

DATE: **OCTOBER 18, 2000**
TIME: **9:50 A.M.**
CASE: **HOMICIDE # 99-0255**
SUSPECT: **JOEY WATKINS**

*jail house
snitch
ridiculous
story*

THE FOLLOWING IS AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE JIM MOSER WITH THE ROME POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH KEVIN HAMPTON IN REFERENCE TO HOMICIDE.

MOSER: Today is uh—

HAMPTON: Hello.

MOSER: Hey Kevin.

HAMPTON: Yes sir?

MOSER: What is today, today is the eighteenth of October.

HAMPTON: Yes sir.

MOSER: Ten 'til ten in the morning. I'm writing down some notes here.

HAMPTON: Okay.

MOSER: 9:50 a.m. eighteenth day of October two thousand. What's happening? You doing okay?

HAMPTON: Yeah, I'm doing pretty good as long as I ain't in that jail.

MOSER: All right.

HAMPTON: Scared to go there.

MOSER: Hey uh, you called yesterday and talked with uh, Lieutenant Burnett.

HAMPTON: Yeah.

MOSER: Saying that you wanted to talk, maybe had some information regarding the shooting down on uh, what it that, the one down on the highway back in January?

HAMPTON: Yes sir.

MOSER: Uh, do you mind sharing with me what you are talking about.

HAMPTON: All right it's a long story so bear with me okay.

MOSER: All right no problem.

HAMPTON: All right after you know you put me in jail for the checks.

MOSER: Uh-huh.

HAMPTON: ~~Okay, while I was in there they was questioning people about a murder.~~

MOSER: Right.

HAMPTON: ~~But they didn't question me so I didn't, you know I didn't really think nothing of.~~

MOSER: When was this? When are you talking about?

HAMPTON: Uh.

MOSER: When were you in jail?

HAMPTON: Let's see, last, let me see, I think I went to jail last Wednesday.

MOSER: Okay.

HAMPTON: Not this past Wednesday, but the Wednesday before, and I think it was, it was either a Thursday or a Friday when they was questioning everybody. Anyways they didn't question me, and they was asking me you know why didn't they question you you know? Wh... what did you tell them? I said I didn't tell them nothing you know. Then later that day I was sitting there playing chess with uh, my cellmate.

MOSER: Uh-huh.

HAMPTON: And uh, I guess it was his friends or whatever I don't know, but er... I overheard them talking about it, and one of them was like you think he did it? And the other one was like, hell yeah I know he did it, he told me he did, and I kind of turned around and glanced at them and they started giving me the-the evil eye.

MOSER: ~~Who were they talking about?~~

HAMPTON: ~~The guy the police was questioning everybody about.~~

MOSER: ~~Okay, what was his name?~~

HAMPTON: I ne... I never caught a name, 'cause see nobody ever talked to me about me about it. I just, I just know that the guy that the cops was questioning everybody about he is, he's the one who did it, because that's what they, that's what the people was saying. Anyways uh, the next day I got out of jail. Okay, then ~~let's see on Wednesday two people broke in my apartment and beat the crap out of me and I had to tell the cops that it was robbery.~~

MOSER: Uh-huh.

HAMPTON: But uh, what it was really about was 'cause they was asking, they was asking me what I knew, who I had been talking to, and all this, and I, and I told I said, the only person I talked to is-is Detective Moser and it's about the case he's trying me against, and they w... and they, they was like yeah-yeah and beating the crap out of me and everything. Then I talked to your lady yesterday and I find out that you're trying, or you're investigating this case, and I just think this is one big weird coincidence that.

MOSER: So you were in jail a week or two ago?

HAMPTON: Yes sir.

MOSER: And while you were there uh, was it, do you know who the detectives were that came up?

HAMPTON: No, never talked to them.

MOSER: Okay, you know, you know.

HAMPTON: I never, I never talked to anybody.

MOSER: Okay, but word back in the uh, holding cells, you know back in cells were that there were the qu... the detectives were talking about?

HAMPTON: Uh-huh.

MOSER: Where was the person who-who shot who?

HAMPTON: I wasn't in the holding cell I was actually in the jail.

MOSER: Yeah in the jail, I'm sorry not in the holding cell, but were they talking about.

