

December 12, 2017

**Governor Bill Haslam
1st Floor, State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243**

Re: Cyntoia Brown

Dear Governor Haslam:

I am Homicide Detective Charles Robinson with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department. I am writing to let you know that I was the lead detective who worked the murder investigation of Johnny Allen, who was shot to death inside his home on August 7, 2004. Cyntoia Brown was identified as the suspect and arrested for his murder. I have read in the media that you are being asked to consider clemency for Ms. Brown. Cyntoia Brown's conviction has been upheld at every level of our judicial system and she has also been denied a new trial. I would like for you to know the true facts of the case before you make any decision about Cyntoia Brown.

First and foremost, Cyntoia Brown did not commit this murder because she was a child sex slave as her advocates would like you to believe. Cyntoia Brown's motive for murdering Johnny Allen in his sleep was robbery.

Based on my investigation Cyntoia Brown ran away from her adopted mother's home in Clarksville, Tennessee, and came to Nashville. For reasons I never understood, her adopted mother never reported her missing. Cyntoia Brown lived in Nashville for a couple of months. During that time she stayed on occasion with some female friends, Shocsha Armstrong and Garion McGlothen.

On August 7, 2004, at approximately 7:15 p.m., Nashville's Emergency Communications Center received an anonymous phone call from a female. The caller said send the police to 2728 Mosssdale Drive. The call taker asked the anonymous caller why police were needed at that location. The anonymous caller replied homicide and then hung up the telephone.

Patrol Officers were dispatched to 2728 Mosssdale Road and noticed a rear door inside the garage unlocked. Patrol Officers entered the residence and found Johnny Allen in his bed with a gunshot wound to his head.

Sergeant Pat Postiglione, Detective Derry Baltimore and I arrived on the scene and observed that Mr. Allen was lying on his right side on the bed with his arms folded underneath his head and his fingers interlocked together. Mr. Allen was positioned as if he was asleep when he was shot. Mr. Allen had a single gunshot wound to his head. The

bullet entered the back of his head and exited the front of his head. The bullet then went through the bedroom wall and came to a stop on the bed in the adjacent bedroom.

We noticed that a gun cabinet downstairs was open and the weapons had been removed. It also appeared other items had been removed from the home. We also noticed no vehicle at the residence. We did a motor vehicle registration check on Mr. Allen. It indicated he was the owner of a Ford, F150, pickup. We also noticed two bags from Sonic Drive-In and two soft drink containers from Sonic Drive-In in the dining area. A check with Mr. Allen's bank later revealed four transactions after his death on his Visa debit card.

Our first break in the investigation came when Samuel Humphrey contacted us and said he had information about the murder and wanted to meet.

Samuel Humphrey

Mr. Humphrey stated he and a friend (Richard Reed) had a room together at the In-Town Suites (2823 Murfreesboro Road). Mr. Humphrey stated he was employed at Pizza Hut. Mr. Humphrey stated on 8/07/2004 he got off work and went home. Mr. Humphrey stated Mr. Reed told him Cyntoia who was also staying at the hotel with her boyfriend asked him for a ride to Walmart. Mr. Humphrey stated Mr. Reed said he drove Cyntoia to Walmart and she told him to stop at a white pickup truck in the parking lot. Mr. Humphrey stated Mr. Reed said Cyntoia told him she blew a man's brains out and took his truck. Mr. Humphrey stated he later spoke with Cyntoia and she told him the same story. Mr. Humphrey stated they didn't believe her until they saw the 10:00 PM news. Mr. Humphrey stated they discussed calling the police but feared retaliation by Cyntoia and her boyfriend. Mr. Humphrey stated they decided to leave the hotel and call the police. Mr. Humphrey stated Cyntoia was also armed with a .40 caliber handgun and threatened him with it several days ago. Mr. Humphrey stated Cyntoia was living in room 302.

