## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

RAEKWON ROBERTSON,

Appellant,

v.

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Respondent.

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CASE NO: 87811

## APPELLANT'S APPENDIX

## Volume 7

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So how can you differentiate between the gun that Mr. Robertson had versus the gun that fired the bullet that killed this person? The only thing that we have is we can't determine that it came from that gun. Once again, remember, it's your recollection. If you recall that this expert said something completely different from what I'm telling you right now, then that governs. But what I recall that expert testifying to is that gun cannot be conclusively determined to be the gun that fired that bullet that killed that person in this case. Not beyond a reasonable doubt.

Now, DNA. It would make sense, right? If it's Mr. Robertson's gun, his DNA would be on it. But there's another set of DNA that's on that gun. Do we know who it is? No. We have an interesting thing though, because Mr. Robertson's DNA is found on the actual gun, but what DNA is found on the clip inside the gun? It's not Mr. Robertson's DNA. It's some other person, some other profile that's on the inside of the magazine.

Why is that important to you? Because if you're going to fire a gun -- say you just pick up the gun and hold it. Does that mean you want to fire the gun? No. But if you really want to fire the gun, what are you going to do? You're going to load the gun. You're going to take the clip out, you're going to put bullets in that gun, and you're going to shove that clip back in that gun. That's what typically

happens if you're intending on using that gun, but it's not Mr. Robertson's profile that's located on that magazine in that gun.

Now, State says, well, this is a well-constructed but poorly executed plan. I would have no problem with that statement but for the fact that they're including Mr.

Robertson in the idea that somehow he came up with the plan.

We had one text that says, "Hey, let's go hit a house tonight." Do we have any proof beyond a reasonable doubt that that actually happened? What we have is, and what we're going to get to is, we don't; nothing beyond a reasonable doubt that tells you as you sit here right now that Mr. Robertson actually went out and did exactly that, or did something that led to the death of this individual.

Let me show you this. The convenience store robbery (sic), right? The timing of it. You'll have an opportunity to take back that video and look at it, and you'll refer to your notes as to when you believe that that video was taken in terms of what time. But look at the individuals as they come in, and look at the person that they are saying is Mr. Robertson in this case. Do they look like people that are going to go out and commit a crime? Does it feel that way when you look through this video; determine that, hey, these guys are shifty?

We've had some discussion about the Clerk who says,

you know what, I felt uncomfortable when four individuals I didn't know walk into the store. The Clerk was white. Those individuals were black. They walk into the store, and he says, oh, I don't recognize them, so I felt uncomfortable. Really?

Mr. Solomon today on the stand, they asked him, did you feel uncomfortable? And the answer was he didn't feel uncomfortable, but these people had approached him, and he felt apprehensive for a second; why are you approaching me? And the reason why he was uncomfortable is because now they're asking him to go and buy cigarettes for them. Does that sound like they're -- Mr. Robertson's somehow planning this get-together to go and commit a crime?

In addition to that, what we don't have in this case that would have been important is the distance between the store, and the residence, and the crime scene. That's not established in this case. What we have is a map, and that map is State's Exhibit number 6. In that map, you're going to see where the store is, and you're going to see where the shooting takes place, and then you're going to see where my client lives, and then you're going to figure out the time.

And what you're going to look at when you realize how much time potentially is there, there's too much time to sit here and say beyond a reasonable doubt that that guy

committed a murder. Because here's the thing; you know what would make better sense? They're in a convenience store, Solomon goes in and buys them cigarettes, they come out with the cigarettes, they're smoking the cigarettes, and they leave. Then they go and commit the murder ten minutes later, right next to the convenience store, the next neighborhood over, something along those lines.

You have at least 30 minutes between the time that they're in the convenience store to the time of the murder in this case where there's too many things that could have happened, including the fact that my client had been home. You know why? Because he doesn't live in North Las Vegas; he just lives down the street. So what evidence do you have that would show you beyond a reasonable doubt that my client was present during the shooting of this person? Too much time.

Now, that instruction that I pointed out to you, which is Instruction number 11, the first part of it talks about how, okay, well, "A conviction shall not be had on the testimony of an accomplice unless the accomplice is corroborated by other evidence which in and of itself, and without the aid of the testimony of the accomplice, tends to connect the defendant in the commission of the offense," right? "Tends to connect."

But I want you to turn with me to the middle of that instruction, and this is Instruction number 11. This is the

middle paragraph, and this is what it says: "You are instructed that DeShawn Robinson is an accomplice. However, it is not necessary that the corroborating evidence be sufficient in itself to establish every element of the offense charged or that it corroborate every fact to which the accomplice testifies." Here's the key: "Evidence to corroborate accomplice testimony does not suffice if it merely casts grave suspicion on a defendant."

You're sitting here right now, thinking in your minds, there's just too much. Take that guy out of the equation that testified, there's just too much other evidence. But is it really too much evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, or are we just talking about a feeling of grave suspicion? Gosh, there's just too many little bits and pieces that connects that guy to a murder. The gun. Well, we can't tell if the gun is really firing in this case. Oh, well, because of the location. Well, there's all kinds of reasons why he's in the area.

But when you look at that instruction, it says very clearly you have to consider the fact that, if it just shows that you're gravely suspicious, that's not enough to say that that guy did it beyond a reasonable doubt.

Continue on. Line 13. "Further, where the connecting evidence shows no more than an opportunity to commit a crime, simply proves suspicion, or it equally

supports a reasonable explanation pointing to innocent conduct on part of the defendant, the evidence is deemed to be insufficient." So think about it. You're feeling one way, and you're saying to yourself, no, there's just too many little bits and pieces that help me feel good about the idea that I'm going to solve this murder, but can you say that it's beyond a reasonable doubt or if it's just grave suspicion?

Now, in addition to that, you have to ask yourself, can you say as you sit here right now that you have an abiding conviction of the truth of the charge? Meaning that, can you feel 100 percent that that guy was present, and that guy pulled out a gun and shot this man in cold blood? Can you feel that abiding conviction of the truth of the charge, or is it, once again, grave suspicion?

Now, the State says, well, it's -- wearing a hoodie in August. You know, people wear things all the time. I don't know. August, yeah, I would say that it's a pretty hot time of year, but I've seen hoodies being worn by people in August and it doesn't tell me that that is a crime being committed or going to be committed.

In addition to that, calls between people without you knowing what the substance of those calls are, just because there's (indiscernible) doesn't mean that there's a crime. How can you say that? But because of the fact that we're taking these little bits and pieces, we're trying to say

-- State of Nevada is -- we've proven our case to you beyond a reasonable doubt; you are going to connect those little bits and pieces for us.

What evidence could have helped us? The detective says today, "We don't do that after four hours." But it's interesting because everything that he talked about was stuff that deals specifically with contamination of evidence.

Meaning, if you're going to -- if your hands -- in this case, if you're firing a gun, there's a presumption that maybe there's what's called gunshot residue on your hands; but if you come in contact with something else, then it becomes contaminated because something else may have gunshot residue on it; i.e., handcuffs, because police officers fire guns and they may have gunshot residue on those handcuffs; or you get in the back of a police car, there may be gunshot residue in the back of a police car.

But the question that was asked wasn't about this four-hour period, but it was about the idea that, hey, if you got a black hoodie, and you're thinking, oh, yeah, guy with black hoodie shot a gun, and then you go to a house like my client's house, and you go in and there's a black hoodie, why wouldn't you just at least test it to see if that black hoodie had gunshot residue on it? Why not? What would preclude you from giving you the evidence that you need to say beyond a reasonable doubt that he committed a murder? That would have

helped us, right?

It would have helped us if we had a third-party witness. Say the runner walks -- runs right past and says, "You know what, I looked directly into that guy's eyes. That's the guy who didn't fire." It would have been good, right? Because it would have put him at the scene. I wouldn't have this discussion. We wouldn't be sitting here looking at me like, okay, sit down already. We wouldn't be doing that, but we don't have that.

And you know what also would have helped us in this case, is this. Don't you think that should have happened? We have one ping, and that's it. We don't have anything to determine at all that his cell phone was even in the area of where this happened. That's it.

But let's take a look at DeShawn for a second. If you recall, one of the first things he says to me, "I lied," right? Great witness. "I lied." Great. Right, he lied. But when did he lie? Did he lie when he first got arrested? Because what he told detectives when he first got arrested was not what he told you on the stand here yesterday or the day before, so when did he lie?

Did he lie when he talked to detectives? Because he told you that, but could he have lied now, talking to you?

Did he lie when he was meeting with detectives in a proffer?

We don't have evidence of what happened during that proffer.

We don't know what he told detectives at that point.

But think about this. He entered in an Alford plea with the Court, meaning he told the Court, look, here's my guilty plea. And what I asked him specifically on the stand is he didn't get up and tell the Judge what he told you; somebody else did. Somebody else got up and said, here's what the charges are, and here's what the evidence is that we would need to prove this person's guilty of the crime. He never did that. So we don't have anything that says, this is the details that he's been consistent about the entire time.

The only details we have is the first time he got arrested, which, by the way, don't you think, hey, you know what, I committed a crime, I killed somebody or I helped kill somebody, you'd call the police? It wasn't until he got arrested that he goes and he sits down with detectives, and then he lies to them. So which one do you believe? Do you believe what he told you today, or yesterday, or the day before on the stand? What makes that any different from what he told detectives the first time around and what he didn't tell the Court when he entered in his plea?

Where's the credibility? Where's the thing that tells you, I can believe this person 100 percent? He has been waiting for over a year for this benefit. The benefit in this case is when he told you, "I had to get it off my chest. I went and talked to -- I told the State. I just had to get

this off my chest." He told you he walked in without a negotiation, and then he walked out with the State of Nevada agreeing to drop the murder charge against him. Really? Is that how that works? His benefit was he's not looking at a murder charge, the most significant, serious charge that we can imagine in this community.

