

TODAYS DATE BEING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 1989. TIME BEING 4:18P.M. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS A RECORDED STATEMENT TAKEN FROM WANDA FAY THOMAS, BLACK FEMALE, DOB 1/29/59, 30 YEARS OF AGE. ADDRESS BEING 308 WALDORF ST., RAYVILLE, LA. PRESENT DURING THIS STATEMENT IS DY. DALE CARTER, SPEAKING CHIEF INV. WILLIE ROBINSON, OF THE RICHLAND PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS BEING TAKEN IN REFERENCE TO THE DEATH OF MS. ELNORA COON.

- Q/ Wanda, are you aware that everything we say is being recorded?
- A/ Yes.
- Q/ For the record, would you state your full name?
- A/ Wanda Fay Thomas.
- Q/ Wanda, before going on tape, were you advised of your rights?
- A/ Yes.
- Q/ For the record, I want to read to you the wiaver of rights in which you have signed. #1- That you have the right to remain silent. #2-That anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. #3-That you have the right to talk with your lawyer and have him present with you here while you are being questioned. #4- That if you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent you before any questioning if you wish. #5- You can decide at any time to exercise these rights and not answer any questions or make any statement. Below are the waiver of rights and I read the above statement of my rights and I understand each of those rights. And having these rights in mind I waive them and willingly make a statement. Wanda, is that the rights form I read to you earlier.?
- A/ Yes.
- Q/ Is that also the rights form that I gave to you and that you read?
- A/ Yes.
- Q/ How did you sign your name where the check is? Is it cursive?
- A/ No, its print.
- Q/ Is uh, on that line where the check is, what did you sign?
- A/ W-a-n-d-a T-h-o-m-a-s.
- Q/ Okay, Wanda, for the record, can you tell who all is present in this room?
- A/ Willie Robinson, and Chief Dale Carter.
- Q/ Okay, since the tape been going on, has anyone entered the room?
- A/ No.
- Q/ Has anybody exited the room?
- A/ No.
- Q/ Wanda, state your level of education, please?
- A/ Uh, finished high school at Rayville High.
- Q/ Okay, Wanda, if you would at this time, can you tell me exactly what you know about the death of Mrs. Elnora Coon? And when you call names, would you state full names?
- Okay, tell us exactly what you know about it, the murder.
- A/ Well, I wasn't really around there and Tuesday night, July the 11th, at 11:30 or something to 12, uh I saw Dewayne Hill and Ronnie Martin. They were standing on the side the tore down building coming through the alley.
- Q/which alley are we talking about?
- A/ Talking about the alley where William Jones stay down through.
- Q/ Okay.
- A/ And he asked me did I know where I could get a couple of chugs...
- Q/ Who asked you this?
- A/ Dewayne Hill asked me did I know where they could get a couple of chugs from.
- Q/ And by chugs, what are we talking about?
- A/ Cocaine. And I told them yes.

Q/ Okay, and who was with him at that time?

A/ Ronnie Martin.

Q/ Okay, do you know Ronnie Martin?

A/ Yes, I do.

Q/ Okay, do you know Dewayne Hill?

A/ Yes.

Q/ Okay, And you say Dewayne asked you did you know where you could get a couple of chugs?

a/ Yes.

Q/ Meaning cocaine.

A/ Yes.

Q/ Okay, then what happened?

A/ Then I say, damn D, I say, whats been happening to you? I say shoot. He say I had to ruff a nigger up. I say, man you better cut that shit out. I say, I say, whats wrong with ya'll.

Q/ Okay. Why would you have asked him, uh, you know just, why did you come out and say to him, uh, that something was wrong with him, why did you ask him?

A/ Cause they was looking all scared you know, like they had done something or broke in something, you know. And it freaked me out because they asking me did I know where they could buy something for them, stuff like that. I guess they must have thought I was gonna go get it, I told them where they could get it for them. I guess they must have sent 'Tiny' Eddie. And he was looking all crazy and I, I didn't know what was wrong. Thought they may have been in a fight or broke in something, I really didn't know but I asked anyway.

