

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)
COUNTY OF RICE)

AFFIDAVIT OF ISIAH HARPER

I, Isiah Harper, under penalty of perjury, state as follows:

1. In August 2005, I testified at the criminal trial of Marvin Haynes, Jr. Marvin was accused of murdering Harry Sherer at Jerry's Flower Shop in Minneapolis on May 16, 2004.

2. After that murder, Minneapolis police officers contacted me for information suggesting that Marvin was the perpetrator. At first, I told them the truth, which is that I did not know anything about the murder. The officers would not accept that answer. They kept pressuring me and threatened me with criminal charges if I did not cooperate. They told me that I could get half of the prison time Marvin was facing if I did not help. At one point, they put me in a jail cell for what was probably an hour or so before bringing me back out and continuing to interrogate me.

3. I was only 14 years old at the time. I was scared and confused. I felt I had no choice but to tell the officers what they wanted to hear. So I lied to them. I told them that I had been with Marvin and others at a friend's home on the morning of the killing and that Marvin said he was going to "hit a lick," slang for commit a robbery. I also told them Marvin called me later that same day and said he had shot a white man because the man would not give him any money. These statements were

not true. I never heard Marvin say anything of the type or anything else that would tie him to this murder in any way.

4. While the officers did record my final statement, most of the lengthy questioning leading up to that statement was not recorded.

5. When I was called to testify at Marvin's trial, I tried to recant on the stand. I testified that these prior statements against Marvin were false and that I had felt pressured by police to make them. The judge eventually stopped my testimony, and I was taken out of the court room. During the break, the prosecutors said I could go to prison if I did not tell the truth. I was told to say what I had said during my police interrogation. When I returned to the stand, I changed my story back to what I had said during the interrogation. I did not feel like I had any choice since they were threatening me with criminal charges.

6. Now I want to tell the truth one more time. I never heard Marvin Haynes say that day that he was going to "hit a lick" or commit a robbery or anything like that. Marvin never told me after the fact that he killed that man. It was all lies that I believed I had to give the police to avoid going to prison myself. Based on everything I know, I believe Marvin is innocent and that he had nothing to do with the murder of Harry Sherer.

I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT,

Subscribed and sworn to
before me
this 28th day of Sept, 2022.
Corine Marie Neumann
Notary Public

Isiah Harper
Isiah Harper

