

STATEMENT  
CASE NO. 81-11241

This will be an investigation reference a homicide that took place on the east side of the Holiday Inn, Highway 17, South, Winter Haven, Florida, County of Polk. This interview will take place at 900 Avenue M, as in Mary, southeast, Winter Haven, Florida, County of Polk. Present during this interview will be Investigator Jerry High, Investigator Darrell Kirkland, Winter Haven Police Department. Ma'am, would you state your full name please?

SJ: Sophie Johnson.

DK: Where do you reside at Mrs. Johnson?

SJ: 900 Avenue M, southeast.

DK: And what's your date of birth please?

SJ: October 14, 1937.

DK: Are you employed?

SJ: No.

DK: What's your occupation?

SJ: Housewife.

DK: Housewife?

SJ: Uh huh.

DK: Okay.

DK: Mrs. Johnson, we're going to talk to you in reference to a white, male subject known to us as Anthony Willie Broom. What can you tell us about Mr. Broom?

SJ: Ummm, we met him when he did some...when we were adding on to the house and he was the electrician that did the work. Mr. Morrison, I guess, hired him...Ray Morrison, contractor, or the builder.

DK: And how long have you known Mr. Broom?

SJ: Well, since we added on, which may have been in 76, perhaps, 75 or 76.

DK: What kind of a relationship have you and your husband had with Mr. Broom since 1976?

SJ: Well, we known him off and on. He'd come by every often, you know. I don't know, we just know him. What do you...

DK: Personal friends?

SJ: I wouldn't say we were personal friends, just someone that needed help sometimes.

DK: What kind of help did he need?

SJ: Well, as I say, maybe get to drinking and have problems.

DK: Did Mr. Broom ever reside over here at any time?

SJ: Not permanently.

DK: Okay, but he did come and stay occasionally?

SJ: He may have stayed overnight once or something...or called and he run his car into something or was too drunk to drive. I guess...I don't know if he was close by. Well, go ahead and sleep it off on the couch, you know, but so's alot of other people we've tried to help.

DK: Okay, on the night in question of this homicide, or early morning hours, did you and your husband receive a telephone call from someone?

SJ: Well, someone called. My husband answered the phone. Someone called a little after 4:00...

DK: Approximately how many minutes after 4:00.

SJ: Well, I know I turned my light on and I sat up cause I thought it was my mother calling from Cuba and it was 4:11. My watch may have been a few minutes fast, maybe not, I don't know.

DK: Okay, before I go any further here, Mrs. Johnson, and ask you any more questions, have you previously been advised of your constitutional rights by Detective Jerry High?

SJ: Yeah.

DK: Did you agree to talk with us at this time?

SJ: Yeah.

DK: You did waive these rights? And agree to talk with us?

SJ: Yeah, to tell you what happened.

DK: Right, okay. Sorry I didn't get that in there at the beginning. Okay, what did this phone call, unknown person or persons, have to deal with?

SJ: Okay. What I overheard my husband answer, I can tell you that. Then I can tell you what he told me.

DK: So you're just relating what your husband...your husband took the telephone call?

SJ: Yeah, cause the phone is on his side of the bed.

DK: Okay, would you relate that to us please?

SJ: Okay. First, when he answered, he was kind of talking in Spanish cause he thought maybe it was the operator from Cuba. Then he finally said what, who is it? I remembered he said something about...you want me to come where? What happened? You know, this type of thing. I remember him saying I don't have anything in the house, I don't keep anything here, I don't have a black bag or anything. He says you better call the rescue squad or the ambulance and call the police and they can handle it, they can get help there right away; there's nothing I could do. Then he said alright, alright, you know. I can't do anything and hung up.

DK: Okay, after he hung up, what did he relate to you?

SJ: I said what was that and he said I don't know, he says some crazy woman called, I think she told me her name but I don't know what she said. She said something about Tony's girlfriend...I just shot Charlotte in the head. I said what happened? He said I told them they better get the rescue squad. Oh, also said he wanted him to go to the Holiday Inn...some room... I said what did they say, what happened. He said I don't know, some woman say shot her in the head...shot Charlotte in the head. He said do you know who Charlotte is and I said no. I said maybe it's one of Tony's girlfriends.

DK: Was Tony's name mentioned during this conversation?