Richard Reed

Mr. Reed stated he's known Cyntoia since they were both in a Juvenile Detention Facility called Clarksville Diagnostic Center. Mr. Reed stated on 8/07/2004 he was asleep in his room and was awakened by someone knocking on the door. Mr. Reed stated it was Cyntoia and she asked him for a ride to Walmart. Mr. Reed stated he drove her to Walmart and she directed him to a white, Ford, F150 pickup truck in the parking lot. Mr. Reed stated Cyntoia exited his car and went to the truck and used a key to enter the vehicle. Mr. Reed stated she attempted to start the engine but it wouldn't start. Mr. Reed stated Cyntoia asked him did he have any jumper cables and he said no. Mr. Reed stated they drove back to the hotel and Cyntoia said I need you to help me go into a house. Mr. Reed stated Cyntoia said I shot somebody in the head last night and blew his brains out. Mr. Reed stated Cyntoia said it was a fat lick (robbery). Mr. Reed stated Cyntoia said she took \$50,000, some guns and his truck. Mr. Reed stated Cyntoia said she and her boyfriend had been waiting on a lick like that all week. Mr. Reed stated Cyntoia offered him money to drive back to the victim's house so she could get more items. Mr. Reed stated he refused and he later told his roommate (Samuel Humphrey). Mr. Reed stated

Mr. Humphrey went to Cyntoia's room and asked her about it. Mr. Reed stated Cyntoia called him and said you better stop running your fucking mouth about my business or I'll get you too. Mr. Reed stated he'd seen Cyntoia with a .40-caliber, High Point, Semi Auto handgun several days earlier. Mr. Reed stated Cyntoia was playing with the gun and put it to his head.

After receiving this information, we went to Walmart (3035 Hamilton Church Road) and located Mr. Allen's vehicle. We contacted Walmart loss prevention Manager Glen Ford and requested video from the parking lot where the victim's vehicle was located. Mr. Ford located video footage of the white, Ford, F150 driving into the parking lot at 1:50 AM (8/07/2004). A female is then observed exiting the vehicle and flagging down another driver. That driver, who was later identified as Randall Jordan, gave her a ride to the In-Town Suites.

We then (with the assistance of the South Precinct Flex Unit) went to the In-Town Suites, Room 302 to attempt to locate Cyntoia. We knocked on the door and moments later a male (Garion McGlothen) opened the door and Cyntoia was standing behind him. For safety reasons I asked are there any weapons in the room and Cyntoia responded closet. A patrol officer opened the closet door and I observed two rifles leaning against the wall. Mr. McGlothen and Cyntoia both gave us verbal consent to search the room and later signed a consent to search form. I looked inside Cyntoia's handbag and observed a set of keys. One key was for a Ford. I took the set of keys and drove to the victim's vehicle at Walmart. I confirmed that it was the key to the victim's vehicle. They were both transported to the Criminal Justice Center for interviews.

On 8/08/04 at approximately 3:28 AM Det. Baltimore and I interviewed (recorded) Cyntoia D. Mitchell (a.k.a. Cyntoia D. Brown) at the Criminal Justice Center. Cyntoia lied and said her last name was Mitchell and that she was 19 years old. We later learned during the booking process that her last name was Brown and she was 16 years old.

Cyntoia Denise Brown

Ms. Brown stated that on Friday, 8/06/04 at approximately 11:00 PM she was out walking when the victim who was driving a white pickup truck stopped and asked if she needed a ride. Ms. Brown stated that she got into the truck with him and he told her his name was Johnny. Ms. Brown stated the victim asked her if she was hungry. Ms. Brown stated that they were near the Sonic Drive-In (2787 Murfreesboro Road) and he (victim) pulled into the restaurant to get her something to eat. Ms. Brown stated that the victim ordered her a chicken sandwich, fries and something to drink. Ms. Brown stated that while they waited on the food, the victim asked her a lot of questions and wanted to know if she was living on the streets. Ms. Brown stated that she told him yes. Ms. Brown stated that the victim also asked what happened to her arm and told her she shouldn't do that to herself and that she should never feel like she didn't need to be here anymore. Ms. Brown stated that the victim asked her if she would like to spend the night at his residence to keep him company. Ms. Brown stated that the victim assured her that he was a safe person and she said yes. Ms. Brown stated that a white female with brown hair delivered the food to the vehicle and said to the victim are you back again.

Ms. Brown stated that they went back to the victim's residence on Mossdale Drive. Ms. Brown stated that they entered the residence from the rear door near the hot tub. Ms. Brown stated that they then went upstairs to the kitchen/dining area and began eating. Ms. Brown stated that after they were finished eating they then went downstairs and sat on the couch to watch television. Ms. Brown stated that the victim showed her all his guns including the two rifles that she took. Ms. Brown stated that she doesn't know where the victim put the other guns he showed her. Ms. Brown stated that the victim told her he had a permit to carry a gun. Ms. Brown stated that the victim said he was once in the army and was a sharpshooter. Ms. Brown stated that the victim told her again not to worry he's a cool person.