HAMPTON: They was talking about the guy that y'all was questioning about 'cause they called everybody in there one at a time, or wherever they was taking them and uh, I'd-I'd just heard you know that they was questioning u... u... uh, everybody about a guy that had been in jail that they had just released and they think he killed somebody, and then later that night when I was playing chess I overheard one of them ask another guy, do you think he did it, and the guy said, hell yeah he did it he told me he did.

MOSER: All right the guy that said that, hell yeah he did it he told me he did it, who is that guy?

HAMPTON: I have no idea. I didn't make no friends when I was in there I made attempt to make any friends while in there.

MOSER: Is he white or black?

HAMPTON: Uh, he was a black guy.

MOSER: Okay, I mean do you his number, his jail number or?

HAMPTON: I-I don't know nothing Detective Moser. I just know that the broke in my house and beat the crap out of me over this and that's why I hung myself in jail, because I didn't want to go back in there 'cause just the, 'cause of what I knew and I was afraid somebody would get to me rape me, kill me, I don't know. So I hung myself and I came up here to North West Regional where it was safe and I talked to my mom and my girlfriend and they told me to go ahead and call the cops and be honest with them and tell-tell them what's really happening and maybe they can help me and get me some type of protection or something. But

talking about Mark Free? When did they release it Mark?

making it all up b/c afraid of jail - know he see police report concerning robbery

see the cops pressed charges against me for obstruction and everything 'cause they think I beat the crap out of myself, but I really didn't. What happened was they was beating, beat the crap out of me because of what I knew and was afraid I was gonna talk to the cops. And they told me if I talk to anyone they'd kill me.

MOSER: Who told you that?

HAMPTON: Whoever them people were that broke into my house.

MOSER: Well do you recognize them from jail?

HAMPTON: No sir they were two white guys.

MOSER: Two white guys broke in on you?

HAMPTON: Yeah I, well don't really, I wouldn't really say broke in, the doors was unlocked, the just kind of walked on in.

MOSER: What did they do to you when they got in?

HAMPTON: Uh, they I w... I was taking a crap you know, and I heard my backdoor open. So I got up real quick and I looked and there was two guys in there with masks, or them ski masks on, and I ran towards my bedroom 'cause I keep a SKS rifle in my, in the uh, living room.

MOSER: Uh-huh.

HAMPTON: Right at the hallway, but it didn't a clip in it. My girlfriend, she took the clip out for some reason I can't remember why. Anyways they grabbed it and one of them had brung-brung in a chair, and then they hit me over the head with it that one time r... right in the forehead. I've still got a mark from it, and it knocked me

on the ground. And then they was calling me you know you fucking rat bastard, you lying son of a bitch, and everything like this.

MOSER: Now do you think these guys were from the jail?

HAMPTON: They were either from the jail or that guy y'all are after had them come get me or something because they knew where I lived.

MOSER: Do you know any names of th... any of these guys?

HAMPTON: No see that's what I tried to tell them. I said I don't know, I don't know what's going on. I have, I didn't, I didn't hear nothing and I don't know nothing.

MOSER: So you don't even know the name of the person they were talking about?

HAMPTON: They-they-they—

MOSER: In jail?

HAMPTON: --they said it I just don't remember. I g... I can probably remember it, 'cause all of this has happened pretty...

MOSER: What name do you kindling remember?

HAMPTON: U... u...

MOSER: Was it uh, John uh, Frank, Gill uh, Thomas, Patty, Pat, Kevin?

HAMPTON: I don't know I'm trying to think.

MOSER: Kelly uh, Anthony, Mark uh, Mike?

HAMPTON: I don't know it's.

MOSER: Tom?

HAMPTON: I'm trying to think, it's.

MOSER: Roy?

HAMPTON: It's kind of like, it was kind of like a common name.

MOSER: Uh, let's see Stanley, Bill, Joey, Keith uh, any of those?

HAMPTON: ~~I don't know, Stanley seems, I don't know.~~ Like I, like I said you know. *Sutton beat him up*

MOSER: But you don't who they were talking about, they-they, are you telling me they didn't mention any names?

HAMPTON: No they-they didn't mention no names.

MOSER: What about the guy they said you know, the guy they were questioning or they were talking about he's the one that-that did it, who was he?

HAMPTON: That's who I'm talking about, but I can't remember his name.

MOSER: Okay.

HAMPTON: ~~But they was calling him G.~~

MOSER: ~~They were calling him G?~~

HAMPTON: Yeah.