And he has another benefit. Because of his age, he's been kept in juvenile detention. He told you that being in the adult jail is not where he wants to be. He's had multiple opportunities to benefit from getting up here.

And let me tell you one other thing. His testimony to you on the stand was very significantly different from what he told detectives initially. During that time period, during the time that he got arrested to the time he talked to you, he's had opportunity to talk to the detectives, and to review discovery in his case, to go over the facts for himself because he's a defendant. He's had an opportunity to see what exactly it is that the State of Nevada has charged or alleged in this case.

And as we look at it, he doesn't care about these two guys. His future depends on him talking about two guys that he barely knows, according to what he says, and they're not his brother. It would have been interesting if his brother was sitting right over there. That would be a different thing, but it's not. It's not his family, it's not

his blood. It's just two guys. He doesn't care about them, so why not do whatever he can to get the benefit, which is to get the murder charge dropped against him?

Now, going back again to what I had said about "not mere possibility or speculation," which is Instruction number 5. This is what the State of Nevada wants you to rely on, because we can't account for that time, and we don't have anybody that says 100 percent -- we don't have evidence outside of this person who's lying that this man over here was present and pulled the gun out and shot this person. We don't have physical evidence; we don't have anything tying him to that actual shooting.

What the State of Nevada would like for you to do is to speculate. They would like for you to basically rely on the idea that, hey, we've proven it to you beyond a reasonable doubt, so help us out and make that jump for us so we can say it's beyond a reasonable doubt. That's all this is.

So as you sit here right now, you have to ask yourself, have they proven to you beyond a reasonable doubt that that man pulled out a gun and shot this man in cold blood? Is it grave suspicion, and do you have an abiding conviction of the truth? Can you say that you have an abiding conviction that that man did that?

Now, when I had asked you in voir dire about this, you know, where there's smoke, there's fire, it's important in

this case, because he's sitting right there. And yeah, he's connected to these people. There's his fingerprints on the car, and he's in the convenience store, if you believe that. Yeah, of course, he's all those things; he's there, he's there. But could he have been there at the time that the shooting took place?

So when the State says, well, you know, to me, that's all that smoke; well, if there's smoke, there must be fire, right? But there are times when there is smoke when there is no fire. How many times have we ever seen where you have that happen? You're at a light, and you're looking at the car in front of you, and there is this smoke coming out of the car. Is that a fire, or is that a guy vaping inside of his car?

That's the question of the day. Just because there's smoke, and the State of Nevada says, oh, there's smoke, he's part of it, he's responsible, he pulled out a gun and shot somebody, is it really the case? If you dig deep enough, just because there's smoke doesn't necessarily mean that there is fire. It could be something completely different. You have to have the courage to hold the State of Nevada to its burden.

This is a case that is horrible. This is a case that should never have happened in our community. We watched video of this family being torn apart, seeing this person

laying on the ground bleeding for no reason whatsoever. 1 hasn't affected you emotionally, it should. We want someone 2 3 to pay the price for this, we want someone to be held responsible, but you cannot rush to judgment and think, well, 4 5 if there's smoke, there's fire; he must be the guy because the 6 State of Nevada tells you that that must be the quy. 7 You have to have the courage to say, maybe we don't 8 have the right guy here because maybe the State of Nevada has not proven its case beyond a reasonable doubt. And when you do so in this case, what you will have to come back with is a 10 11 verdict of not quilty. Thank you. 12 THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Ruggeroli? 13 MR. RUGGEROLI: Your Honor, may I approach the Clerk 14 for an exhibit? 15 THE COURT: Yes, of course. 16 (Pause in the proceedings) May I, Your Honor? 17 MR. RUGGEROLI: 18 THE COURT: Yes, yes, thank you. 19 MR. RUGGEROLI: Thank you. 20 DEFENDANT WHEELER'S CLOSING ARGUMENT 21 MR. RUGGEROLI: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, 22 I'm going to ask that you pay attention to what I say. I do 23 have a few things to put on the overhead, but really, I 24 believe that you've paid attention to many of the details. 25 And a lot of the things that I'm going to mention have been

already mentioned by Mr. Sanft potentially or are already covered in the instructions.

But I'm sure that you have paid attention, and so if you remember something, keep note of it, because I would not be surprised if you have more items of particular interest to my client, Mr. Wheeler, than I might have been able to keep up with.

I want to remind you that I only represent Mr. Wheeler. I am not here to accuse anybody at all, and everything that I'm talking to you about has to do with my defense of Mr. Wheeler solely in this case.

In this case, at the beginning, I did say to you that the State was not going to meet their burden as to Mr. Wheeler beyond a reasonable doubt. And after listening to the evidence and paying attention to what the State's case against Mr. Wheeler was, I believe that you'll find that he is still not guilty because the State has not removed that presumption of innocence. They did not prove their case against him beyond a reasonable doubt.

I said in the opening, and it remains true at closing argument, in order to have confidence of guilt for you to comfortably convict someone and to have belief beyond a reasonable doubt, you deserve to have evidence that consists of essentially three things.

One, a reliable -- reliable and trustworthy

testimony from the witness. And in this particular case, the main witness against Mr. Wheeler was DeShawn Robinson. I also said at the opening statement that you should not have a situation that is so suspicious and convoluted. And third, you deserve to have a situation where there hasn't been a rush to judgment by the police, and you deserve, at minimum, an adequate investigation.

Now, after listening to everything, I would argue to you that you do not have any of those three. You have unreliable and untrustworthy testimony from DeShawn Robinson. You have a suspicious and convoluted situation with insufficient or no corroboration specifically regarding whether Mr. Wheeler was present at the scene on Dewey.

And this is very, very important, because I said to you in the beginning -- and I'm going to bring it up because the State I don't think addressed this in their closing argument. I said that there were five people present at the Short Line Express, but there were only four present at the Dewey address. That's a situation that needs more explanation, but not from the defense, because I don't have any burden, and this is borne out by the jury instructions.

The burden is on the State, and I'm going to likely repeat that a number of times, but you all were asked questions during the selection process about whether or not a defense -- a defense attorney, a defendant, has any burden to

prove anything.

I don't have a burden to prove who was present. The State has the burden of proving that my client was present at the scene, and the only evidence they have is the untrustworthy and unreliable testimony of DeShawn Robinson. He has a motive to lie.

Additionally, the State did rush to judgment. If you look at what was testified to, they started their investigation in the very early morning hours of August 9th, 2017, and then they got information which led them to the Short Line Express, and they got video, and on that video was someone that had open carry. That, and I'm arguing to you, is what directed the path of the initial steps of the investigation, and it limited what they allowed themself to consider, including alternative suspects, including other witnesses.

And you heard from Mr. Solomon. I said that there would be an independent witness. I'm going to get back to him in a minute. But based on that rush to judgment about open carry, "Let's follow this," it essentially put blinders on the investigation. And because of that, you did not have an adequate investigation to find Mr. Wheeler guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

You're able to consider your common sense considerations about a number of things that are discussed.

There is a jury instruction regarding that. And if you trust your common sense, at a minimum, you're going to see that Mr. Robinson's testimony is highly suspect.

Some of the evidence in this case that I want to touch on now is that we've got Mr. Robinson claiming in one particular portion of his testimony -- and he had to be shown his actual statement to the police. "We pulled into the apartments on Tropicana and Jones and had to pick up another dude. I'm like, why are you trying to pick somebody else up? There's already four people in the car."

I asked him -- this was my last question -- if you've got four in the car, you already have four, and you pick up one more, how many does that make? Five. Well, I would submit to you, ladies and gentlemen, that they picked somebody up on Tropicana, and then there was a fifth, and they had to pick up the fifth person.

If you believe that Mr. Wheeler was present, it would make sense that he's the fifth person. The jogger, Mr. Mason, testified. So we're going from Short Line, five. Mr. Solomon, he did waver, but he's only trying to be honest. Remember, I asked him, what was the first number that you used? Five. And you also said that there were two in the front seat, and three in the back seat. Those were his statements.

He equivocated a little bit because it's been a long

time; he's trying to be honest. He went back and saw that there was some wavering. That number five is very important because that is doubt. That is doubt that that fifth person, who we're suggesting would be Mr. Wheeler, was not present, and was one of four at the Dewey address.

We have the four -- four people established by Mr. Mason, because Mr. Mason was doing his best to be honest with you, but he testified that there were four dark-skinned, black male adults, all wearing dark clothing at Dewey. He said that he looked in the vehicle and he didn't see anybody else there. He was very attentive to a number of details.

But in State's 323 -- I'm going to go back a little bit. He said that there were four dark-skinned individuals. And the reason why that's important is because, in making a description, I think he's just trying to be helpful. He also says that they were black male adults in dark clothing. It's been suggested that Mr. Wheeler is there in the white hat, which is not dark, and that that is either red or maroon that he's wearing, with red or maroon shoes. You can't see them so much. Red or maroon shoes.

And if you look at him, even his posture and pose is -- there's three others there, all wearing dark, and if you had to pick one that did not belong, it would be the individual in red with the white cap.

Additionally -- and this is important because you

did not hear this on the State's closing argument. Who's Adrian Robinson? Adrian Robinson is the brother of DeShawn Robinson, who's also the brother of DeMario Lofton-Robinson. Similar in age, similar in features. And you didn't hear almost anything about that person, which I'm going to suggest to you — and again, please note, I can't prove who the fifth person was. I can't prove certain things because I'm not obligated to, and as a defense attorney, I don't do Metro's job.

