

ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICER NARRATIVE  
REPORT: 99-0017552

SUPPLEMENT

OFFENSE: DEATH INVESTIGATION

DATE AND TIME OF THIS SUPPLEMENT: 11/04/99 1500 HOURS

I, Detective Cooley, interviewed the following person at Headquarters in reference to this incident:

GARDELL LEROY BALLINGER  
BLACK MALE, DOB 08/25/66  
1826 WOODLAND, ALTON, IL 62002  
EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS 462-7904, 463-3081, 463-4989

BALLINGER said that messages could be left at any of the above numbers for him.

Once I interviewed BALLINGER in reference to this incident, BALLINGER stated that he was inside the Chess Club when the robbery took place by a masked man. BALLINGER stated that he was present and witnessed the robbery and shooting. BALLINGER provided an oral statement which was later reduced to typewritten form and signed by him, attesting to its truthfulness. Copies of BALLINGER'S statement are attached to this report. Detective Mark Dorsey witnessed BALLINGER'S statement.

DETECTIVE COOLEY, JERALD

J. Cooley JR 8704  
JC/eej 4153

SUPERVISOR

Sgt. M. Mammali PSDI

ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Statement of Witness

Complaint No.: 99-17552

BALLINGER, GARDELL LEROY  
Last First Initial

Date : 11/04/99

Time : 1500 Hrs.

I, GARDELL L. BALLINGER, make the following statement, freely and voluntarily to JERRY COOLEY, who has identified himself to me as an Detective of the Alton Police Department, Alton, Madison County, Illinois.

I MAKE THIS STATEMENT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY.

My name is GARDELL L. BALLINGER. I am a black male being of the age of 33 years, having been born 08-25-66, in Alton, IL. I reside at 1826 Woodland, Alton, IL, where I live with my mom, CHARLOTTE BALLINGER. I have attended 12 years of school in the Alton, IL school system.

**BODY OF STATEMENT**

Sometime at the beginning of October, 1999, on the weekend, I had been talking to JOHNNY NEUMAN, who is a black guy in his 30's, at his apartment at Pearl and Harrison. It was in the early morning hours and I had asked him for a ride to the Chess Club. I would guess

*GardeLL Ballinger*

WITNESSED BY:

Det. Mark Dorse 8907

STATEMENT OF: BALLINGER, GARDELL L. COMPLAINT #: 99-17552

that it was near 5:00 a.m., but I don't know the exact time. JOHNNY don't drive and he was with another black dude who looked to be in his 30's. This dude had a small white car. JOHNNY acted like this was his friend and he is actually the one who gave both of us a ride to the Chess Club. I have never seen JOHNNY or this dude in the Chess Club and they told me that they didn't want to go in. I told them that I wanted to try my luck at a dice game, because I wanted to win a little extra money. They told me that they would wait for me on the lot, but they would not go inside.

When we got to the Chess Club, they parked on the lot on the south side, beside the building. I remember that I had noticed that CTW's was closed and a dude by the name of JARVIS' was sitting in a gray or white car parked on the street, in front of the Chess Club. I don't know JARVIS' last name, but he is a black dude and looks to be in his 20's.

I use to go down to the Chess Club a lot, but I have slowed down recently, because I have lost too much money. I know that you have to ring the doorbell and you have to be let in by the doorman. The doorman must know you, or he won't let you in. KENNY SPANN let me in. I have known KENNY for a long time. He was a good guy, he was kind of slow, but he never bothered anyone. I don't know of anyone who didn't like him.

I remember seeing several people inside when I went in. Some of them were 'BOSS' (who is a GREER, but I don't know his first name), BOSS was with CARMEN HAMILTON or BROWN and a few other girls, standing beside the wall, BEN HOWARD was behind the bar,

GardeLL Ballinger

WITNESSED BY:

Det. Mal E. Dorsey 5907

STATEMENT OF: BALLINGER, GARDELL L.

COMPLAINT #: 99-17552

*Hamilton (JOC) GB*

was watching KAREEM playing the machine. MATTIE was on another machine and I think RED ANDERSON might have been on the last machine.

