

Transcripts from Grand Jury, People v. Pat Hughes, June 13, 2006

ASA Langelier: OK. The grand jury has been impaneled. We are here on complaint no. 06-2255. The People of Thompson County, State of Marshall seek a true bill of indictment against Pat Hughes for murder in the homicide of Bubba Davis. The People of the State of Marshall call Detective T.J. Hoffman.

Clerk: Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

Hoffman: Yes.

Q. [ASA Langelier]: You are Detective T.J. Hoffman, Star 625, and you are attached to the Marshall City Police Department?

A. [Hoffman]: Yes.

Q. How long have you've been a detective?

A. For three years. I have been on the force for 6 years.

Q. Your education?

A. I have a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

Q. Without revealing your personal home address, tell the jurors whether you live on the 4500 block of North Beacon here in Marshall City.

A. Yes, I do. I live across the street, a few buildings down, from 4515 N. Beacon, the place where Pat Hughes lives. Hughes rents an apartment there, on the second floor. The owner-lessor Chris Paris lives on the first floor. It is a three flat apartment building with a utility floor basement.

Q. So, you are familiar with that building?

A. Yes.

Q. I asked you to bring a floor plan of that second floor apartment. Do you have it?

A. Yes.

Q. This appears to be hand-drawn. Who drew it?

A. A college student, Robbie Johnson, who lives there with Pat Hughes. Johnson drew these when interviewed on May 24, and they are very good, considering.

Q. How many times have you been there?

A. I would say six times over the past two years.

Q. How about other parts of the building?

A. Maybe 25-30 times in the first floor. Never on the third, never in the basement.

Q. On May 24, 2006, you were called to 4515 N. Beacon around 10 p.m.?

A. Yes.

Q. Tell the grand jury what you saw when you arrived.

A. I was responding to a call the owner, first-floor occupant, Chris Paris. I went up the front stairs. I had been involved in an investigation of the people who live in this building. So, actually I know most of the people in the building. I knew how to get through the front door. I went upstairs where I heard voices yelling. I knocked hard on the door and finally pushed the door open. Robbie Johnson was in the front room. Pat Hughes, the other tenant, was standing over Bubba Davis, the victim. Bubba was on the floor, and there was blood on the floor, too. Robbie is saying that Pat stabbed Bubba. Pat then admitted it. Pat said, "I stabbed him."

Q. Okay, and what happened to Bubba?

A. Bubba was dead. I checked for a pulse, and there was none. Medics pronounced him DOA on the scene. He was taken for an autopsy. The autopsy indicates that a knife punctured the heart of the decedent causing almost instant death.

Q. And was the knife recovered?

A. No, I don't know what happened to the knife. There was a lot of confusion when I arrived. Robbie was screaming; Chris Paris, the owner, was screaming. Other police arrived. I had to arrest Pat, and calm everyone down. I brought in emergency personnel. Somewhere along the line, the apparent murder weapon disappeared. But, there was no doubt that Pat did this. Pat admitted it. Pat was standing over Bubba like a conqueror.

Q. Did Pat make a voluntary statement?

A. Yes. I walked in and asked what happened, and Pat said, "I stabbed him." I said, "How?" Pat said, "With a knife."

Q. Okay. You said there was an autopsy done in this case?

A. Yes.

Q. And the findings of that autopsy?

A. Death by knife wound. Knife went in solar plexus – the soft part of the belly just below the sternum; the knife went up and pierced the base of the heart, causing heart stoppage, bleeding, and quick death.

Q. Okay, and did all of these events occur in the County of Thompson?

A. Yes.

Langelier: Okay, the Thompson County State's Attorney asks that this grand jury return a one-count indictment for murder.

Grand Jury Member 3: Wait, I have a question. Who all was present in the house?

A. Well, there were three people present. Pat Hughes, and the owner Chris Paris, and Robbie Johnson.

Q. How old is Robbie?

A. Oh, like 20 or something. Robbie is a relative of Pat Hughes and is a college student.

Grand Jury Member 14: What are those letters on that hand-drawn floor plan?

A. Robbie Johnson put those there during our questioning. "R" stands for Robbie Johnson. "B" is for Bubba. "P" is for Pat Hughes. "K" is for where the knife was originally, on the counter near the sink.

Grand Jury Member 6: Okay, how do you know that it was Pat that stabbed Bubba?

A. Oh, there's no doubt. Everybody, including Pat said that Pat stabbed Bubba with a knife.

Langelier: OK. Are there any other questions?

(None)