They have -- had evidence though. You heard DeShawn get surprised when I said, well, wait, who's Adrian? Because you spoke to the police the day after the shooting. You mentioned your brother Anthony; you mentioned your sister's boyfriend Johnquiel Brown. The police followed up on them, they got their DNA, they did the work on them, but they didn't follow up and get DNA for Adrian. Adrian is a missing link here and you don't have sufficient investigation to exclude him.

I don't have a burden to prove that it was him, but I'm saying that that individual there, if you had to pick one that does not match, one person looks like they're going out and doing things; the others are dressed very similarly in dark clothing.

I would also submit to you that his skin pigment is lighter, significantly lighter. So when you have Mr. Mason,

who's just a guy jogging, trying to do the best that he can to ID, and he doesn't say, well, you know, there was one guy that had a white hat; and he doesn't say, well, one of them was wearing red; and he doesn't say, by the way, there were three dark-skinned black male adults, and say that there was one of the four that was light-skinned, he just includes a description, these are doubts for you. These are reasonable doubts, because Mr. Wheeler was not present at Dewey.

Additionally, it's hopefully very clear to you now, especially because the State did clarify this during their closing argument, that the gun that was found in Mr. Wheeler's house has been completely excluded from having fired the three cartridge cases that were recovered or any of the bullets at the scene. So that gun is excluded.

So, in addition to being dressed dissimilarly, and having a very conspicuous light-colored hat, and having conspicuously lighter-colored skin than the others, you've got an individual that also supposedly is going out with an open carry, advertising to the world before the fact that he's going to be a part of this sophisticated scheme to rob somebody.

The evidence doesn't establish that. It certainly doesn't establish that beyond a reasonable doubt, and I would say that it's actually illogical that individual would be dressed like that and go through with this in the way that the

State is trying to prove to you beyond a reasonable doubt. Mr. Wheeler was not a part of any conspiracy to commit a crime.

The State has shown you a text that doesn't have any bearing directly from Mr. Wheeler. Supposedly, you've got a text from Mr. Robertson to DeShawn, but I asked the detective that had the opportunity to analyze his phone, Mr. Wheeler's phone, and this is very important because you don't have texts from Mr. Wheeler concerning this crime. I asked her, and it's in her report, and she agreed.

There are texts a couple of hours before the crime

-- and this is regarding Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Robertson. There
are texts a couple of hours before the crime and several hours
after, but no mention of the crime. Additionally, in terms of
Mr. Lofton, there's nothing logically around the time of the
crime.

There is no conspiracy. DeShawn is the one that's making a statement about what he thought, and there's no evidence that Mr. Wheeler was a part of this conspiracy. There's no evidence, reliable evidence, believable, trustworthy evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Wheeler was a co-conspirator or aided and abetting (sic) before this crime that happened on Dewey.

There's no reliable, trustworthy, credible, or believable evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Wheeler

was present at Dewey. The only evidence that he was at Dewey comes from DeShawn Robinson, who is not trustworthy, who's not credible, and has motives that are highly suspect.

After hearing the evidence in this case, you may have more questions than answers, but it would not be a stretch to say that you have more doubts than certainty.

There's a jury instruction that was mentioned, it's number 9. And this deals with the agreement that Mr. Robinson entered, and the fact that he has received a benefit, and he hasn't been sentenced yet.

And I would like you to just refer to number 9, refer to number 10, and 11 when you go back. It's already been touched on, so I'm not going to post those, but I am going to ask, on number 11 -- this was touched on a little bit by Mr. Sanft. When you're determining whether an accomplice has been corroborated -- so Mr. Robinson, whether or not he's been corroborated -- assume that the testimony has been removed.

So what testimony or what evidence is there in this case that Mr. Wheeler was actually present at the scene at Dewey when this shooting happened? Mr. Mason cannot corroborate that. Mr. Mason said that there were four dark-skinned, black male adults, all wearing dark clothing. That would exclude Mr. Wheeler. It doesn't corroborate DeShawn.

What evidence do you have that Mr. Wheeler was present? Well, do you have DNA? No, Mr. Wheeler has been excluded from DNA. The police found cigarettes, which the expert testified that that could be a very good source that would hold saliva, and then be capable of being used, but -- this is really important. They tested the DNA with the known contributors and ruled some people out for the cigarette butts. That was right at the scene. They couldn't exclude Adrian because the detectives didn't get his DNA.

So these loose ends keep multiplying, which are doubts as to who was actually present at Dewey. They didn't follow up and you don't have that evidence. They have cigarette butts, they have a fidget spinner, they have glasses, but they don't have a source from Adrian to test to exclude him. So there's no corroboration for DeShawn Robinson as far as Mr. Wheeler being present at Dewey.

Mr. Mason, I would point out, was also not asked to identify whether or not Mr. Wheeler was one of the individuals when he was in court, so there's no evidence of Mr. Mason identifying Mr. Wheeler. I mentioned to you that there's no DNA from Mr. Wheeler. There's no fingerprint evidence from the crime scene. The limited fingerprint evidence was simply of the firearm. There's no footprint evidence.

Now, Detective Dosch I think got a little ahead of himself and he started to make statements that he couldn't

back up, because he had to rely on other people, other detectives, other sources, and he's not an expert. I asked him, everybody's got -- well, not everybody, but you would think the people that were there have two feet. And so I wanted to know, how many would that mean total; how many footprints? He didn't remember. There's no evidence.

I would also like you to consult with your notes and see if anybody recalls, but I believe that Mr. Relato, Mr. Valenzuela's cousin, I thought he may have also testified that he was not wearing shoes. Now, as Mr. Sanft said, you're the arbiters of what the facts are, but somebody may have been paying attention, and I think that Mr. Relato indicated that he was not wearing shoes. And there was no testimony about whether or not the detective paid attention to whether there were actually footprints as opposed to footwear prints.

There's also no evidence of blood spatter. We didn't have an expert. Mr. Sanft mentioned a number of things that would have been helpful, but the way that DeShawn's highly suspicious account of this event occurred, if you were to believe it, is that Mr. Valenzuela was essentially being pulled apart at safe enough distance that shots could be fired from DeMario, and not only did nobody else get hit, but then there's no blood spatter that would have got on whoever else was holding him. There's no evidence of blood spatter on any of their clothing, and that's different from gunshot residue.

There's also no gunshot residue. We don't have any photos of whether or not DeShawn or DeMario, who were arrested pretty much that day or very late the next day, had any injuries from a scuffle. Did that happen? Wouldn't it have been helpful if the detectives would have photographed not only Mr. Valenzuela's palm to see if he had any skin under his fingernails and things like that, but what about DeMario and DeShawn? If there was a scuffle, follow up on that and see if they've got any fresh injuries.

I mentioned to you, there is some evidence of alternative suspects, specifically regarding Adrian, but it is limited because of the lack of initiative by the police.

This has already been touched on, but DeShawn's own story -- again, he made statements which he said, I lied to the detectives. I asked him, you indicate five here. How does it help your story to create five if there is no five? It doesn't help you avoid being a suspect in this case. It doesn't really make sense. What makes sense is there was five. That makes sense because you've got an independent witness, Mr. Solomon, making statements that there were five at the Short Line Express, and then Mr. Mason saying only four at the Dewey address.

He hasn't -- DeShawn hasn't been sentenced yet, so he still has some obligations. So I asked him, how do we know that you didn't shoot? And that seemed to stir him up. But

then I followed up, I said, because all you're giving the jury is your word; you don't have corroborating evidence. You didn't videotape it; you didn't take pictures of it. You're the one that admitted to being present, you're the one that actually says, I was there when this atrocity occurred, and you're the one that got the benefit of this bargain where you didn't even have to admit guilt. And now you're showing up to court, prior to sentencing, and you're telling the jury this version of events. But you didn't tell the detectives you had another brother, and your story is highly convoluted and suspicious. And I would suggest to you that he has a motive to protect that other individual.

These are all questions, but really, the translation is -- and it goes back to Instruction number 5 about reasonable doubt. These things are all reasonable doubts as to whether the State proved that Mr. Wheeler is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Is DeShawn protecting a fifth person? I don't have a burden to prove it, but that is a reasonable doubt. Is that person Adrian Robinson, his brother, who matches the description of the people that were present? I can't prove it, but that is a reasonable doubt. DeShawn admitted to lying; that is more reasonable doubt. He has motives. He has reasons that he may mislead. These are all reasonable doubts.

The police could have done a better job once they

realized that Mr. Wheeler's gun was excluded from having been used. They could have supplemented their reports. There's no reason not to go out and get the DNA from Adrian to make the exclusion of the cigarette butts or any other piece of evidence. There's no evidence that they did anything that they should have done regarding eliminating that alternative suspect, not to mention others that they may have followed up on.

So please consult with your notes when you consider all these things. I would not be surprised if you had additional items; things that are reasonable doubts as to Mr. Wheeler's guilt.

Keep in mind that Detective Dosch was not present during the interview of DeShawn. He is not an expert. He was not the one that made the call about a number of things regarding the investigation, because I asked him, well, was it you or Detective Jaeger that would do and say don't test Mr. Valenzuela's car? Well, that really would have been Jaeger. Well, we don't have any evidence from Detective Jaeger. We only have Detective Dosch, and he can't answer for Detective Jaeger.

Should they have probably processed the car? Well, he didn't think so, but it wasn't really his decision.

Certainly would have been helpful because, although he didn't say he thought that there were any reasons why the car would

have been involved, I'm sure you could think of some why it may have been.

Additionally, who set the crime scene and limited it? This is Exhibit 39, and I put this up on the board with one of the crime scene analysts. And you'll see, if north is up, east would be where Lindell was, and the crime scene is here, which, all the way out on the wing here, number 10, I asked him about this fidget spinner, so it's a bit removed from that crime scene.

