

AFFIDAVIT OF DARLENE WALTON

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) ss.
COUNTY OF COOK)

The undersigned, Darlene Walton, being first duly sworn, hereby deposes and states as follows:


1. I am over the age of 18, and I am a resident of the State of Illinois. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein.
2. In December 2002, I was 20 years old and living with my grandmother, Jaqueline Ezell, and my grandfather, Eugene O'Connor, in the lower unit of a duplex located at 956 Minnehaha Ave. East in St. Paul, Minnesota. My name at that time was Darlene Jones.
3. My aunt lived in the second-story unit with my cousin Kentrell Anthony.
4. On Sunday, December 22, 2002, a number of family members and friends spent the afternoon and evening watching TV and having conversation in the sunroom of my grandmother's unit. The sunroom was also my bedroom.
5. Philip Vance and Dominick Johnson were with us that day. I was Philip's girlfriend at the time. My cousin Kentrell was Dominick's girlfriend.
6. At one point during the late afternoon of December 22, Philip and Dominick left the house for a couple hours.
7. My grandmother and my aunt left the house at around 5 PM to go play bingo.
8. Philip and Dominick returned to the house in the early evening. Upon their return, I used Phillip's cellphone to call Chicago to check on how my young daughter was doing. I also began braiding Philip's hair. Shortly thereafter, Dominick and Kentrell went to the upstairs unit to be alone together while my grandmother and her mother were out playing bingo.
9. At some point later on that evening, Philip and I got into an argument. In order to keep me from leaving the house, Philip threw my only pair of shoes up onto the roof of my grandmother's house. I had just moved into the house, and Philip knew that I had only the one pair.
10. After he threw the shoes onto the roof, Philip was walking and yelling in the alley behind the house. At about that same (around 10 pm that evening), Kentrell arranged for my uncle Demetrius O'Connor to drive Philip and Dominick from the duplex on Minnehaha Ave. East to the Buttery Bar in downtown Saint Paul. Demetrius yelled at Philip to come and get in his car, which Philip did.
11. Kentrell rode in the car with them. After they dropped Philip and Dominick off at the bar, Demetrius and Kentrell returned to the duplex.
12. A couple of days later, Philip dropped by the house and gave me a new pair of shoes. Until then, I had been wearing a pair of my grandmother's shoes.

13. Several weeks after that, the police kicked in the doors at our duplex and questioned us about Philip and Dominick and a murder that had taken place on December 22. I was questioned once at my grandmother's place on Minnehaha Avenue and later, when I moved in with my aunt, Regina Hagerman, at her place. But I was never taken to a police station for questioning.

14. On the two occasions when I was questioned by the police, no one ever told me that the robbery and murder took place at about 9:45 pm on Dec. 22, 2002. If someone had done so, I would have told the police that neither Philip nor Dominick could have been involved in that crime because they were both with me at the duplex where I was living at 956 Minnehaha Ave. East in St. Paul until about 10 pm that evening.

15. The police offered my grandfather, Eugene O'Connor, lots of money if we would just say what they wanted us to say. So my grandfather, who as usual had spent most of that day in his bedroom and had no knowledge of who was there or what had happened that day, encouraged us to say whatever the police wanted us to say.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information set forth above is true, correct, and complete.


Darlene Walton

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this 1st day of May, 2023.



Notary Public

My commission expires:

