks and citation  
2 omitted). A space of "only minutes after the illegal stop" counsels against  
3 attenuation. *Id.* "Second, we consider the presence of intervening circumstances."  
4 *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). A valid warrant that predates  
5 the unconstitutional conduct and "is entirely unconnected with the stop"  
6 supports attenuation. *Id.* "Third, and particularly significant, we examine the  
7 purpose and flagrancy of the official misconduct." *Id.* (internal quotation marks  
8 and citation omitted). Conduct that is "at most negligent" weighs in favor of  
9 attenuation, as does the absence of any indication "that this unlawful stop was  
10 part of any systemic or recurrent police misconduct," a "suspicionless fishing  
11 expedition," or "a dragnet search" for outstanding arrest warrants. *Id.* at 2063-64.

12 In the case before us, there is no question that the temporal-proximity  
13 factor cuts against finding attenuation, because only approximately ten minutes  
14 elapsed between the unconstitutional stop and the search of Walker. *See id.* at  
15 2062. There is similarly no doubt that the intervening-circumstances factor favors  
16 attenuation, because Walker was arrested pursuant to a valid, unrelated warrant  
17 that predated the stop. *See id.* The parties do not seriously dispute either of these  
18 conclusions.

1           The parties fiercely dispute, however, whether the officers' conduct was  
2 purposeful or flagrant. We conclude that the conduct was purposeful or flagrant,  
3 and therefore, the attenuation doctrine does not apply. There are two primary  
4 reasons why the officers' conduct here is "most in need of deterrence." *Id.* at  
5 2063. First, the explanation for stopping Walker is "woefully short" of what the  
6 Fourth Amendment requires. *See United States v. Shrum*, 908 F.3d 1219, 1239 (10th  
7 Cir. 2018). Second, any suspicion that Walker was the individual in the  
8 photograph was dispelled when Montanino approached Walker and could  
9 confirm that he was not the photographed suspect.

10           As discussed above, there are numerous reasons why the officers lacked  
11 any objectively reasonable suspicion to stop Walker. Most glaring is the fact that  
12 the email and photograph Montanino cited in justifying the stop contains no  
13 indication that the photographed individual had committed any crime,  
14 rendering Montanino's explanation for stopping Walker so obviously deficient  
15 that it constitutes "deliberate, reckless, or grossly negligent conduct." *Herring v.*  
16 *United States*, 555 U.S. 135, 144 (2009). Similarly, any reliance on the fact that  
17 Walker, like the photographed individual, was a black male with medium-to-  
18 dark skin tone, glasses, facial hair, and long hair is such an unsound basis that

1 we cannot characterize it as mere negligence, especially when considering the  
2 significant costs of such conduct: “specificity in articulating the basis for a stop is  
3 necessary in part because according the police unfettered discretion to stop and  
4 frisk could lead to harassment of minority groups and severely exacerbate police-  
5 community tensions,” *Dancy*, 843 F.3d at 111 (internal quotation marks and  
6 citation omitted), in addition to subjecting individuals to the “humiliations of []  
7 unconstitutional searches” based on race, *Strieff*, 136 S. Ct. at 2070 (Sotomayor, J.,  
8 dissenting). With “discretionary policing” comes “opportunities for racial  
9 profiling.” Sarah A. Seo, *Policing the Open Road* 264 (2019).

10       The Government correctly points out that lack of reasonable suspicion  
11 alone is not enough to find conduct to be purposeful or flagrant in light of *Strieff*.  
12 But it is not simply the lack of reasonable suspicion that supports a finding of  
13 purposefulness or flagrancy here—rather, it is the *extreme* lack of reasonable  
14 suspicion. *See Herring*, 555 U.S. at 143-44 (observing that the exclusionary rule  
15 may apply when an officer’s search was “patently unconstitutional,” was “so  
16 lacking in sworn and particularized information that not even an order of court  
17 would have justified such procedure,” or was conducted “without a shadow of  
18 authority” (internal quotation marks and citations omitted)). In other cases in

1 which the evidence and unconstitutional stops were sufficiently attenuated, the  
2 officers' mistakes were less egregious. In *Strieff*, for instance, the officer had seen  
3 defendant Strieff exit a house believed to be a drug house based on a tip and the  
4 officer's own surveillance. 136 S. Ct. at 2059-60. The officer's central mistake was  
5 in failing to ascertain the length of time Strieff had spent at the house, thereby  
6 calling into question whether Strieff had been at the house for an illegal drug  
7 transaction. *Id.* at 2063. But unlike in *Strieff*, in which the suspicion of criminal  
8 activity was based on two independent sources suggesting drug activity in the  
9 house Strieff had exited, absolutely nothing in the record supports Montanino's  
10 belief that the individual in the emailed photograph had committed a crime. And  
11 while the officer in *Strieff* had based his suspicions of Strieff's criminality on  
12 observing Strieff exit the suspected drug house, Montanino's suspicions were  
13 largely based on Walker's skin color.