But importantly, they sectioned off this part, which is on the east side of this diagram. And there was limited testimony about what they did to follow up, and why limit it to just these parameters? Who made those decisions? Dosch wasn't the only one; he was the co-lead detective.

Can't see DNA, so how do we know that there wasn't suspect DNA on Mr. Valenzuela's vehicle? It just wasn't tested. No fidget spinner, no cigarettes. Detective Dosch is not a shoe expert. None of the shell casings came back. And now, again, I'm really focused on evidence supposedly against Mr. Wheeler. No cell phone triangulation regarding Mr. Wheeler. The DNA was excluded as to Mr. Wheeler. No blood spatter. I mentioned the struggle and potential fresh wounds. No identification in court.

So what you have is a situation where there are doubts. I think that it is very, very reasonable doubt to

suggest that there are five people present at the Short Line Express, four people present at Dewey. Mr. Wheeler should be excluded as one of those four individuals because of Mr. Mason's testimony and because of Mr. DeShawn Robinson's untrustworthy testimony. His gun was not used.

And so, you must hold the State to its burden, and that is a high burden. The State did not meet that burden as to Mr. Wheeler. And I'd like you to think about this because this is really such a very important role that you're playing. As a community, we can't afford to get the wrong person. We can't afford to convict somebody that wasn't present, but we can't afford to convict somebody that the State doesn't prove beyond a reasonable doubt is guilty.

They haven't established a conspiracy. They haven't established aiding and abetting by Mr. Wheeler. They have not proven their case to you beyond a reasonable doubt.

So if you do what I asked you from the beginning a good jury does, do what a good juror does: evaluate the trustworthiness or the lack thereof of the witnesses; don't rush to judgment, don't do what the police did; pay attention to all the details; ask yourself, are there reasonable doubts; fulfill your duty as jurors; and if you do so in this case, I believe that you will find there are too many reasonable doubts, and you will find Mr. Wheeler not guilty of all counts. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you very much. And the State may begin their rebuttal.

MR. PESCI: Thank you, Your Honor.

STATE'S REBUTTAL CLOSING ARGUMENT

MR. PESCI: Ladies and gentlemen, anybody need to stretch; need to stand up for a second? If you do, please do. We're almost there. I beg your indulgence for a little bit longer.

So, at the very beginning of this trial, during the jury selection, there were some questions asking about everyone's opinions of firearms. There was even some questions about open carry. You heard some questions to your other jurors. People expressed -- a few people expressed an uncomfortableness with the concept of open carry.

Now, I'm not allowed to do this, but I wish I could. Just maybe pretend right now I've got a gun on my hip, and the whole time I'm arguing to you, pretend I've got a gun on my hip. And ask yourself, ladies and gentlemen, if I with a gun on my hip were to come up, and demand, and say, "Give me everything you got," or if my co-defendant said, "Give me everything you got" when I've got a gun on my hip, even if I don't take it out, but it's displayed, open carrying, would the victim be uncomfortable, just like some of the jurors said that they would be if they saw someone walking in open carry?

thing, right? But there's still an uncomfortableness associated with it that some of the jurors said. And ask yourself, would the victim be feeling that uncomfortableness when it's more than just a gun on the hip; it's, "Give me what you got," it's another person pulling out a gun? And ask yourself, was a deadly weapon used?

The instruction specifically tells you that you can use a deadly weapon even if you don't pull it out. A deadly weapon was used by everybody in this case, including Davontae Wheeler, who didn't shoot. We have never said he shot. There's this argument that somehow we're saying that. No, we're not saying that. We're saying he had a gun, it was on his hip at least, and it was displayed, and it was utilized, just like some of the jurors who had that fear, to be intimidated — the victim to be intimidated.

Now, you were told during the jury selection -staying with this jury selection -- to be careful, cautious;
don't rush to judgment; "Where there's smoke, there's fire,"
you can't accept that concept. We just saw a great picture
about someone vaping, right? So you shouldn't rush to
judgment by saying, where there's smoke, there's fire, right?
That should be applied to these defendants; that's the way I
understood it, right?

But somehow, some way, I don't even comprehend how Adrian Robinson has come into this case as the fifth person

who really did this. Is there any smoke, let alone fire, around Adrian Robinson? You were told a few minutes ago they did not get DNA from Adrian Robinson. You heard from every single CSA who took a buccal swab from a defendant that they had to have a search warrant from a judge to get in there and start taking someone's DNA. You don't get to willy-nilly walk up to someone and say, you know what, I think you might be the fifth person; open your mouth, I want to take some buccal swabs. You have to be connected to the case. You have to be somehow tied into this.

You were told, quote, "You do not have sufficient evidence to exclude Adrian Robinson." You have no evidence to include Adrian Robinson, zero, but somehow we're supposed to allow the concept of smoke and fire being applied to him so that we can make a fifth person be the real killer who did this, right?

Detective Dosch, he took the stand. He said, spoke to him and he was excluded. That's the evidence. Speculation by attorneys, that's not evidence. Detective Dosch said he was excluded.

And ask yourself -- put Detective Dosch to the side.

There is the convenience store video. Point to me, please,

Adrian Robinson. We were told he was an African American

male. Defense counsel was trying to make that point. He's

the same or relatively the same age, right? Where is he?

There are four people in this picture. There is no fifth mythical person. Adrian Robinson is nowhere to be found. That's why he's excluded.

You were told cell phone triangulation -- I mean, that there's no idea of what the distances in maps are. It's Exhibit 7. Exhibit 7, you have it in evidence. The distance between the murder scene and the convenience store, right there. You can drive it in eight minutes at 2.8 miles. So you were told there's not enough time. Well, it only takes eight minutes to get from the convenience store, where we just have all these guys, right, our four guys, to get to the murder scene.

Now, what did Detective Dosch say? On August 8th at approximately 11:36 P.M., Robertson called a number. The phone call lasted one second in duration. The time of this phone activity was at the time the four suspects were congregated at the convenience store located at 7325 South Jones Boulevard. Robertson's phone hit off a cell phone tower located approximately 1,600 feet north of the convenience store. Oh, yeah, there is something tying him. The phone record's tying him. He's pinging, because remember, the phone is pinging when he's using it; making a call, making a text.

There he is within 1,600 feet of the convenience store -- Robertson, that is. That's only eight minutes to drive. Remember, the call comes out 12:11 A.M. More than

enough time to leave the convenience store -- which is on video, you can watch it -- and drive away, and get less than three miles to the murder scene. Very nearby; plenty of time to go do it. Cell phone triangulation puts him there.

Gunshot residue. You were asked -- or heard some arguments about gunshot residue; how it should have been done, how it wasn't done. Remember, you heard from Detective Dosch that it's within four hours. That's the policy of Metro. Within four hours, right? August 9th at 12:11 A.M. is when it happens. The search warrant that got to that sweatshirt that defense counsel intimated should have been tested was done on August 15th. We're not at four hours; we're not even at four days, right? We're up to days, days.

And ask yourself this. I mean, really, let's say the gunshot residue test was done. You heard -- remember, it says that you either shot or you were in proximity, right? And then the detective said that there are those concerns because you can have false positives, because someone who has been cuffed like the defendants have been, or someone who's been in a cop car like the defendants have been, could have that transferred.

So let's just assume for the sake of our conversation that the gunshot residue was done on that sweatshirt and it came back positive. Do you think you might have heard something about, oh, my client got cuffed, my

client got put in a cop car, so you really can't say that my client was actually the one who shot the gun? Just imagine.

The felony murder rule. At the very beginning, staying with the theme of questions during jury selection, I asked all of you would you follow the law even if you didn't necessarily agree with it, right?

The felony murder rule is a strict liability rule, the concept being, even if I'm just the guy with a gun on my hip and I don't pull the trigger, I'm a first degree murderer for what the other guy with the .22 or the other guy with the .45 did if I'm in fact a part of a conspiracy to commit robbery, and that I'm attempting to commit robbery, and the person dies. The law. This is the law. You said you'd follow it. The law says even if it was unintentional or accidental, if it's during a felony, the attempted robbery, it is first degree murder.

Now, you were told that DeShawn Robinson was unreliable, untrustworthy. Specifically, you were told he was highly suspect, and today you were actually told that there's no corroboration of DeShawn Robinson. Really? Well, let's go through a walk of the evidence.

DeShawn Robinson's testimony is the jogger ran by, was wearing a red shirt, and black shorts. How the heck did he get that right? How the heck did he get that right if DeShawn's unreliable, he's untrustworthy? The jogger went by

fast. That was his testimony, Robert Mason. He got it right because he saw him. He got it right because he was there. He's right.

This is independent corroboration. His testimony is he had a red shirt and black shorts. That's the evidence.

It's the body-worn camera. That stuff's amazing now, right?

Body-worn camera, cops have it on, you get to see exactly what's happening. He got that right.

He placed himself with Davontae Wheeler, Raekwon Robertson, and his brother. He's throwing his brother under the bus, and you're being told he's not trustworthy. If he's really bought and paid for by the State, and he's saying what we want, why is he throwing his brother under the bus? Just throw these two. That's even more why you can trust him, because he's telling you even the things that implicate his brother.

That he's in the same spot near the wall by the victim's house that the jogger, Robert Mason, said. That's the spot that DeShawn said he was; that's the spot that Robert Mason said. Robert Mason is not a person who's entered a plea. Robert Mason's not a co-defendant. Robert Mason is not someone you're supposed to look at more suspectly. Robert Mason corroborates DeShawn; DeShawn corroborates Robert Mason. Robert Mason has no axe to grind, no murder charge to get out from under, and they're in lockstep.

