

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE

Case Number: 1900182722

Date: 05/09/2019

Time Started: 1445 hrs

Time Ended: 1900 hrs

H-

W-

C- 203-605-3737

WITNESS STATEMENT OF Stephanie B. Washington

AGE: 22

I, Stephanie Washington, date of birth 04/13/1997

of 33 Acton Street, town/city of West Haven, CT 06516-1702

make the following statement without fear, threat, or promise. I have been advised that any statement(s) made herein which I do not believe to be true, and which statement is intended to mislead a public servant in the performance of his/her official function, is a crime under C.G.S. section 53a-157.

I am giving this statement to the State Police in the presence of my attorneys Winthrop Smith III and John-Henry Steele at their office, located at 9 Depot Street 2nd floor in Milford, CT. I have seen information in the news about this incident, but the following information is based upon my recollection.

On Sunday April 14th, 2019, two days prior to when this happened, I went to work at about 11:00PM to Go Puff in Fair Haven where I have worked for about four to six weeks. I was there working until about 4:30AM on Monday April 15th, which is the end of my scheduled shift. I went home where I live with my mother and slept until about noon. After I woke up, I was on the phone with my insurance company, and then I called Paul. Paul and I have known each other for approximately one and a half months and have been dating the whole time. Paul lives on Morris Street in New Haven. I called Paul's cell phone from my cell phone to tell him that I was frustrated with my insurance company. We eventually talked about meeting up at his friend "Binky's" house on Argyle Street. I left my house at what I am guessing was about 3:00PM to go meet Paul on Argyle Street. I hung out with him and some other people for most of the night. I only know two of the people who were there. Paul's friend Binky lives there, but I do not recall his real name. Binky's sister was also there, but I don't recall her name either.

At what I am guessing was about 5:00PM, I got into somebody else's car and three of us went to the package store located on the corner of Orchard Street and Henry Street in New Haven. Paul was not one of the people that went with us. I did not go into the store, but my friend purchased a half pint size bottle of alcohol (I don't remember what kind) for approximately six of us to share. We went back to Argyle Street to drink and eat inside. Paul was one of those six people sharing the drink, and I think that he probably had about the same amount to drink as I did.

We hung out inside the house on Argyle Street for several more hours and then Paul drove my red Honda Civic. I was in the front passenger seat and we went to Go on Gas, which is near Eli Whitney. When we got there, we parked at the gas pump closest to the front of the store. Paul got out and bought a pack of cigarettes for Binky. I stayed in the car and was listening to music through my phone, which I transmit with an By affixing my signature to this statement, I acknowledge that I have read it or have had it read to me and it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Witness: Detective Connolly #431

Signature: Stephanie Washington

Witness: _____

Personally appeared the signer of the foregoing statement and made oath before me to the truth of the matters contained therein.

I notarized, endorse here: Detective Meler #796

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STATEMENT OF Stephanie Washington (Cont.)

FM receiver to the car's speakers. I recall that Paul was talking to the store clerk and also a news guy because I could see their hands moving, but I could not hear anything they were saying. I know he is a news guy now from seeing it on the news, but at the time I just thought he was another customer at the store. I have seen the clerk there before because that is the only gas station that is open at that time, and he is the one that is normally working at that time. I do not know his name and I have never seen the news guy either. I did not see the news guy until he was at the window, so I'm not sure how he got there. Paul was out of the car for a few minutes and then got back in with the cigarettes he had bought. I had been telling him that I wanted to go home because it was late and I was tired. After Paul got into the car, I saw a man with a camo jacket who looked like he was homeless, and Paul was talking to him while he was still seated in the driver seat of my car. Paul was talking to the homeless guy about how they had matching army coats.