14 Similarly, in *United States v. Mendez*, 885 F.3d 899, 905 (5th Cir. 2018),  
15 although the officers lacked reasonable suspicion in stopping and searching  
16 defendant Mendez's car, they only did so to detain Mendez while other officers  
17 executed a search warrant at Mendez's home. Mendez was known to be "armed,  
18 dangerous, and unstable," he was a suspect in a drive-by shooting, and "there

1 were bullet-riddled vehicles sitting in his front yard.” *Id.* at 912. Accordingly, the  
2 Fifth Circuit concluded that the officers “were motivated by genuine, serious,  
3 and objectively reasonable safety concerns.” *Id.* By contrast, Montanino had no  
4 indication that *any* crime had been committed, let alone a violent crime. Nor was  
5 there any other allegation that Walker was considered armed or dangerous.

6 Even if Montanino’s justification for the stop were not woefully anemic,  
7 the officers’ conduct is purposeful or flagrant for yet another reason. Any  
8 suspicion that Walker was the individual in the photograph was dispelled when  
9 Montanino approached Walker and could confirm that he was not the  
10 photographed suspect. Nonetheless, pursuant to the Troy Police Department’s  
11 stop-out practice, the officers ran a search for outstanding warrants against  
12 Walker and Hopkins. But after the dissipation of any reasonable suspicion, there  
13 was simply no cause to run Walker and Hopkins’s identifications for warrants—  
14 beyond, that is, a mere fishing expedition “in the hope that something would  
15 turn up.” *Strieff*, 136 S. Ct. at 2064 (internal quotation marks and citation  
16 omitted). Given that the officers’ conduct continued after the elimination of any  
17 reasonable suspicion that may have existed, suppression is warranted. *See, e.g.,*  
18 *United States v. Lowry*, 935 F.3d 638, 644 (8th Cir. 2019) (emphasizing the absence

1 of evidence “that Officer Hand *knew* that he lacked reasonable suspicion and  
2 flagrantly disregarded that fact” in concluding that the conduct was not  
3 purposeful or flagrant).

4 Finally, we decline to address Walker’s argument that Walker’s stop was  
5 part of the Troy Police Department’s “practice of pulling a police car over and  
6 indiscriminately stopping residents of Troy, New York to randomly confront  
7 them with questions, request their identification when no criminal activity is  
8 suspected and run their information for warrants.” Appellant’s Reply Br. at 14.  
9 Though such conduct would certainly meet *Strieff*’s articulation of purposeful or  
10 flagrant conduct, we need not reach this argument in light of our decision that  
11 the conduct is purposeful or flagrant for other reasons.

12 Because the officers lacked an objectively reasonable belief that Walker  
13 was engaged in, or had previously engaged in, criminal activity, the stop was  
14 unconstitutional. In addition, because the justification for stopping and  
15 identifying Walker falls woefully short of what the Fourth Amendment requires,  
16 the conduct was purposeful or flagrant. Reliance on the photograph to stop  
17 Walker involved impermissible and manifest stereotyping, which cannot be  
18 characterized as merely negligent conduct. Even if the officers had been justified

1 in making the initial stop, their continued questioning when it was evident that  
2 Walker was not the person in the photograph would justify rejecting the  
3 attenuation doctrine. Therefore, the attenuation doctrine does not apply, and the  
4 statements made and narcotics seized must be suppressed as the fruit of an  
5 unconstitutional search.<sup>3</sup>

## 6 CONCLUSION

7 For the foregoing reasons, we reverse and remand the district court's  
8 denial of the motion to suppress.

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<sup>3</sup> On appeal, Walker also challenges the district court's determination that Furciniti's question to Walker was not a custodial interrogation requiring *Miranda* warnings. In light of our holding, we need not reach the *Miranda* issue.