



## Memorandum of Interview

**Date:** August 19, 2015

**Time:** 13:30 - 15:30

**Person Interviewed:** Michael Johnson

**Interviewer:** Jack L. Barnhart

### **Details:**

On the above time and date, Reporting Investigator interviewed Michael Johnson at Johnson's residence in Dayton, Ohio. The purpose of the interview was to obtain detailed information regarding Johnson's recall of the events of 02/05 and 02/06/1982 in Moraine, Ohio. Johnson claimed he resided at Gordon Trailer Park, Moraine, Ohio at the time of this incident.

Johnson said that he lived in a house in the Gordon Trailer Park, which was adjacent to the Gem City Estates Trailer Park, when the murder of David Rowell occurred. Johnson claimed that his family moved to West Carrollton, Ohio, while he was in custody.

Johnson stated that he did not know Wampler. Johnson claimed that he was not at Wampler's residence. However, later in the interview, Johnson contradicted himself and said that he drank beer at Wampler's residence.

Johnson said that he was at Andrew Choate's residence all night on 02/05/1982. When confronted with Andrew Choate's testimony that Ted Ritchie and Johnson were at Choate's from 23:15 hours to midnight, Johnson insisted that he was at Choate's all night. Johnson could not explain why Choate would provide testimony about Johnson only being at

Choate's residence for 45 minutes because, according to Johnson, he was there all night.

Johnson denied ever saying, "I had nothing to do with this. I was at Andy Choate's all night," on 02/06/1982, as claimed by Randall Hendricks in his statement on 08/12/2015. However, Johnson said that he cannot remember if he observed the police recovering VICTIM's body on 02/06/1982.

Johnson said that his best friend at this time was Andrew Choate. Johnson stated that Choate and he remain in contact to this day and the last time they spoke was in July 2015.

Reporting Investigator asked Johnson about the report that Ted Ritchie, James Shipman Jr., Joey Shipman and he were at Wampler's residence from 21:00 hours to 23:00 hours on 02/05/1982. Johnson claimed that never occurred. Johnson further stated that he did not know James Shipman Jr. or Joey Shipman. Also, Johnson claims he did not see Ted Ritchie on 02/05/1982.

Johnson claimed that he did not know Mike Rowell or VICTIM. However, later, Johnson changed his statement to that he may have went to school with Mike Rowell.

Johnson said that Judy Tabor is his cousin. Reporting Investigator asked Johnson about visiting Judy Tabor's residence on 02/05/1982. Reporting Investigator asked Johnson about the report that he slept on Johnson's floor, then went to Doan's residence and spent the rest of the night. Johnson claimed those events were false and never occurred. Johnson repeated that he spent the night at Choate's residence.

Johnson further stated that his family's relationship with Tabor is strained and most of the family has broken off contact with her because of "the way she is."

Reporting Investigator showed Johnson Moraine Police Report, Case 82-184, dated 03/03/1982. Johnson stated that his mother was not at the police station. According to Johnson, Detective Mullins spoke to his mother at their home, then he was taken, alone, to the police station. Johnson said that his mother was not in the interview room or the police station and claimed that statement in the police report is false. Johnson said that his mother was disabled and further stated that the reports she was a functioning illiterate were false.

Johnson said the police report is false. According to Johnson, Wampler never said, "Do you want to kill David Rowell tonight?" Johnson said the entire conversation, as described in the report, never occurred and stated that Detective Mullins fabricated the report.

Johnson claimed he could not remember the questions he was asked, but does recall that the police were constantly stopping the tape recorder and that Detective Mullins suggested that if Johnson answered questions a certain way, Johnson could go home. Johnson described Detective Mullins questions as leading and suggestive. Again, Johnson could not remember any of the questions or any of his answers.

Reporting Investigator showed Johnson Moraine Police Report, Case 82-184, dated 02/09/1982. Johnson said the entire police report is false. Johnson stated that the events described in the report never occurred.

Johnson said that his childhood, especially this period, is a "blur." Johnson stated that he drank and smoked marijuana during this time. Johnson claimed to not remember his trial in juvenile court, in which he was convicted of murder, abuse of a corpse and rape. Johnson stated that he could not remember the evidence that the prosecution presented in the trial. Johnson described his trial as "surreal."

When asked for his opinion on who could have committed this crime, Johnson said that he does not know. Johnson further stated, "Keith didn't do it." Johnson said that the prosecution had no evidence that Wampler committed this crime and he is sorry that Wampler is still in prison.

Johnson opined that the Moraine Police was going to prove that someone in the trailer parks committed this crime. Johnson said that Detective Mullins did not have a good reputation. According to Johnson, several years later, Detective Mullins approached Johnson's father and apologized for "railroading your son" because the Moraine Police wanted to "get Wampler." Johnson said that his father is willing to provide a statement to support that claim.

Reporting Investigator asked Johnson to unseal his juvenile court transcripts. Johnson said that he is only willing to release those to an attorney because he wants to make sure they do not get posted on the Internet. Reporting Investigator requested Johnson to reconsider and Johnson said he would think about it.

Johnson, also, expressed a desire to clear his name. Johnson stated that he did not murder David Rowell.

The interview ended under favorable conditions.

**Investigator's Note: Johnson's demeanor during the interview can be described as guarded and nervous. He was constantly shifting positions in his chair and wiggling his foot. Several times during the interview he stated, "I can't be tried again." Johnson's recollection of the events on 02/05 and 02/06/1982 totally contradicts Moraine Police reports and the trial testimony in Wampler's case. Johnson was less than honest during the interview.**