SJ: Well, he said something about this is Tony's girlfriend. Now, at 4:00 in the morning, you know... In other words, I don't know if he understood if Charlotte was Tony's girlfriend or that was Tony's girlfriend calling or, you know. Cause he asked me, who's Charlotte and I said I don't know who Charlotte is. So I said what's going on and he said I don't know, something down at the Holiday Inn but they said they've called the rescue and the police already and that was it. So we talked about it and I said what in the heck is going on and he said I don't know but I certainly can't be of any help going down there. He says, what am I supposed to do, I don't have nothing with me. Cause if they wait and I go down, by this time, he said, but they already called the rescue squad. So I finished smoking my cigarette and I said well I don't know, what should we do and he says I don't know, wait and see, you know, if they call or what happens.

DK: Has your husband ever met Charlotte before?

SJ: No, not that I know of.

DK: Have you ever met Charlotte before?

SJ: No.

DK: Could it possibly have been Charlotte that called here prior to this incident?

SJ: I don't know. All he can do is tell you what he remembers, what he heard on the phone and I can tell you what I recall from 4:00 in the morning what he said.

DK: How many other phone calls were received at the Johnson residence here at 900 Avenue M, southeast, the morning in question?

SJ: Okay, his mother called.

DK: Who's mother?

SJ: Mr. Broom's mother. Okay, she called and then, again, my husband answered the phone on that side of the bed. He asked her what was going on, now what? This is what he told me she said. Tony's girlfriend had had a heart attack and that they had Tony in the car and they wouldn't let her talk to him.

DK: Mrs. Broom called, told your husband that Charlotte had had a heart attack...

SJ: No, Tony's girlfriend...well, this is what Marvin told me...that Tony's girlfriend had had a heart attack and they had Tony in the car.

DK: What car?

SJ: In the car.

DK: In a car...

SJ: Yeah, and they wouldn't let her talk to him...and he needs a doctor, he needs a lawyer..I don't remember if it was she or Neil that said the lawyer, but anyway... My husband asked her what is going on, do you know what happened. Apparently she just wouldn't say anything and I think she may not have known.

DK: Did Mrs. Broom tell you where she was calling from?

SJ: No.

DK: Did you receive any more phone messages during that morning?

SJ: Yeah, later on, about...I don't know what time it was, it may have been 7:30 or 7:00, cause then my husband was getting ready to go to work and it was Tony's, Mr. Broom's, brother.

DK: What's his name?

SJ: Neil.

DK: Neil Broom?

SJ: Uh huh. Of course this is what he would tell me right away... I said who was that and he said that's Neil now. He says that they have Tony at Winter Haven for murder and that Tony needs a lawyer and he needs a doctor. My husband, I heard him telling him, he says I can't go down there, they're not going to let me in there, you know. If he's sick or there's something wrong with him they'll take care of it...I'm not going to go down there. He says I have patients to see and I'm going to work and he says you know the lawyers he knows, there's Richard Barris and there's Johnny. He said you can call them, I don't know... See, Richard did some work for us once, that's why we know the name. He had done some work for my husband and, of course, we've known Johnny for years, he lived in Lakeland 13 or 14 years ago. We've known Johnny Hutchinson for a long time. Well, he told me, you know, I don't know what's going on. First the mother calls and doesn't tell me anything, now Neil calls, he won't tell me anything. My husband asked him, what's going on and he said no, no, no, somebody's got to come down here, Tony's very upset, he needs a lawyer, he needs... Then later we found out that Neil also called Barris and called the Dad, and called...all these people on the phone. But that was that I heard afterwards.

DK: Did you receive any more phone calls that morning?

SJ: No.

DK: Did your husband receive any?

SJ: He went to work.

DK: Did he receive any phone calls from work that you know of?

SJ: No, because I called him. I didn't know what do to do and I fell back asleep after being up...

DK: Did you make any phone calls that morning?

SJ: No.

DK: None at all?

SJ: No, I called him and I said have they contacted you or somebody gotten a hold of you, you know, do you know anything that's going on? He said no, I've being seeing patients. I think you better call the police and tell them what happened.

DK: Okay, what time did you call the police? Approximately.

SJ: It must have been after 10:00.

DK: After 10:00? Do you recall who you talked to?

SJ: Wait a minute. The lady told me somebody was in charge of the case, that answers the phone, but that he wasn't in. I said I had something I'd like to tell them cause I think she thought maybe I wanted information on it and I said no, I just want to talk to somebody. Then they got somebody else on the phone and I started talking to him and he said no, wait a minute, I'm going to get someone else who can help you cause you won't have to repeat yourself. I don't remember who it was.

DK: Okay, what did that phone call have to deal with?

SJ: I just told him what had happened.

DK: Would you relate...

SJ: I told him that my husband had gotten a call about 4:11 in the morning  
(END OF TAPE)