He placed the car -- DeShawn, that is. He placed the car in the same place the jogger, Robert Mason, said. The exact same place. That is even more independent corroboration why you can appreciate and understand that you can trust what it is that DeShawn told you. The instruction says that you go to it with an eye of suspicion, right? We talked about that in jury selection. But then I said, if you look at all the evidence and you're convinced, could you come back with a verdict? And your answers were yes. Here's the other evidence. It's what Robert Mason is telling you. It's the exact spot that Robert Mason said it was.

Now, DeShawn pointed to everyone in the surveillance footage. He picked himself out, he picked his brother out.

And then, ask yourself, is he right? Well, low and behold, where he's pointing out his brother, that sweatshirt is in his car. The very sweatshirt is in his car. That's independently corroborating him. And then, the shoes, right? He points out his brother, and then, low and behold, shoes fitting the description of the brother, in addition to the sweatshirt, are found in that car.

Raekwon Robertson, he points him out, and then you have testimony about those shoes. Look at the shoes Raekwon Robertson's wearing in the convenience store. Again, DeShawn picked him out. Those shoes are found in the apartment of Raekwon Robertson.

Davontae Wheeler, DeShawn points him out, right?

And then, how do you know that he's credible? Because low and behold, when they do the search of Davontae Wheeler's apartment, there are the shoes. There's the hat. Look how distinct that is. Further independent corroboration.

DeShawn said he was sitting in the back seat behind the passenger's side. Watch the video, ladies and gentlemen. You have it, the Short Line Express video. We have all these individuals outside. Check it out. There's a conversation among which three just prior to going to the murder scene? Look who's just kind of sitting there and eventually makes his way over. Where did he say he went? To the back right door.

That video is not a co-defendant. That video is not trying to get out from a murder charge. That video is independent corroboration of what DeShawn said. There he is, the very location he said he would be. The video confirms that. Why you can believe DeShawn, why you can trust what he says happened at Dewey, because all these situations where he's telling you it happens a certain way, independent evidence is corroborating what he told you.

DeShawn said where everyone was in the car.

Remember, he went through and he said Davontae was in the passenger seat in the front, DeMario, his brother, was driving, Raekwon was in the back on the lefthand side, and he put himself, DeShawn, on the back right. That's where

everybody is.

DeShawn said DeMario, Davontae, and Raekwon all had guns. This is what DeShawn told you. Was that independently corroborated? Well, let's see. At Bagpipe, we've got the .45. That's evidence against his brother. At West Tropicana, we've got the .22, and then there's also the gun at Civic Center. But I just kind of go off on a tangent right now a little bit, I apologize.

But the gun that shot the cartridge case, per Anya Lester, that gun, she testified -- Anya Lester took the stand and she said that gun shot that cartridge case. Now, we could have a debate about the bullet, right? But that gun, unequivocally, she said, per her analysis, shot that cartridge case.

The bullet was mangled because it penetrated the belly of our poor victim and hit items, and was not able to make a definitive conclusion as far as inclusion, but it couldn't be excluded either. That bullet as it sits there is not excluded. It's not included, but it's not excluded, and it has similar riffling characteristics.

Remember she told you about how there's lands and grooves? Those are similar. How it twists to the right?

Those are similar. We're not going to give a defendant an advantage for shooting someone in the stomach and deforming a bullet, and say that, oh, it doesn't match, when you know the

cartridge case undeniably matches and has been shot by that qun.

Now, the third gun. Going back, DeShawn said that there was a gun also with Davontae Wheeler. Low and behold, interesting, the open-carry-holding-gun guy has decided to pretty much hide his gun. Why is it stuck down in that crevice and not in the holster that we heard so much about? But that gun is found, right?

The victim had glasses and a white t-shirt. DeShawn told you that. There's not a lot of time for DeShawn to see and understand all these things, but he saw that, right?

There it is, independent evidence, the glasses of the victim.

The shirt of the victim, white. Further independent evidence.

He identifies Ray Logan's apartment. There's the apartment. That gun has Ray Logan -- that's a defendant here in court -- Raekwon Robertson's DNA. Is it part of a mixture? Yeah, it is, but it's still his DNA.

And then, DeShawn explained that bullets were exchanged among them. Prior to the shooting, there's an exchange of bullets, right? There's two different .45s. One does the shooting, the Interarms found at the Bagpipe residence, but there are multiple manufacturers that are found there, right? Those are those four bullets. One's a .22, the other three are .45s, right? We've got the .22, we've got the .45s. There are different headstamps on the .45s. There's an

R-P .45, NFCR, and the Winchester, right?

So those are at the murder scene; R-P, NFCR, .45
Winchester. Where have you seen those? Where have you seen
those calibers? R-P .45 Autos, right, from the murder scene?
Let's go to Civic Center, Davontae Wheeler's place, right?
His gun didn't shoot; never said it did. What's he got in
there? R-P .45s. DeShawn says they're passing them around,
and low and behold, a type -- a manufacturing type that
Davontae Wheeler has makes its way to the gun, the Interarms,
that expels that R-P .45 at the scene. There's R-Ps on the
floor, there's R-Ps in his pocket. They're all R-Ps.

What about at Bagpipe, right? Bagpipe, they're all R-Ps. Bagpipe again is where DeMario and DeShawn are. NFCRs, those are at the scene; those are inside that car. The exchanging that he talked about was inside the car when that was happening, right? Inside the glove box is this box of ammunition that is NFCR. Remember, there's an NFCR at the murder scene.

What about the forensic corroboration of DeShawn?

Again, you were told that he's not corroborated; he's

untrustworthy, right? There was no evidence to corroborate.

That's what you were just told. DNA puts DeShawn in the back
seat on the right side. That's where he said he was, right?

That's exactly where he said.

Fingerprints put each defendant where DeShawn said.

Imagine that. Each and every defendant has fingerprints in the area that DeShawn said they were in all around that car. DeShawn said he was on the right rear window; that's where his fingerprint is. DeShawn said DeMario on the driver's side, and that's where DeShawn said he was (sic). Raekwon Robertson he said was on the left rear door; that's where the fingerprint is. And he said Davontae was on the right front; that's where the fingerprint is, as well as on the hood, because there's even more places they were touching that car, right? Right where he said the fingerprints would be.

DNA connects Raekwon Robertson to the .22 Taurus.

The expert, Allison Rubino, testified that's his DNA on that gun. The fingerprints connect Davontae Wheeler to the Taurus .45. You heard the fingerprint on the magazine is Davontae Wheeler's. So you've got fingerprints and DNA attaching these defendants to these guns, the guns that DeShawn said they had and they used. All of that corroborates.

And then, you were told some -- well, at least you were asked -- there were some questions asked about DNA numbers and how they don't matter or they might not matter. DeShawn's DNA is on the seat back and the armrest, and he's individually included, and the likelihood ratio is 1.76 octillion, right? 2.56 octillion.

Now, the law requires independent corroboration, we just explained all that, and one form of that is the DNA.

DeShawn's DNA is in that car where he said he was to the tune of 27 zeros, right? And the concept was Raekwon DNA is on the .22, and that he was individually included, and the ratio was 33.3 million. And that's less than octillion, it sure is. 33.3 million is still a really big number, right?

And then there was this back and forth about, well, do the numbers matter? I mean, is there any doubt that it's his? Because it's at his house, right? It's at his house. But as far as the numbers mattering, you've heard, and appropriately so, repeatedly by defense counsel for Mr. Wheeler that his client was excluded from the DNA. That's appropriate. And you remember, the expert said there's a number associated with excluded. When the number is so low, you're excluded. So the numbers, they matter. They matter to the exclusion, and they matter to the inclusion. And Raekwon is included on that gun.

Now, DeShawn said that Raekwon is the one who said, "Give me everything you got," right? And that then, Sace -- that's what Raekwon -- that's what DeShawn described Davontae as having that name, and his brother.

So, Sace, Davontae Wheeler, and his brother DeMario tugged on the victim's clothes. That's the aiding and abetting, working together, even though you're not the shooter at that point, to try to get the attempted robbery -- to try to get the property, right? Raekwon shot the victim, DeMario

then shot the victim. That's what he told you. So those three are the ones encircling the victim and making the decisions.

Now, I want you to watch this video again, and watch the three who are together and the one who's not.

(Video is played)

MR. PESCI: Raekwon stops Davontae and DeMario.

There's a conversion, there's a discussion, and DeShawn is sitting at the table on his phone. After the discussion, get in the car, and the car leaves. And 20 minutes later -- 20, 25 minutes later, the victim's dead. This corroborates what DeShawn said.

Who are the three that are doing things at the scene per DeShawn? The three you just saw in that video congregate together, and then, in fact, the individual who's the first one to shoot per DeShawn, Raekwon, is the one making the gestures and commenting. That's the dynamics of this group of four. Raekwon, Davontae, and DeMario. DeShawn's just on his phone to the side.

You know, you were told about reasonable doubt. A reasonable doubt is one based on reason. That instruction that you were read to has this portion as well, and it's very important. "A reasonable doubt is one based on reason. Doubt to be reasonable must be actual, not mere possibility or speculation." There is nothing that connects Adrian to any of

this. That is nothing but speculation. Nothing but.

(Video is played)

This is going to play. It's going to take a little while, and I apologize for that, but please keep your eyes trained on the vehicle, and watch for the mythical, magical fifth person who's supposedly Adrian Peterson (phonetic) who's really the killer that allegedly exonerates Mr. Wheeler. Oh, we got one out, right? DeShawn. Another one out of the back left, Raekwon. DeMario coming out of the driver's seat. Now we've got Davontae.