Ms. Brown stated that they went to the victim's bedroom and watched Midnight Love (music videos) on BET. Ms. Brown stated that she was tired and they got into bed together and went to sleep. Ms. Brown stated that while she was in the bed the victim kept getting up every 5 to 10 minutes and going back and forth to the bathroom and to the other bedroom. Ms. Brown stated she began wondering what the hell is he doing. Ms. Brown stated that the victim got back into the bed and tried to touch her on the shoulder and she moved away from him. Ms. Brown stated that he (victim) attempted to touch her again. Ms. Brown stated that she moved and pretended to be sleep. Ms. Brown stated that the victim then turned around and began reaching for something on the side of the bed. Ms. Brown stated that she thought to herself oh! Hell no! Ms. Brown stated that she started thinking that the victim was about to get a gun and try to kill her. Ms. Brown stated that she remembered the victim telling her he was a sharpshooter. Ms. Brown stated that she was scared so she reached into her handbag, which was on top of the nightstand and got her gun. Ms. Brown stated that she then shot the victim in the back of the head before he could kill her. Ms. Brown stated that she remembered looking at the clock and it was around 1:42 AM. Ms. Brown stated that the handgun she had was a .40-caliber, High Point and she purchased it about three weeks ago from someone off the streets. Ms. Brown stated that she misplaced the gun after the shooting and may have dropped it at the victim's residence or in his vehicle. Ms. Brown stated that she took the victim's pants to get the keys to his vehicle. Ms. Brown stated she left the victim's pants inside the truck. Ms. Brown stated that she also took the victim's two rifles that was found inside her hotel room and planned to sell them at a pawnshop. Ms. Brown stated that she left the victim's residence in his truck and drove it to Wal-Mart. Ms. Brown stated that she got out of the vehicle and caught a ride with a black/male in a black sports utility vehicle. Ms. Brown stated that the tag on the SUV was a specialized tag XBOX. Ms. Brown stated that the driver gave her a ride back to In-Town Suites. Ms. Brown stated that the victim never attempted to rape or attack her. Ms. Brown also admitted to later calling 911 on the victim's cell phone. After the interview Ms. Brown told us that she also took \$172 cash from the victim's pants pockets.

After the interview ended Ms. Brown was escorted back to the homicide office so that we could complete the arrest report and affidavits. Ms. Brown asked and was granted permission to use the telephone. Ms. Brown was overheard by Sgt. Postiglione, Det. Derry Baltimore and me laughing and joking with the person with whom she spoke. Ms.

Brown told the person that she killed a man and was being charged with murder. She began laughing and the person she was speaking with didn't believe her. Ms. Brown gave Det. Baltimore the telephone and he told the person it was true. The person Ms. Brown spoke with on the telephone identified herself as Shocosha Armstrong (a.k.a. Chico).

The following are inconsistencies related to Cyntoia Brown's statement and the crime scene: Whenever a person gives a statement it is carefully evaluated with what you see in the crime scene. As an investigator, you look for consistencies or inconsistencies with the statement in regard to the actual crime scene.

1. Ms. Brown stated that the victim was reaching off the side of the bed when she shot him.
 - This statement is inconsistent with what we observed in the crime scene. Mr. Allen was lying on his right side on the bed with his arms folded underneath his head and his fingers interlocked together. Mr. Allen was positioned as if he was asleep when he was shot. Mr. Allen was shot in the back of the head and the bullet exited the front of his head. His death was instant.
2. Ms. Brown stated she purchased the gun about three weeks earlier from someone off the streets.
 - The handgun Mr. Brown used to kill Mr. Allen was also used during a robbery on 2/07/2004. The victim (Rachel Browning) was shot in the neck and paralyzed. Garion McGlothen was a suspect in the robbery / shooting.
3. According to Ms. Brown she never had sex with the victim.
 - Ms. Brown and Garion McGlothen were both involved in robberies. I believe that is the reason he (Garion McGlothen) gave Ms. Brown the gun she used to kill Johnny Allen. Based on my investigation, Cyntoia's sole intent was to rob Johnny Allen from the moment he picked her up. This is consistent with the statement she made to Richard Reed, "Cyntoia said she took \$50,000, some guns and his truck. Cyntoia said she and her boyfriend had been waiting on a lick like that all week."
 - Mr. Reed also said Cyntoia wanted him to drive her back to the victim's house to steal more items and she offered to pay him. I believe her sole intent that night was for someone to pick her up believing she was a prostitute so that she could commit a robbery. Her actions after killing Mr. Allen speak for itself. (see attachments 1 & 2)