We drove back to Argyle Street and pulled into the driveway of Binky's house. Paul got out, gave Binky the cigarettes he bought him, and came back to the car. He was out of the car for less than a minute, never went inside the house, and I did not see him talk to anyone else. I saw Paul actually give the cigarettes to Binky, and did not see him give Binky anything else. We pulled onto Argyle Street toward Dixwell, and as we were driving, I saw a white police car pull up in front of us with no lights on. Paul stopped the car and I watched the purple police car pass the white car, then pass my car, and stop behind my car. I know the purple car is a Hamden Police car because of the color. I could see the police officer get out of the Hamden car and was in the street before Paul opened his door. I was still playing music through the car at the time but we could hear each other talk. When Paul opened his door and put his hands up, the officer pulled out his pistol and started shooting with no hesitation. When the police officer started firing, Paul ducked back into the car. He landed low in the seat so that his back was down near the crack where the seat and back portion of the driver seat meet. Paul was not responsive because I was saying stuff to him and touching him, but he wasn't responding. I thought that he might have been shot and was dead. I was trying to take cover from the gunshots, so I was leaning in between the driver and passenger seats, towards the back seat. It was like being in a nightmare. I thought I was going to die.

As the gunfire was going on, I started to feel a tingling, burning pain and numbness in my legs, looked down and saw blood and glass, and I remember thinking that I was shot. I also remember hearing the glass break on the car, starting with Paul's window, then the back window, and then my window. While I was ducking toward the back of the car, I felt something hit the front of my car. I picked up my head, partially sat up, looked forward and felt a fast burning sensation on the right side of my forehead. The reason I picked up my head was because the police car hit my car. I did not see any police officers in front of me, just the white police car. I immediately put my head back down.

By affixing my signature to this statement, I acknowledge that I have read it or have had it read to me and it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Witness: Det. B. S. #431
Detective Connolly #431

Signature: Stephanie Washington
Stephanie Washington

Witness: _____

Personally appeared the signer of the foregoing statement and made oath before me to the truth of the matters contained therein.

I notarized, endorse here: Det. Meier #796
Detective Meier #796

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STATEMENT OF Stephanie Washington (Cont.)

When the shots ended, I remember saying out loud to Paul that I thought I was shot. Paul was still not responsive, and then some police officers pulled me out of the car and put me on the ground, stomach down. I do not remember what they looked like or which town they were from, but they were restraining me on the ground. I could feel somebody holding my arms, legs and back on the ground. I kept saying that I didn't want to be on the ground because it was cold and I was lying in broken glass. I could hear the police officers saying there was no gun, and I kept asking "why did you shoot me?" I also could hear Paul yelling "why did you shoot my girlfriend?" After a few minutes, somebody gave me something to put on my head since I was bleeding from my head. I was taken to Yale New Haven Hospital in an ambulance and was there until the day before Easter. I was shot four times, twice in the back, once in the forehead and once in the butt. I had surgery while I was in the hospital, but as far as I know, they never took any bullets or pieces of bullets out of me, and they also told me that I still have some bullets or pieces of bullets inside of me.

I did not recognize any of the police officers that were at the scene. I have since heard the names of the two police officers on the news from Hamden and Yale, and do not have any idea who they are. I used to work at Chipotle in Hamden between October 2017 until January 2019. I remember seeing some of the Hamden Police Officers come in to eat, but can only remember that one of their names might be Pat. I worked at Moo Yah in West Haven (Allentown) for approximately one month prior to this incident, but no longer work there. I also have never been pulled over by any Yale University or Hamden Police officers.

I never saw Paul with a gun on the night of this incident, or anything else that I think would have looked like a gun, even a fake one. I also have never seen Paul with a gun in the entire time that I have known him. I have never let Paul use my vehicle unless I have been with him.

Before we went to the gas station, Binky and Paul were talking outside in the street on Argyle Street because Binky was upset about something that had happened with his baby's mother. Paul was trying to calm him down, and they were hugging. They never had any type of physical fight.

(Handwritten initials: S.W.)

By affixing my signature to this statement, I acknowledge that I have read it or have had it read to me and it is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Witness: *Detective B Connolly #431*
Detective Connolly #431

Signature: *Stephanie Washington*
Stephanie Washington

Witness: _____

Personally appeared the signer of the foregoing statement and made oath before me to the truth of the matters contained therein.

I notarized, endorse here: *[Signature]*
Detective Meier #798