Keep watching the car. You see two empty seats in the front? Do you see a human being in that car? Please don't stop watching. It's a little long, but it's worth the time, because the magical, mythical person has got to be in the car because we've already looked at the convenience store still frame where there are only four guys. Nobody in there fits the description of Adrian, so that person's got to be in the car.

Maybe with the lights that's shining on this car as it's leaving, we'll get a good silhouette of the fifth person inside the car. Let's see, the lights are going to come on. Oh, wait. Wait a second, hold on. We just got lights flashed on that car for us to find the fifth person. Oh, didn't see the fifth person. Well, there's more time, maybe he'll show up.

Now, earlier, we heard -- keep watching, please. You heard from Nikolaus Spahn, who worked, that one of the individuals was his regular. That was the guy who had the blue t-shirt and kind of long hair. That individual just got in the car that's parked, from our perspective, to the left. Now, that car is going to leave. But wait, we've got the guys coming back out.

So now since that car is no longer pinned in on the left and the right by other cars, I'm sure the fifth person who's been in there no doubt now feels free to exit, and get out, and talk to his buddies, or maybe go use the bathroom, which, by the way, you only saw three come out, right? So now we've got somebody still inside.

And you know, if this video feels a little long, ask yourself, what do you think Nikolaus Spahn was feeling like when there was a person with an open carry gun on their hip in the bathroom, if it felt long. And somehow, he's supposed to be this bad guy because he was a little cautious, or suspicious, or concerned.

So we've got a vehicle that pulls into the side of the car. This is not Marcell Solomon's vehicle, right? He comes in later. But this car that just pulled in did not pull in the parking stall immediately to the side of the car. This car is still unencumbered as far as people parking on the left or the right that could potentially box in the fifth person

from getting out and going to hang out with the other people, because, I mean, obviously, it's a great idea in August in Las Vegas to sit in the car that's turned off.

MR. RUGGEROLI: Judge, there's no evidence that the car was turned off.

MR. PESCI: There's no evidence the car was on. Do you see the lights?

MR. RUGGEROLI: Judge, he's arguing facts not in evidence.

THE COURT: Overruled, overruled. The jury knows what the evidence was.

MR. PESCI: Look at this. We've got people going in the car. Surely, the fifth person, when the other two people come over to the car, is going to say something, is going to maybe get out, maybe get a little air, whether the car is on or not. Well, those two left. No fifth person yet.

Now they're getting back in the car, each to the location that we said earlier, and you don't see anybody having to move over to make room. You don't see anybody getting out of the car to make space for the four that get in. There is no evidence anywhere in any way putting a fifth person in that car.

Reasonable doubt is one based on reason. It must be actual, not mere possibility or speculation. On August 8th, 2017 at 11:40, nobody had been charged, no one had been given

a proffer, and no one had cut a deal. And then we have that Facebook Messenger thread. DeShawn's not a co-defendant that's been charged and that's cut a deal. When this happens, it's long before any of that. "Ask DJ if he trying to hit a house tonight. Me, you, Sace, and him. Sace already said yeah."

Now, don't rely just on the fact that it says Sace or he said yeah. Rely on everything Sace did after that you've seen to let you know that, in fact, Sace already did say yeah. All that we just laid out that what Davontae Wheeler did shows you that at this point, 12 hours before, when it's represented from Ray Logan that Sace already said yeah, is borne out by the evidence that you've seen.

"We're going to go hit a house tonight." What on God's green earth are they doing at midnight outside that house that isn't related to trying to rob somebody? "Me," meaning Raekwon sending it, "You," Deshawn receiving it, "Sace," Davontae Wheeler, and "Him," referring back to DJ; that's DeMario. That's his own brother, right? "Hit a house."

This individual running by in and of himself is enough evidence to tie this all together, but when you couple it with what DeShawn said, you have the information to get you to this conclusion of their guilt. He described four African males all dressed in dark hoodies, he described the car, he

got the exact license plate.

So if it's not them -- you just watched the video where it drove off -- what on earth happened in the next 20 to 25 minutes to have four other individuals who are not these four defendants, and get their guns, and shoot, and then plant those guns in their houses? How is that possible? How is that possible?

He got that license plate. That's the car involved. That car leads them to these defendants. It leads it to these defendants back to the Short Line Express, and then to all of their locations, because it's just 20 to 30 minutes later, less than three miles away, when they hit a house. And as they're going to hit the house, they have this poor victim there. What four other guys did this? Who were the other people that took over their car, had the same description, used those guns, and then planted those guns in their houses?

It's got to be actual, not mere speculation. That gun is the gun that shot him. When they shot him in the stomach and they shot him in the head, there was the intent to kill. That's first degree, willful, deliberate, premeditated. When they attempted to rob him and he died in the process, that's felony murder. They're first degree murderers, ladies and gentlemen. Tell them you know that, too.

THE COURT: Thank you very much.

At this time, the Clerk will swear the Officers of

the Court, who will take charge of the jury panel. 1 2 (JUDICIAL EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND MARSHAL SWORN TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE JURY AND ALTERNATE) 3 THE COURT: Okay. Before I do excuse the ladies and 4 5 gentlemen of the jury, I'm going to excuse you to go back for 6 a few minutes. I know it is late. I'm going to ask you to 7 pick your foreperson, and then you will get further instructions. 8 9 Mr. Randall, you have been selected -- you've been 10 selected to be our alternate juror, so I'm not going to 11 require you to stay at the courthouse tonight. I'm not going 12 to discharge you yet. I'm going to ask you to -- you're going 13 to meet with Ms. Rocha out in the vestibule. She's going to get your phone number; she's going to take charge of all of 14 15 your -- your notebook and your instructions. I just ask that 16 you don't go more than 45 minutes from the courthouse so that 17 if we need you to come back to deliberate, we can get you back 18 here quickly and --19 JUROR NO. 14: Tonight, too? 20 THE COURT: No, it won't be tonight. 21 JUROR NO. 14: Oh, okay. 22 THE COURT: No, it won't be tonight. It would be 23 tomorrow. 24 JUROR NO. 14: Okay. 25 THE COURT: And when the jury has reached a verdict,

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we will call you and let you know either that you've been
 1
 2
    discharged or that your service is required to come back.
                                                                 So,
 3
   Mr. Randall, you can step down and can go see Ms. Rocha.
              Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you can collect
 4
 5
    your notebooks, your instructions, and go with Officer Hawkes.
 6
    Again, I'm just going to ask you to select a foreperson, and
 7
    then you'll be excused with direction to come back tomorrow
 8
    morning.
              Thank you.
 9
                            Thank you. All rise for the exiting
              THE MARSHAL:
10
    jury, please.
                   Jurors.
11
              THE CLERK:
                          Mr. Pesci, do you have a laptop?
12
                          No, but I'll get one.
              MR. PESCI:
              THE CLERK:
13
                          Okay.
14
              THE COURT:
                          Oh, of course.
15
              THE CLERK:
                          We start court at 8:30, so if you want
16
    to just pop in and you can drop it off to me whenever --
17
              MR. PESCI:
                          Will do.
18
              THE CLERK:
                          -- during court. That's fine.
19
               (Jury retires to deliberate at 6:13 p.m.)
20
              THE COURT: Okay. The record will reflect that the
21
    hearing is taking place outside the presence of the jury
22
    panel.
23
              MR. RUGGEROLI:
                              Thank you, Judge.
24
              THE COURT:
                          Mr. Ruggeroli, did you have something?
25
              MR. RUGGEROLI:
                              I do want to lodge an objection as
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to the rebuttal. Specifically, the video that was played was 1 2 almost in its entirety, approximate -- it was over 20 minutes. 3 So when the State did their initial closing, that video was not included. My closing argument obviously just made 4 5 reference; didn't show the video. 6 But by the State saving that until rebuttal, it did 7 not allow an opportunity to make any comments about the 8 unilateral statements that Mr. Pesci was making, in particular, one that I had to object to, because there was 10 certainly no evidence that the car had been turned off in the 11 August heat, and there was no evidence of that whatsoever, and 12 so I did object to that. And I just wanted clarify whether or 13 not the PowerPoint is being submitted for potential appellate 14 purposes. 15 THE COURT: Right. The Clerk just asked me --16 MR. RUGGEROLI: Thank you. 17 THE COURT: -- to make sure both sides do give the 18 Clerk a copy of your PowerPoint. 19 MR. RUGGEROLI: Yes, and I didn't use one, so. 20 THE COURT: Right. Mr. Sanft did --21 MR. RUGGEROLI: Thank you. -- and the State. 22 THE COURT: 23 Your Honor, I'm emailing mine now to MR. SANFT: 24 your court Clerk, if that's okay with the Clerk. 25 THE COURT: Thank you. Is that -- that's okay,

right? 1 2 MR. BROOKS: Sorry, Judge. What was the objection? I'm objecting that by only playing 3 MR. RUGGEROLI: the -- actually, the entirety of that clip during rebuttal, it 4 5 did not allow the defense an opportunity to comment on the 6 statements that were being made about the content. 7 they went through their witnesses, they showed very short 8 portions of the video. It has been admitted. But by saving it -- not using it at all in the closing, and saving it 10 exclusively for rebuttal, and then playing it in its entirety, 11 and then making -- and editorializing over it, it denied us 12 the opportunity to respond, and so I'm objecting. THE COURT: Isn't that kind of rebuttal? 13 MR. RUGGEROLI: But it's not, because --14 15 THE COURT: I mean --16 MR. RUGGEROLI: It did not allow me the opportunity 17 -- he was not rebutting my commentary about the video. 18 commentary wasn't about whether or not somebody was in the 19 car; that was never even mentioned. So --20 THE COURT: Well, you argued to the jury that there 21 had to be five people, right? 22 MR. RUGGEROLI: Present, but I specifically did not 23 say that the individual was in the car. I know that --24 THE COURT: Okay. 25 MR. RUGGEROLI: -- this seems like semantics in some

way.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. RUGGEROLI: But I think I have to object because by saving it, playing the entirety, not with any witnesses, not during closing, but only in rebuttal, it denied us the opportunity to editorialize or to respond to the editorializing, which becomes an exclusive representation of the car is off; apparently, all the windows are up. One portion of that video, you cannot see at least a fourth of the back seat of that car, and so I just had no opportunity to make any statements about it whatsoever because it was played in the entirety.