Shayla Bryant

On 11/17/2004 at 9:33 a.m., I interviewed Shayla Bryant an inmate at CCA – Harding Place. Ms. Bryant was incarcerated with Cyntoia Brown. Ms. Bryant was in Unit G, Cell 007A and Cyntoia Brown was in Unit G, Cell 006A. Ms. Bryant first handed me a note that she said was written by Cyntoia Brown. Ms. Bryant stated that a hole is in the wall that separate her cell from Cyntoia. Ms. Bryant stated they use the hole to slide notes back and forth to each other. The note was later verified by a handwriting expert during trial as being written by Cyntoia Brown. The note reads as follows:

- Everything is the truth, I swear on my life except for “I thought he was getting a gun” and the feeling of nervousness.

Ms. Bryant stated that Cyntoia told her to flush the note down the toilet. Ms. Bryant stated on 11/16/2004 when Cyntoia came to CCA she asked her why she was in jail. Ms. Bryant stated that Cyntoia told her along with her cellmates (Sheila Washington, LaShonda Williamson) about the murder. Ms. Bryant stated that Cyntoia first told them that she thought Mr. Allen was reaching for a gun and she got the gun from her pocketbook and shot him. Ms. Bryant stated Cyntoia later changed her story and said she used one of Mr. Allen’s guns and shot him. Ms. Bryant stated she told Cyntoia something was wrong with her story. Ms. Bryant stated she told Cyntoia you’ve told us two or three different stories and she needed to tell the truth. Ms. Bryant stated that she questioned Cyntoia about why she went home with Mr. Allen instead of going to a hotel room. Ms. Bryant stated Cyntoia said, “If you want to know the truth I killed the fucking guy for nothing.” Ms. Bryant stated that she was mad at her boyfriend Cutthroat for making her go out and prostitute. Ms. Bryant stated Cyntoia said she decided to kill the next man that picked her up. Ms. Bryant stated after she shot Johnny Allen she turned on the lights and he was making gurgling type noises. Ms. Bryant stated that Cyntoia said she took Mr. Allen’s truck and drove it to Walmart then caught a ride with another man to her hotel. Ms. Bryant stated she took Mr. Allen’s wallet and gave it to Cutthroat. Ms. Bryant stated Cyntoia said that if she didn’t come back to the hotel with anything Cutthroat would have beat her up. Ms. Bryant stated Cyntoia said she was tired of going out prostituting for Cutthroat. Ms. Bryant stated Cyntoia said she got the gun from Cutthroat who gave it to her for protection. (See attachment 3).

LaShonda Williamson

Ms. Williamson who was also incarcerated (Unit G, Cell 007B) at CCA-Harding Place with Cyntoia Brown gave a similar statement as Shayla Bryant.

Shelia Washington-Raines

Ms. Washington-Raines who was also incarcerated (Unit G, Cell 007C) at CCA-Harding Place with Cyntoia Brown gave a similar statement as Shayla Bryant. Ms. Raines also added that Cyntoia Brown told her she had been robbing people on her own and has been prostituting since she was twelve years old.

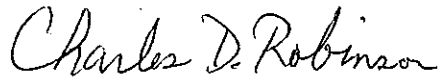
On In February 2006 I requested from the Davidson County Sheriff’s Office all Cyntoia Brown’s jail phone calls from 9/28/2005 through 1/25/2006. I listened to all the phone calls and discovered a phone call between Cyntoia Brown and her adopted mother Ellenette Brown (ph. 931-551-3920). The call was on 10/29/2005 at 3:52 PM. Cyntoia told Ms. Brown during that phone call that she was facing life. Cyntoia went on to say, “You don’t understand what I did. I killed somebody, I executed him!” (See attachment 4)

At the beginning of this investigation I considered the possibility that Cyntoia Brown was justified in killing Johnny Allen. At the conclusion of this investigation my findings were

that she was not justified in killing Mr. Allen and her only motivation for the murder was robbery. I saw her lawyer on the news say that Cyntoia Brown had a low IQ score. I recall the doctors that evaluated Cyntoia Brown testifying in court that she was academically "gifted."

Thank you, sir, for your consideration of this letter. Should you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Detective Charles Robinson
Homicide/Cold Case Unit
Metropolitan Nashville Police Department
3055 Lebanon Pike
Nashville, TN 37219
(615) 880-2918