

MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT OF THE CRIME SCENE EVIDENCE & REPORTS

Thank you for taking the initiative of wanting to know more about this case. I greatly appreciate any information you might have that can help lead to the actual suspect involved with the horrendous murder that I have been constantly "proclaiming my innocence" of. Unfortunately, I have been unsuccessful myself, which is why I have reached out to the community asking for any help. With nothing but time, hard work, and your help I am optimistic that we together can find the "real suspects" involved and prove my innocence.

Below you will find a brief summary of how this murder was pinned on me and some exhibits from the actual case. I hope that you find this to be helpful in your understanding of the case, and my continued struggle in proving my innocence.

On June 20, 1999 at approximately 3:18 am in the Northwest side of Chicago, IL (North Harlem & West Grand Area) a group of 4 of 5 male Hispanics walked up to another group of European men and women and asked, "how come you or somebody spit on us"? Immediately after this comment one of these men pulled out a weapon and fired 1 shot into the crowd striking the victim (Robert Mirabella) in the chest, which resulted in his death.

Several witnesses claimed to have seen this group of men flee to their vehicles. One of these vehicles was parked on N. Nordica facing southbound and described as a SUV type, black with a shiny bumper. The other vehicle which was parked on W. Grand Ave was described as a green Buick LeSabre from the 1970's model.

After a "All Points Bulletin" A.P.B was dispatched the green Buick LeSabre was discovered parallel parked on the 2400 block of North Oak Park Ave. After several officers waited on the vehicle a black man was detained attempting to enter the car. Witnesses were brought to this location to see if they could identify the occupant that was caught entering the vehicle and also to verify if in fact, that is the vehicle that was seen fleeing the scene of the crime. Witnesses did not identify the black man entering the vehicle but thought it was in fact the vehicle they seen fleeing.

After detaining the occupant he was brought down to the Grand & Central Police station for questioning at which time it was determined this person was an eye witness to the shooting.

The eye witness provided the police with an actual description of one of the men he saw holding the gun walking out of Nick's Grill and approach the group of men and women hanging out and drinking by their cars. The eye witness watched this suspect shoot one time into the crowd and flee. At this point he became frightened and jumped into his vehicle (green Buick LeSabre) and fled to his girlfriend's house.

While at the police station the eye witness described the shooter as Male Hispanic, 18-23 years of age, 5'7" tall, 165 lbs, black hair, mustache, wearing a blue tank top, with a tattoo of a light green dragon surrounded by stars on his left shoulder.

Now as the story goes in the view of the victims friends. The whole encounter started when they were sitting outside their cars drinking and eating. One of the these witnesses stated after I was convicted

was interviewed by the private investigator, retired 25 year Chicago police homicide detective Bill Dorsch, that while some of Robert's (the victim) friends were walking to Nick's Grill get some food. While the group was walking east on the south side of Grand Ave. crossing Nordica St. a vehicle turn south bound on to Nordica St. and nearly hit one of Robert friends. While crossing Nordica St. one of Robert's friend SPIT on the vehicle. The vehicle appeared that it was going to stop, but continued on its way. The vehicle was described as a 1988 or 1989 Honda Civic CRX Hatchback with tinted windows with a temporary plate in the back window.

Approximately 10 min. later 4 or 5 Hispanic men approached Robert and his friends and asked why they were spit at? Moments later a shot was fired striking Robert. When the police arrived multiple descriptions were given of the suspects including the shooter. Between June 20th, 1999 and July 30th, 1999 the case was at a standstill. On July 30th, 1999 I was told by my sister Stephanie Medina that the police were looking for me at my mother's apartment located at 2732 N. Newland.

When I was notified my family and I had no knowledge as to why I was being sought by the police. I decided to do what I felt was best and go to the Chicago Police Station to find out why they wanted to question me. When I arrived I was directed to go up to the detectives unit. I was approached by two detectives, Antonio Navarrette and Gary Butler, I was told I wasn't in any kind of trouble and that they just wanted to question me. I didn't see any reason why I shouldn't help the police, so I agreed to the questioning.

I was placed in an interview room and was arrested for the murder of Robert. Throughout this ordeal of being locked in this room cuffed to the wall for Fri., Sat., Sun., and part of Mon., I was threatened, promised and denied my right to make a phone call to my family for help. I was only 17 years old at the time.

I was told that if I do not provide the detectives with who committed the murder or who was there, I would be going down for the murder. Because I had no knowledge of the murder I was unable to help the detectives. I was left to myself to try to convince the detectives that had no knowledge of the murder. After being placed in line-ups, given a T-shirt to wear, and being told I was going down for this murder if did not provide information, I was formally charged with 1st Degree Murder. Three witnesses identified me in the line-ups. The descriptions given by the witnesses 6 weeks earlier of the shooter are as follows:

Witness #1: Male Hispanic, 19-30 years old, 5'10", 165-170 lbs, short dark hair, wearing a white T-shirt (this witness stated that the shooter was shorter and heavier than the others)

Witness #2: Male Hispanic, 20-25 years old, 6'0", 160 lbs, with short black hair combed straight back.

Witness #3: Male Hispanic, 18-23 years old, 5'7", thin, shaved head, light colored, with a mustache and goatee connected to sideburns, and bad acne complexion.

I plead not guilty and decided to take my case to trial with an attorney Pamela Wolf I retained and paid for her services, but I was not fairly represented which I believe resulted in my conviction. I was

sentenced to 50-years in the IDOC (Illinois Department of Corrections) prison and my release date is in the year 2049. Yet, I still continue to proclaim my innocence. I have no knowledge of this crime, which has prompted me to reach out for your help-rather it be having knowledge of the crime, I would definitely be grateful to you.

If you are as person with actual knowledge of this case, would you please provide me with the names of the suspects? You may remain anonymous, but if you choose not to remain anonymous both option would be of great help and I would appreciate your help immensely.

If you or anyone you know, knows how to track another vehicle described earlier as a 1988-89 Honda Civic CRX Hatchback please do so and contact me or my mother Denice. My suggestion would be to somehow track how many of these vehicles were registered in Illinois or the Chicago-land area matching the make and model ad then narrows it down to how many people actually registered for a plate around June 20, 1999. This should dramatically narrow it down, if in fact the temporary plates were not fake or stolen.

If you have noticed I've kept witness names out do to their own safety and security and it has nothing to do with negative intent. I have also left out some details to the case, which at this point, I feel has no warrant of knowledge. If by any chance you have become interested and serious about providing help and it's something you truly want to donate your efforts to, I have no problem providing you any information that pertains to my case.

Once again thank you for taking the time and I hope that with your help I can prove my innocence not only for myself but truly to give closure to the deceased family, as they have no Idea that the murderer and assailants are still walking free, they were led to believe it was me, so their hearts want to believe this, as is eases the heaviness of their horrific loss.

A Sincere Thank You,

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