MR. PESCI: So, Judge, in response, I think what I'm hearing is defense counsel doesn't like the statutes of the State of Nevada which dictate that rebuttal is done by the State of Nevada; that we open and close it. So there is no law that provides them to have a surrebuttal to the State's rebuttal. We have the burden of proof.

That is evidence that's been admitted, not objected to, and anybody could have commented during their closing arguments about whatever they wanted to. And I was specifically responding to the argument that there is a fifth person; that Adrian Peterson, the fifth person, must be the one. So it is completely in response to what the arguments were made, and it's completely appropriate to play it. And by

the way, it was eight minutes. 1 2 And I was trying to also make the point about how 3 long it was that Davontae Wheeler was in the bathroom that 4 Nikolaus Spahn -- and the intimation was that he's a racist 5 because he says he thinks something bad's going on because 6 someone's in the bathroom for a long time. So I wanted the 7 jury to be able to see the length of that video, feel the 8 length of that video to put in context what was said about him, and also, deliberately to respond to the allegation of a 10 fifth person. 11 MR. RUGGEROLI: Just briefly, Judge. 12 referred to Mr. Spahn as a racist. 13 Well, it wasn't you. THE COURT: 14 MR. RUGGEROLI: I didn't --15 MR. SANFT: I implied --16 MR. RUGGEROLI: Okay. 17 MR. SANFT: I implied it. 18 MR. PESCI: That was implied. 19 MR. RUGGEROLI: The other thing --20 I definitely implied it. MR. SANFT: That was me. 21 THE COURT: Right. Mr. Ruggeroli --22 MR. RUGGEROLI: Yeah. 23 It was implied by Mr. Sanft. THE COURT:

Page 212

That is correct. That was my intention,

he's -- he's willing to own up to it.

MR. SANFT:

24

25

I think

1 so. 2 MR. RUGGEROLI: The only other argument, Judge, is 3 I'm not objecting to the statutes; I'm objecting to evidence, and that's my job. I object to saving this for rebuttal, 4 5 which is not actually rebuttal, you're doing a second closing 6 argument. It's not rebutting; it's going in and saving the 7 evidence until it can't be responded to. That's all. 8 THE COURT: Okay, the objection's noted. Okay. The 9 jury's going to be instructed to come back tomorrow morning at 10 9:00 A.M. Thank you, Judge. 11 MR. RUGGEROLI: 12 THE COURT: I have a criminal calendar, so, obviously, it wouldn't be until after we're done if we get a 13 14 verdict. 15 (Court recessed at 6:18 p.m.) 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

## INDEX STATE'S CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. BROOKS......129 DEFENDANT ROBERTSON'S CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. SANFT......152 DEFENDANT WHEELER'S CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. RUGGEROLI.....170 STATE'S REBUTTAL CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. PESCI...........187 INDEX OF WITNESSES STATE'S WITNESSES: PAGE DETECTIVE MITCHELL DOSCH Direct Examination by Mr. Brooks.....4 Cross-Examination by Mr. Ruggeroli......72 Redirect Examination by Mr. Brooks......88 Recross-Examination by Mr. Sanft......91 DEFENDANT WHEELER'S WITNESS: MARCELL SOLOMON Direct Examination by Mr. Ruggeroli......96 Cross-Examination by Mr. Pesci......98 Cross-Examination by Mr. Sanft......106 Redirect Examination by Mr. Ruggeroli......107

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2 and 7	20
6 and 8	48
228 and 229	32
326	42

\* \* \* \* \*

ATTEST: I hereby certify that I have truly and correctly transcribed the audio/visual proceedings in the above-entitled case to the best of my ability.

Julie Hord

JULIE LORD, TRANSCRIBER VERBATIM DIGITAL REPORTING, LLC

Electronically Filed 8/4/2020 9:07 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

VS.

RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON and DAVONTAE AMARRI WHEELER,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C-17-328587-2 C-17-328587-3

DEPT. NO. XII

BEFORE THE HONORABLE MICHELLE LEAVITT, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

RECORDER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS JURY TRIAL - DAY 7

**APPEARANCES:** 

For the State: GIANCARLO PESCI

Chief Deputy District Attorney

PARKER BROOKS
Deputy District Attorney

For Defendant Robertson: MICHAEL W. SANFT, ESQ.

For Defendant Wheeler: JAMES J. RUGGEROLI, ESQ.

RECORDED BY: SARA RICHARDSON, COURT RECORDER

## LIST OF EXHIBITS

4 Court's Exhibit 9 Page 3

1	LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020, 2:07 P.M.
2	* * * *
3	[Outside the Presence of the Jury]
4	THE COURT: Okay. The record will reflect that the hearing is taking place
5	outside the presence of the jury panel. Both defendants are present. Will the
6	attorneys state their appearances?
7	MR. PESCI: Giancarlo Pesci.
8	MR. BROOKS: Parker Brooks.
9	MR. SANFT: Michael Sanft on behalf of Mr. Robertson.
10	MR. RUGGEROLI: James Ruggeroli on behalf of Mr. Wheeler.
11	THE COURT: Okay. I did receive a communication from the jury foreperson.
12	It's been marked as Court's Exhibit Number 9.
13	[COURT'S EXHIBIT 9 ADMITTED]
14	THE COURT: It says, "If a person is aware of a crime being planned, but
15	does nothing and wasn't there, is he guilty of conspiracy?"
16	I've marked it and made it part of the record. I don't plan on answering
17	that question and the jury has been instructed to continue to deliberate. Any
18	objection to that?
19	MR. PESCI: Not from the State.
20	MR. SANFT: No, Your Honor.
21	MR. RUGGEROLI: No, Your Honor.
22	THE COURT: Okay. And the Clerk has the note if anyone wants to approach
23	and look at it, you're welcome to.
24	
25	

1	MR. SANFT: Yes, Your Honor, thank you.
2	THE COURT: Okay? And we'll keep you posted.
3	PROCEEDING CONCLUDED AT 2:08 P.M.
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20	ATTEST: I do hereby certify that I have truly and correctly transcribed the audio-
21	video recording of this proceeding in the above-entitled case.
22	SARA RICHARDSON
23	Court Recorder/Transcriber
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**Electronically Filed** 8/4/2020 9:07 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

VS.

RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON and DAVONTAE AMARRI WHEELER,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C-17-328587-2 C-17-328587-3

DEPT. NO. XII

BEFORE THE HONORABLE MICHELLE LEAVITT, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

RECORDER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS JURY TRIAL - DAY 8

APPEARANCES:

For the State: GIANCARLO PESCI

Chief Deputy District Attorney

PARKER BROOKS **Deputy District Attorney** 

For Defendant Robertson: MICHAEL W. SANFT, ESQ.

JAMES J. RUGGEROLI, ESQ. For Defendant Wheeler:

RECORDED BY: SARA RICHARDSON, COURT RECORDER

## **LIST OF EXHIBITS**

3 Court's Exhibit 10 Page 3

1	LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020, 2:05 P.M.
2	* * * *
3	[Outside the Presence of the Jury]
4	THE COURT: Mr. Sanft, can you approach?
5	MR. SANFT: Yeah.
6	THE COURT: I showed the other attorneys. I got that from the foreperson.,
7	so I've marked it and made it part of the record. Juror Number 5 wants me to call
8	her teacher, so it's just marked as Court's Exhibit Number 10.
9	[COURT'S EXHIBIT NUMBER 10 MARKED]
10	THE COURT: Okay. State of Nevada versus Robertson and Wheeler,
11	they're both present with their attorneys. Will the State well, why don't you all
12	make your appearances.
13	MR. SANFT: Good morning or good afternoon, Your Honor, Michael Sanft
14	on behalf of Mr. Raekwon Robertson who's present in custody.
15	MR. RUGGEROLI: Good afternoon, Your Honor, James Ruggeroli on behalf
16	of Mr. Wheeler who's present in custody.
17	MR. PESCI: Parker Brooks and Giancarlo Pesci on behalf of the State.
18	THE COURT: Okay. We can bring them in. The jury has reached a verdict.
19	[In the presence of the jury panel]
20	THE COURT: You can have a seat when you come in. Does the State
21	stipulate to the presence of the jury panel?
22	MR. PESCI: Yes, Your Honor.
23	THE COURT: Mr. Sanft?
24	MR. SANFT: Yes, Your Honor.
25	THE COURT: Mr. Ruggeroli?

25

Wheeler, as follows:

1	Count 1, conspiracy to commit robbery, guilty of conspiracy to commit
2	robbery;
3	Count 2, attempt robbery with use of a deadly weapon, not guilty;
4	Count 3, murder with use of a deadly weapon, guilty of second degree
5	murder; dated this 24 <sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020; signed by Foreperson Angela
6	Segura.
7	Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, are these your verdicts as read so
8	say you one so say you all?
9	THE JURY PANEL IN UNISON: Yes.
10	THE COURT: Does either side wish to have the jury panel polled?
11	Mr. Pesci?
12	MR. PESCI: Not from the State, no, thank you, Your Honor.
13	THE COURT: Mr. Sanft?
14	MR. SANFT: No, Your Honor.
15	THE COURT: Mr. Ruggeroli?
16	MR. RUGGEROLI: Yes, Your Honor.
17	THE COURT: Okay, at this time, ladies and gentlemen, the Clerk is going to
18	ask a question. I just ask that you respond "yes" or "no."
19	THE CLERK: Juror Number 1, Vito Casucci, are these your verdicts as read?
20	JUROR NO. 1: Yes.
21	THE CLERK: Juror Number 2, Sharon Morrison, are these your verdicts as
22	read?
23	JUROR NO. 2: Yes.
24	THE CLERK: Juror Number 3, Aria Flores-Virgen, are these your verdicts as
25	read?