MOSER: All right was this guy white or black, do you know?

HAMPTON: Uh, I wasn't in jail with him so I don't know him. He-he'd done been released by the time I got in jail.

MOSER: Okay.

So since he wasn't in jail, why would anyone mess with him? - B.S.

HAMPTON: And that's why they didn't question me because I wasn't in there, and then I'd went for first appearance and evidently they-they thought that I uh, was talking to the cops or something about it, and they was asking me you what are you, who you been talking to, what did you tell them, and all this stuff. I was like, man I don't know nothing, I don't know what's going on.

MOSER: Okay.

HAMPTON: But uh, all I do know is, the guy that y'all, that y'all think did it must have did it because I got my ass whipped because of for something they think I heard.

MOSER: Well that's uh—

HAMPTON: Or something they think I know.

[Handwritten mark] MOSER: --interesting that you are the only person that supposedly had gotten beaten up for hearing this.

HAMPTON: Uh, I know.

MOSER: Okay, all right uh, so you can't think of any names, I mean did they talk about you know what happened to the guy or how they guy supposedly did it or anything?

HAMPTON: They s... they just said something about blew-blew his head off or something, driving down the road or something like that. I don't remember.

MOSER: Did they tell you where?

HAMPTON: Uh.

MOSER: Anything about a gun?

HAMPTON: Let's see, I think they said it was on 27, I'm not real sure.

MOSER: Uh-huh, were they, they say anything about, did you ever hear them talk about what kind of car or truck they were in or what kind of car or truck the other person was in or what kind of gun was used or anything?

HAMPTON: I-I think they said something about a Ford Explorer, I'm not real sure, I think some kind of SUV. See i... I've never, I've never even heard about anybody being killed around here lately.

MOSER: They tell you when it happened? Did you overhear them say when it happened?

HAMPTON: They just said a while back.

MOSER: Okay, but we don't know any names of these people that were talking?

HAMPTON: No see I didn't, I didn't ask anybody's names and.

MOSER: And y... you don't have a name of the uh, person they were talking about?

HAMPTON: I heard them say it, I just can't remember it.

MOSER: And none of those names I told you sound familiar?

HAMPTON: Uh, not off the top of my head. I mean I'm trying to think the best I can and I kind of want to help you out and everything.

MOSER: All right no problem. Uh, well if you think of anything else call me back.

trying to set up defense for obstruction
HAMPTON: All right because you know only reason, I mean I ain't trying to work out no deal or nothing, but uh, you know the cops are charging me with obstruction and everything, and I really did get the crap beat out of me, but it wasn't, it wasn't about robbery it was 'cause you know they-they think I ratted them out and.

MOSER: So you think you got the crap beat out of you because you ratted somebody out?

HAMPTON: Pretty much, and uh, I also wanted to talk to about uh.

MOSER: I'm sorry, do what?

HAMPTON: ~~There's another~~ thing I wanted to talk to you about that uh, my landlord was the one who bonded me out.

MOSER: Uh-huh.

HAMPTON: And he threw me back in jail because he was trying to get money out of me for bond, which is illegal with him not being a licensed bondsman, and uh, the investigators was asking me if he, if he deal drugs been (inaudible) and uh.

1/24
Nothing to get a deal
MOSER: ~~You told them~~ investigators no that he doesn't deal in drugs?

HAMPTON: Yeah, but he really does.

MOSER: Oh he does?

HAMPTON: Yeah, so I thought y'all might like to know that. I'm just gonna, I'm going ahead and telling that because of the way he did me an...

MOSER: Who-who is he?

HAMPTON: Uh, James Jordan, and uh, there's a bunch of reliable source that (inaudible) you know (inaudible)

MOSER: All right okay, but uh, if you think of who they are talking about, this name of whoever these guys are talking about or anything of these guys that were talking—

brushed him off on drug dealer
HAMPTON: Yeah.

MOSER: --or how I can get in touch with them to tell me, you know corroborate what you're telling me.

HAMPTON: Yeah.

MOSER: You need to give me a call back.

HAMPTON: Okay.

MOSER: Okay?

HAMPTON: All right.

MOSER: Thanks.

HAMPTON: All right.

MOSER: Bye.

HAMPTON: Bye.

Detective Jim Moser
Rome Police Department

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