

Graham

2nd

10-12-6

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT OF PATRICIA ANN GRAHAM, OF 168 LYONS STREET, PATERSON, N.J. TAKEN IN THE PRESENCE OF CITY CLERKS OFFICE ON OCTOBER 20, 1966 IN THE PRESENCE OF SECURITY MEN. LUCILLE FREDERICK, TYPED BY ELIOT WILLIAMS.

QUESTIONS PROPOUNDED BY LT. VINCENT DE SIGNORE.

CONCLUDING AT 1:40 P.M.

Q. - What is your name, age and address?

A. Patricia Ann Graham, age 23 of 168 Lyons St., Paterson.

Q. Where did you reside on June 17, 1966?

A. 428 E. 18th St., Paterson.

Q. On what floor did you reside and where was the apartment in relation to the tavern that is on the 1st floor of the address?

A. 2nd floor front apartment right over the tavern.

Q. Do you recall a shooting that took place in the Lafayette Grill on the early morning of June 17, 1966?

A. Yes.

Q. Would you tell me in your own words what you recall in regards to that shooting giving me every detail that you recall?

A. I was lying on the couch and I had dozed off when I was awakened by a bang. Right after that I heard two more bangs. At this time I thought it might have been Jim Oliver trying to close the door of the tavern. I walked to the front window of my apartment in the parlor and looked down at the neon sign to see if it was light. If it was out I would have known that Jim would have closed up. Just as I was looking at the sign which was still lit I heard a woman's voice say "Oh no." I ran around to my bedroom and looked out onto Lafayette Street side, I saw a white car parked away from the curb just about in front of the door leading to the second-floor from the street to my apartment. I saw two colored men running to this car. One man got on the drivers side and the other man got in the passenger side and the car speed away. The tires screeched as the car pulled away. I looked at the back of the car because I wanted to try to see the license plate. I noticed that it was a white car and the tail lights were wider on the outside and tapered in toward the center of the car. I couldn't see the license plate number but I know the license plate had a dark background and the letters were gold or yellow. I then ran to my son's bedroom, put my raincoat over my pajamas and ~~saw~~ without stopping to put on my shoes, ran downstairs to the tavern. As I entered the side door of the tavern I saw a fellow ~~xxxxxx~~ named Bello coming in the front door of the tavern from the 18th St. side. I saw Willie Harris hanging onto a pole in the center of the tavern and as I walked towards him I saw Hazel Tavis lying on the floor near the air conditioner. I screamed and turned to go upstairs to call the police because I didn't have any money with me. As I was leaving, I noticed Bello going around the end of the bar behind it. I went upstairs and dialed the operator and told her to send the police. I then went back downstairs, as I was coming out the hallway door downstairs from my apartment I saw B.L. coming down Lafayette St. toward the tavern from my fight. I went into the tavern and went to Hazel Tavis who was still lying on the floor. Hazel asked me to call her boyfriend Bob I got his number from her and again ran upstairs to call Bob while I was there I quickly changed my clothes and came back to the tavern. At this time the police were there. I saw Willie Harris there was blood on his forehead, I saw Fred Kuyate who were call Cedar Grove Bob, Hazel Tavis was still lying on the floor and I saw Jim Oliver lying on the floor behind

A. continued ----- the bar. I was crying and an officer asked me to go upstairs to my apartment. Then an officer came to my apartment and I made a sketch for him of the tail lights of the car that I had seen. He went downstairs and a short time later I went down stairs to the street. After a short time a white car pulled up to the corner, there was a police car in front of it and there was a police car behind it and there were two colored men in the car. An officer asked me to walk around the car and look at it. I did so and I was positive that that was the car I had seen pull away after the shots.

Q. You say that after you heard the shots you walked to the front window to see if the neon sign was lit? and at that time you heard a woman's voice say "Oh no" and then ran around to the window of your bedroom to look out on Lafayette St. How long would you say it took you to get from the front window to the window in your bedroom?

A. Just a few seconds.

Q. When you looked out the window you said you saw a car parked away from the curb and saw two colored men running toward the car. Can you describe these two men?

A. I saw two men with sports jackets, they looked well dressed. I believe one had a hat on. At that moment I felt something was wrong and I tried to get the license number as the car pulled away, I couldn't read the number but I did see a dark plate with a yellow or gold letter but I clearly remember those tail lights.

Q. You say that after seeing the car pull away you ran to your son's bedroom, put your raincoat on and ran downstairs. How long would you say it took you to put on your raincoat and run downstairs?

A. I would say about a minute or so.

Q. When the police returned the car to the scene with the two colored men in it did you observe these two colored men?

A. No, I was concentrating on the car to see it that was the car.

Q. When you saw these two men running toward the car immediately after the shooting did you see any weapons in their hands?

A. Not that I remember, I was concentrating on getting that license plate number.

Q. Did you see James Oliver lying on the floor behind the bar after the police got there?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you notice anything unusual behind the bar when you looked at Jim?

A. I saw that the cash register door was open and there was money on the floor under the register near Jim's body.

Q. Is everything you have stated in the two page statement the truth?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you give a voluntary statement to Lt. James Lawless on June 17, 1966 at approximately 6:35 P.M.

A. Yes.

Q. Were you questioned by me at approximately 12:55 P.M. on June 20, 1966?

A. Yes.