I had been watching them play four-five minutes when I heard the doorbell ring. Right after that I heard someone say, "Everybody get down". I turned to look to see what was going on and I immediately saw a guy, dressed in black pants, black jacket, a tan or brown mask and some type of black cap or hat. The dude was holding KENNY, in a neckhold with one arm, and he had his other arm extended fully, pointing a pistol towards me. At the same time people were dropping down to the floor. I remember noticing that it looked like somebody had cut wholes in the mask for eyes, but I couldn't tell what kind of mask it exactly was. I just remember that there was something dark, like a cap, on top of the dude's head and it covered the mask. I also noticed that the dude's jacket was open and the shirt was a different color. When I saw that the dude had his arm extended and he was holding a pistol, swinging it around, then pointed it straight at me, I also dropped straight to the ground, between two poker machines. Several people were running towards the kitchen, then the dude took KENNY back towards the kitchen.

*LIKE A HAT WOULD.*

*BUT I AM NOT SURE OF THE COLOR.*

*(JOC)*  
*(JOC)*

When he got towards the back, I heard a loud bang, which I thought was one shot. It was a loud blast and it sounded like a 45. About the same time I heard him say, "I said get down." I couldn't see KENNY or the dude at this time, because this time I was in between the machines. A few seconds later, the shooter and KENNY walked directly in front of me and stood in front of me, walking back and forth. The dude was still holding KENNY. The dude was telling

*GardeLL Ballinger*

WITNESSED BY:

*Det. Mark E. Doney 8907*

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everybody to put their money out, or get up and put their money out. I don't remember exactly what he said. I just remember that he was wanting their money. I heard another voice say, "Just do what he says." It was about this time that I noticed that there was money on the floor in front me. The dude turned KENNY loose, bent down and started picking the money up off of the floor. KENNY started to run towards the door, then the dude shot one round towards KENNY. This sounded like a .45 also.

The shooter then stood up and went around the dice table, then he went towards the door. People started to get up, but at the last minute, the shooter turned around and came back towards the middle of the room. I noticed that there was a white boy on the floor and he could not hide under a table, because there were so many people piled under the table. There were cards that looked like identifications and or credit cards and cash piled up on the floor in front of the white boy. I don't know if it was the white boy, or if he just happened to be sitting behind the stuff on the floor. The shooter came back to that area, bent down and started going through all of the stuff. It looked like he was only taking cash, because he left some cards on the floor. The shooter then got up and walked through the front door.

*THIS STUFF BELONGED TO THE WHITE BOY GOCGB*  
*GOCGB*

As soon as the shooter got out the front door, someone got up and locked the front door. The white guy that I know as T-BONE started acting crazy. He ripped his shirt off and looked at me and said something like, "we could take him". I told him that he was crazy, because the dude

GardeLL Ballinger

WITNESSED BY:

Det. Mark E. Donaghy 8907

STATEMENT OF: BALLINGER, GARDELL L. COMPLAINT #: 99-17552

had a gun and he was just shooting it at people. A short time later, I heard tires screeching, so most of us figured that the shooter was gone.

Someone unlocked the door and I was the first one to run outside. As soon as I got out the door, I noticed that KENNY was laying on the ground right outside the door, on my left-hand side. HE was laying on his side. I ran around him and didn't say anything to him. I noticed that there was blood on his shirt, or jacket, and it was down towards the ground. I kind of jumped over his feet and went around him. I ran up to the wooded area, behind the club, and ran towards Schwegel's on Alby Street. It ended up that I walked to the Little Mexico Area by myself.

When the shooter was talking I did not recognize his voice. Later on I heard that a VALDEZ JORDAN had turned himself in for the shooting. I don't know VALDEZ and I wouldn't recognize his voice if I heard it.

THE FOREGOING STATEMENT CONSISTING OF SIX PAGES, OF WHICH THIS IS PAGE SIX, IS A TRUE STATEMENT.

GardeLL Ballinger

WITNESSED BY:

Det. Mark C. Dousey 8907