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Statement from  
Thomas Williams  
confessing to  
crime

Item # 02-3930-00

Statement taken by: Detective Bobby Juge, #811

Statement taken from: Thomas Williams

Today's date is March 1<sup>st</sup> 19, 2000. Time is startin is 1:16 p.m. This is a taped statement taken by Detective Bobby Juge, St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Division. This taped statement. This taped statement's gonna be taken from a black male, Thomas R., spelling of last name Williams, W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S. Also, present for this statement is gonna be Minister J. L. Price.

Q. Which is defendant's what now?

A. Um, I don't know.

Q. Uh, Minister?

A. Just Minister I guess.

Q. Thomas, before I ask you any questions, I'm gonna read you your rights. It says, you have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have him present with you while you are being questioned. If you can not afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent you before any questions if you wish. You can decide at any time to exercise these rights and not answer any questions or make any statements. Do you understand that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay, speak loudly and clearly for the tape.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. This is not a plead of guilt. It just says you understand your rights. Note at 1:16 subject signed the top line of his Miranda Rights. Underneath there is a waiver of rights. It says, I've read the above statement of my rights. I understand each of those rights. Having these rights in mind I waive them and willingly make a statement. What it says is you understand all of these. I'mma ask you some questions, if you want to answer them I need you to sign that. Do you understand?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Alright, Thomas in reference to an incident that took place at Club Mercedes on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2000 about 1:30 in the morning, can you tell me what happened prior to the incident?

- A. Yes, sir. I was, I was working at the, at the club that night. Okay and, um, a fight broke out to the left of me and I went over to break up the fight. I break up the fight and after I broke up the fight, I looked I went back towards my post and I looked up and the guy was charging at me with a broken beer bottle. And I was turned and (inaudible) said he was coming toward me and then I fired. And after that I was just standing there in a, in a state of shock.
- Q. Okay and you said you were standing there and security backed you up?
- A. Right.
- Q. Alright and then the fight broke out?
- A. To the left of me.
- Q. Go ahead and describe (inaudible). Alright, there's a big stage area?
- A. Yes.
- Q. The fight broke out in front of the stage?
- A. Right, right there.
- Q. Where were you standing?
- A. I was standing here by the back door.
- Q. Okay.
- A. I come from by the back door on the side of the speakers in this area to break up the fight. I was pushing people back, side to side with my hands trying to break up the fight.
- Q. How many people were fighting?
- A. Oh, there was, it was so many. It had to, it was, it was (inaudible) like you never could stop the fight. Every time you try to push somebody then like more people (inaudible).
- Q. Every body else joined in.
- A. Was just joining in.
- Q. Okay.
- A. So I, I, I left from the fight and walked back toward the speakers. As I looked up, had this guy charging at me with a beer bottle and, and I was just standing there all in a panic. And the next thing I realize I reached and I fired. And I panicked, I was nervous, I didn't know what else to do. I was protecting myself, trying to ya know protect myself, he was coming towards me to hurt me.

Q. Where did you keep your weapon at?

A. My side.

Q. Whose gun is it?

A. Well it's, uh, it was my gun at first and I've been having it for a little while.

Q. What do you call a little while?

A. Maybe, uh, uh, a month.

Q. So you brought the gun that night then?

A. I brought it with me, yeah.

Q. You brought it for your protection?

A. Right.

Q. Security?

A. Security.

Q. Okay, that was your gun, you didn't get it from nobody else during the fight then?

A. No.

Q. And where was the gun at? On your body?

A. Right on my right side.

Q. On your right side, waist pants?

A. Right.

Q. Okay, was there any kind of holster or anything?

A. No, sir.

Q. Okay, can you describe the gun to me at all?

A. Like I said earlier I'm just not, not a gun person. Ya know I mean I never pretty much carry a gun.

Q. And it was an automatic or revolver?

A. Automatic. Um, (inaudible).

- Q. The one's that go a round?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Circle?
- A. Right.
- Q. Okay, that'd be a revolver. Can you tell me what color it was? Was it light or was it dark?
- A. Uh, (inaudible).
- Q. What kind of handle did it have on it? Leather handed, rubber handed, wood handed?
- A. Phewww.
- Q. You don't remember?
- A. I can't.
- Q. Okay, did you ever shoot the gun prior to?
- A. No.
- Q. Last Monday?
- A. No.
- Q. After you, after you shot the guy that was charging at you, where did you strike him with the bullet, do you know?
- A. I just pulled, uh, I don't know, I don't know where, where, where I hit him. All I know how nervous I was.
- Q. When he was charging at you, he had the broken bottle in his right hand?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. You had the gun in your right hand? So ya'll were pretty much faced off with each other?
- A. Em, hm.
- Q. And he was coming towards you?
- A. Right.
- Q. Facing you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. So, you'd of had to strike him somewhere in the front area?