Q/ Okay, normally when you would see Dewayne Hill, did he look like that?

A/ No he didn't. He'd smile, he'd sit down, he'd talk to me, you know, and he'd sit down there and we'd rap/

Q/ Okay, when you'd see Ronnie Martin, did he ever act very nervous and strange?

A/ I've never seen Ronnie like this. Neither one of them.

Q/ Uh, do you know how either one of them was dressed, could you tell, or its been a while, could you remember?

A/ I I really don't remember color, I know they both had on long pants for one thing Dewayne had on some sweats. What color they had on, I really don't know. Cause I'm looking at them I'm scared about how they looking cause you know, they looked like they had just run around the corner and just did something and just run out and it freaked me out. So I really wasn't paying no attention to what they on. I was just looking at faces at how they was looking.

Q/ did you notice any of them holding anything, did any of them show any money?

A/ Dewayne did.

Q/ what did he show?

A/ He had some 20's.

Q Did it uh, did it look like it was more than one or what?

A/ Yes it was more than one 20 cause he say he wanted a couple of chugs so I feel like he had like what \$100.00 worth of 20's on him. He wanted a couple of chugs.

Q/ Did Ronnie have any money?

A/ I don't know, all I know I saw the money on Dewayne Hill.

Q/ Did Ronnie say anything at all that night?

A/ He was telling me he hurt his back., you know and I told him, I said no, I'm not gonna go get it for you. Let me tell you where you can get it from. And then I looked back around and I saw them talking to 'Tiny', so 'Tiny' must have went and got it for them.

Q/ Okay, by Tiny you mean Alashia Jackson?

A/ Yeah.

Q/ Wanda, you've been knowing Dewayne and Ronnie for a while, is that correct?

A/ True.

Q/ Did it seem kind of strange that they would come to you and ask you to go buy them some, some cocaine?

A/ Yeah, cause normally they go buy it themselves. I've never bought nothing for them.

Q/ Did it seem kind of funny that they would be in the alley somewhere hiding?

A/ Yeah.

Q/ Okay.

A/ Very strange.

Q/ Did either one of them indicate to you who they had jumped on?

A/ No, they just say, I had to ruff a nigger up.

Q/ Did you happen to see Dewayne toting anything other than the money?

A/ No.

Q/ Did you see him with a watch?

A/ I didn't see _____. You know I really wasn't paying no attention cause they both scared me. Cause I was walking by and something just say pssst. _____.

Q/ So when you was walking by, you heard a noise that say pssst.

A/ Yeah, and then they say Faye. And I turn around and I say, damn whats wrong with ya'll, you know, you just looking at them. All crazy and stuff and it it freaked me out.

Q/ Dale, do you have any questions?

Q/ No. (Carter)

Q/ Wanda, after you had realized, when did you realize that Mrs. Coon had been killed?

A/ The next day. It was the, it was late that night or _____.

I think I saw it on the news. My momma say Wanda Fay get up. And I said what. She say you know Toosie dead. Whose Toosie? Said they gonna show it at 12:00. So they showed the lady picture on T.v. and I said, where the lady stayed at. My momma got to explaining to me where the lady stayed. And I said, Oh momma, I say, I bet you Dewayne and Ronnie got something to do with that. I say its cold blooded. Momma say whose Dewayne and Ronnie. I said you know Dewayne Hill and Ronnie Martin. I say well they already got one of Wilma's sons in jail. I said, no, I don't think Michael had nothing to do with this here. I believe it was Dewayne and them. I say I'm willing to put my life on that. I said cause you should've seen the way they was looking the night I saw them. And I said, I said then that they done did something they ain't had no business. And Momma say you ain't got nothing to do with that. I said well push come to shove and I really find out that they got something to do with that, I say, I'm gonna tell it on them.

Q/ Did you tell anybody about they could have been invovled in the murder?

A/ I didn't tell nobody, I just kept it to myself. Nobody but my mom.

Q/ Okay, before today, had you talked with any police officers about the murder?

A/ Willie Robinson.

Q/ And uh, you called some names to me, is that correct?

A/ True.

Q/ And what would those names be?

A/ Tiny.

Q/ Being Alashia Jackson?

A/ yes, Dewayne Hill and Ronnie Martin. Cause I had seen Tiny over there later on that evening about 7 or something. And then you asked me if I knew anybody else and I said Ronnie Martin and Dewayne. And I said, you pick Ronnie up I said I bet you you could get the truth out of everybody then.

Q/ Why did you feel if I picked Ronnie up he would tell the truth? Cause he he looked at

A-cont/ all freaked out and scared and and it really wasn't him, you know. And I don't think thats the thing he would want to do or would do and it was eating him up. It was definitely eating him up. Thats why I said if you pick Ronnie up Ronnie go head on and tell the truth. Cause that ain't Ronnie at all.

Q/ Alright, since July the 11th, the night of July 11th early morning hours or july the 12th, had you seen any one of them guys or even Tamisha at the bar area any time.

A/ No.

Q/ Do you remember seeing Dewayne Hill at a bar that you was in one night?

A/ Yes the night that uh, it was about, I'd say about a week after the night that I uh, Jennie May called the police and told them that she didn't want tennie boppers in her club smoking and him and....

Q/ Wait wait what do you mean when you say tennie boppers?

A/ Guess about 18 & 17 years old and she told them she didn't want them there. And she told them she didn't want them in the back smoking their dope back there and they you know they disobeyed her and so she went and called the police and uh...

q/ Jennie being Jennie May Autman?

A/ Yes.

Q/ Is she a bar owner or something?

A/ Yes.

Q/ Okay, what bar does she run?

A/ Magic City.

Q/ Okay.

A/ And so T.C., Eddie Joe, Pochie, meaning R.C., and Mitch, they came in there and Dewayne Hill and his brother and uh,.

Q/ Which one of his brothers?

A/ The baby boy.

Q/ William?

A/ William Hill and and uh, Jerome, they were sitting behind us in a booth in Magic City. When Dewayne saw the police, Dewayne actually got on his knees and crawled just about all the way up there to the uh, DJ stand until the policemen got way back there in the back and he took off running.

Q/So who was sitting with you that night, do you remember?

A/ Me and Trish and my rother, Trish and my brother, they was on the dance floor. If I'm not mistaken Larry or Brice was with us.

Q/Did he come back after the police left?

A/ No. Didn't see him no more that night. Thats the last time I had seen the Dewayne.

Q/ Did he go out the back door or did he wait till they left and...

A/ No, they got all the way to the back. When they got all way tothe back in Magic City, he run out the front door cause see, its a little plat in there so when you get to the door you can't see in the back. Can't nobody see you going out.

Q/ Wanda, its a proven fact that before today you had given me this information. Uh, the day before I arrested Ronnie Martin and Dewayne Hill, is that correct?

A/ True.

Q/And at that time, were you charged with anything?

A/ No.

Q/ Had you been arrested for anything? //A/ No.

Q/ Okay, so its a fact that you are giving this information because uh, you had given it to me prior to me arresteing those guys, is that correct?

A/ True,

Q/ Have I paid you today to get you to give me this statement?

A/ No.

Q/ Have I promised you anything to get you to give me this statement?

A/ No.

Q/ Have I kicked you, slapped you, or beat you to get you to sit here and talk to me today?

A/ No.

Q/ Okay, Dy Carter, do you have any questions?

A/ No. (Carter)

Q/ Wanda, is there anything that you said on this taped statement that you'd like to take away?

A/ No.

Q/ Is there anything that you like to add before we end it?

A/ No.

Q/ Has everything you told me on this statement been the truth?

A/ Yes.

Q/ Have I forced you in any way to get you to give this statement?

A/ No.

Q/ And you gave this statement free and voluntary?

A/ Yes.

Q/ With nothing further to add or take away, we'd like to show this statement concluded.

Ending time being 4:31p.m.