A. Yes.

Q. You would have shot him in the back? X

A. No, sir.

Q. You would have shot in the leg?

A. No, ah, ah.

Q. So it had to be in the front portion of the body?

A. Yes, right. X

Q. How far was he away when you shot him?

A. About, about, about at least ten feet. X

Q. I mean we looked at this distance.

A. (Inaudible).

Q. Okay, you wasn't no closer? It wasn't no further? Was anybody between you and him when you shot? It was just you in the direct line of you and him?

A. (Inaudible).

Q. Um, after you shot him, what happened?

A. Um, I just stared.

Q. Did he fall down, did he run off?

A. I, I did not see him after I (inaudible).

Q. He just, he what, so he had to run away then?

A. That's what I think.

Q. So I mean when you shot him he didn't fall on the ground and stay on the ground?

A. No, no, sir. I didn't see him after I shot him.

Q. What did you do at that point?

A. I was just standi in shock.

Q. You still had the gun in your hand?

A. I had dropped it.

Q. Okay.

A. (Inaudible).

Q. Then what happened? What was the next thing?

A. Then the next thing I was just standing and ya know (inaudible) and told him to come on. I left.

Q. Who, who was it that brought you out?

A. I, I, I really, I really. Who brought me to the club?

Q. No, who brought you out?

A. I don't know. Somebody just ya know it was, everybody just was running. Ya know (inaudible).

Q. Whose vehicle did you get in?

A. Uh, I went with Darryl.

Q. Darryl?

A. Um, (inaudible).

Q. What kind of car he got?

A. Um, a truck.

Q. Right when ya'll left what did ya'll do?

A. (Inaudible).

Q. Where'd they go? (Inaudible)?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay, um, did you see anybody with a gun at that point? Did you and Darryl talk about what happened?

A. Well I told Darryl that I was nervous and scared.

Q. What did Darryl t

A. (Inaudible).

Q. Did you talk to anybody else that night about it, the shooting?

A. (Inaudible). (Inaudible).

Q. Tell her anything about it?

A. Well she was right there in front of the car and I told her I was scared cause I was trembling and that was it.

Q. Then the next day what happened?

A. The next day I had, I had no where to go the next day and the next day when I found out about all of this that it happened (inaudible). (Inaudible). I got two kids ya know. Working and (inaudible).

Q. And who did you tell? Who'd you talk to the next day about the shooting, anybody?

A. Nobody.

Q. You didn't talk to nobody else?

A. Um.

Q. Other than Darryl anybody else?

A. I just talk to my sister on like the next day (inaudible). I talked with. um, well I talked with Andrelle last night.

Q. Who?

A. Andrelle.

Q. Who's that?

A. That's my sister.

Q. Okay.

A. Talked to her last night. But what I'm saying when I found out about it, I was just shocked. (Inaudible).

Q. Do you know where the gun is today?

A. (Inaudible).

- Q. She went over there and picked it up from the club?
- A. (Inaudible).
- Q. Anything you wish to add or take away from this statement?
- A. No.
- Q. Anything else happen that night that anybody could have seen what happened?
- A. (Inaudible).
- Q. Who, who hired that night to be there?
- A. (Inaudible).
- Q. Who?
- A. Miss Sheila.
- Q. Okay, Miss Sheila who?
- A. She young. She, but ya know she don't own, she don't own the bar, she just at the club.
- Q. But I mean she owns the, the group?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Which is (inaudible)? How much did Miss Sheila pay you that night?
- A. I didn't, I didn't get paid that night. (Inaudible). I don't know who, who got paid that night. (Inaudible).
- Q. Cause there was a fight just everybody left then?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Who was Miss Sheila there with that night?
- A. I think it was her husband.
- Q. Her son was performing?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. What's his name?
- A. (Inaudible).



Q. Okay, you know whole name or what his stage name is?

A. I think it is Mac.

Q. Where was he at during the fight? Was he performing at that point or had he performed yet?

A. (Inaudible).

*NOT PERFORMING AT TIME*

Q. Okay so you work with that club or that group?

A. Yes.

Q. Anything you wish to add or take away from this statement? Is everything you told me in this statement true to the best of your knowledge?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is there anything you wish to add to this statement?

A. No.

That's gonna conclude this tape statement taken by Detective Bobby Juge, St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office, Criminal Investigation Division. Time now is 1:26 p.m.

paf