1	JUROR NO. 3: Yes.
2	THE CLERK: Juror Number 4, Suzanne Quinn, are these your verdicts as
3	read?
4	JUROR NO. 4: Yes.
5	THE CLERK: Juror Number 5, Camille Estrella, are these your verdicts as
6	read?
7	JUROR NO. 5: Yes.
8	THE CLERK: Juror Number 6, Danilo Rodriguez, are these your verdicts as
9	read?
10	JUROR NO. 6: Yes.
11	THE CLERK: Juror Number 7, Jonathan Salazar, are these your verdicts as
12	read?
13	JUROR NO. 7: Yes.
14	THE CLERK: Juror Number 8, Lisa Cook, are these your verdicts as read?
15	JUROR NO. 8: Yes.
16	THE CLERK: Juror Number 9, Markdelan Deperio, are these your verdicts a
17	read?
18	JUROR NO. 9: Yes.
19	THE CLERK: Juror Number 10, Roberta Bell, are these your verdicts as
20	read?
21	JUROR NO. 10: Yes.
22	THE CLERK: Juror Number 11, Angela Segura, are these your verdicts as
23	read?
24	JUROR NO. 11: Yes.
25	THE CLERK: Juror Number 12, Maria Moreno, are these your verdicts as

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read?

JUROR NO. 12: Yes.

THE COURT: Okay. At this time the Clerk will record the verdicts in the official record of the court. At this time, ladies and gentlemen, I am going to discharge you from your service. You are no longer under the admonition not to discuss the case with anyone. But you're under no obligation to discuss the case with anyone.

You are going to go back to the jury deliberation room at which time you'll be given further instructions but you are going to be discharged. I do allow both sides, the attorneys, an opportunity to speak to the jury panel. But again, I just want to make sure you understand, it's up to you whether you discuss this case with anyone. I do want to thank you very much for your willingness to be here and your service to this court. Thank you very much and you are discharged as jurors.

THE MARSHAL: Thank you. All rise for the exiting jury please.

Jurors, please go with Ms. Rocha.

[Outside the presence of the jury]

THE MARSHAL: Thank you, everyone, please be seated.

THE COURT: Okay. The record will reflect that the hearing is taking place outside the presence of the panel. Does the State wish to be heard on their custodial status?

MR. PESCI: Judge, we would ask that they be remanded without bail.

THE COURT: Mr. Sanft? Mr. Ruggeroli?

MR. SANFT: We'll submit, Your Honor.

MR. RUGGEROLI: Submit it.

THE COURT: Okay. They'll both be remanded without bail pending

1 sentencing and the matter is referred to Parole and Probation and it's set for 2 sentencing. THE CLERK: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:30. 3 MR. RUGGEROLI: Could I have that date again please? 4 THE CLERK: April 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. 5 6 THE COURT: And I'm assuming the attorneys for both sides do want that 7 opportunity if the jury wants to speak to you? Yes? 8 MR. SANFT: Sure. 9 THE COURT: Okay. We'll let you know. 10 MR. PESCI: Yeah, we'll see. 11 MR. RUGGEROLI: Judge -- Judge, I apologize. 12 THE COURT: I'm sorry. 13 MR. RUGGEROLI: No, Mr. Wheeler is asking to request that he have some 14 form of bail. 15 THE COURT: Have some what? 16 MR. RUGGEROLI: Form of bail. I submitted it and I would just like to point 17 out the jury did come back with a lesser verdict. He's asking that you just have a 18 bail set for him pending sentencing. 19 THE COURT: Okay. 20 MR. PESCI: Judge, the State opposes it. The defendant's been convicted of 21 a non-probationable offense where he must go to prison for at least 10 years and a 22 potential life sentence. So there is a flight risk and concern from the State, and we 23 ask that it remain no bail. 24 /// 25 ///

1	THE COURT: Okay. He'll be remanded without bail pending sentencing.
2	Thank you.
3	PROCEEDING CONCLUDED AT 2:13 P.M.
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20	ATTEST: I do hereby certify that I have truly and correctly transcribed the audio- video recording of this proceeding in the above-entitled case.
21	Seur Richardon
22	SARA RICHARDSON
23	Court Recorder/Transcriber
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@ 2:11pm

FILED IN OPEN COURT
STEVEN D. GRIERSON
CLERK OF THE COURT

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DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

Defendant.

RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON,

-VS-

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BY,\_

HALY PANNULLO, DEPUTY

CASE NO:

C-17-328587-2

DEPT NO:

VO: XII

<u>VERDICT</u>

We, the jury in the above entitled case, find the Defendant RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, as follows:

<u>COUNT 1</u> – CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY, (please check the appropriate box, select only one)

☑ Guilty of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery

☐ Not Guilty

COUNT 2 – ATTEMPT ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON,

(please check the appropriate box, select only one)

☑ Guilty of Attempt Robbery with Use of a Deadly Weapon

☐ Guilty of Attempt Robbery

☐ Not Guilty

C-17-328587-2 VER

Verdict \_4900312

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1	COUNT 3 – MURDER WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON, (please check the
2	appropriate box, select only one)
3	Guilty of First Degree Murder with Use of a Deadly Weapon
4	☐ Guilty of First Degree Murder
5	☐ Guilty of Second Degree Murder with Use of a Deadly Weapon
6	☐ Guilty of Second Degree Murder
7	☐ Not Guilty
8	
9	DATED this 24 day of February, 2020
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11	TOREPERSON
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C-17-328587-2

## DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Felony/Gross Misdemeanor COURT MINUTES March 12, 2020

C-17-328587-2 State of Nevada

vs

Raekwon Robertson

March 12, 2020 08:30 AM Status Check: Remaining Counts

HEARD BY: Leavitt, Michelle COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 14D

COURT CLERK: Pannullo, Haly RECORDER: Scott, Deloris

**REPORTER:** 

**PARTIES PRESENT:** 

Giancarlo Pesci Attorney for Plaintiff
Michael W. Sanft Attorney for Defendant

Raekwon Setrey Robertson Defendant State of Nevada Plaintiff

**JOURNAL ENTRIES** 

Second Amended Superseding Indictment FILED IN OPEN COURT.

NEGOTIATIONS are as contained in the Guilty Plea Agreement FILED IN OPEN COURT. DEFT. ROBERTSON ARRAIGNED AND PLED GUILTY TO COUNT 4 - CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY (F) and COUNT 5 - ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (F). Court ACCEPTED plea, and, ORDERED, previously set Sentencing date STANDS.

**CUSTODY** 

04/15/20 8:30 AM SENTENCING

Printed Date: 3/27/2020 Page 1 of 1 Minutes Date: March 12, 2020

Prepared by: Haly Pannullo

# ORIGINAL

1	IND STEVEN B. WOLFSON	
2	Clark County District Attorney Nevada Bar #001565	FILED IN ODE
3	GIANCARLO PESCI	FILED IN OPEN COURT STEVEN D. GRIERSON CLERK OF THE
4	Chief Deputy District Attorney Nevada Bar #007135 200 Lewis Avenue	OF THE GOYRT
5	Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-2212 (702) 671-2500	MAR 12-2020
6	Attorney for Plaintiff	HALY PANNULLO, DEPUTY
7	DISTRICT	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
8	CLARK COUNT	
9	THE STATE OF NEVADA,	
10	Plaintiff,	CASE NO: C-17-328587-2
11	-vs-	DEPT NO: XII
12		
13	RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, aka, Raekwon Robertson, #8252804	SECOND AMENDED SUPERSEDING
14	Defendant.	INDICTMENT
15	Defendant.	C – 17 – 328587 – 2 SIND
16	STATE OF NEVADA )	Superseding Indictment 4903315 
17	COUNTY OF CLARK ) ss.	
18	The Defendant above named, RAEKW	ON SETREY ROBERTSON, aka, Ra

Robertson, accused by the Clark County Grand Jury of the crime(s) of CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY (Category B Felony - NRS 200.380, 199.480 - NOC 50147) and ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (Category B Felony - NRS 200.380, 193.165 - NOC 50138), committed at and within the County of Clark, State of Nevada, on or about August 2,2017, as follows:

24 COUNT 1 CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY

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Defendant RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, aka, Raekwon Robertson, did on or about August 2, 2017 willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously conspire with an unknown co-conspirator to commit a robbery, by the conspirators committing the acts as set forth in Count 2, said acts being incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein.

#### COUNT 2- ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON

Defendant RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, aka, Raekwon Robertson, did with an unknown co-conspirator, willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously take personal property, to wit: a wallet, cellular telephone, and makeup case, from the person of MARIAH ROMATKO and/or U.S. Currency, from the person of AGNES STEIN, or in their presence, by means of force or violence, or fear of injury to, and without the consent and against the will of MARIAH ROMATKO and/or AGNES STEIN, with use of a deadly weapon, to wit: a handgun, the Defendant and/or an unnamed co-conspirator being criminally liable under one or more of the following principles of criminal liability, to wit: (1) by directly committing this crime; and/or (2) by aiding or abetting in the commission of this crime, with the intent that this crime be committed, by counseling, encouraging, hiring, commanding, inducing and/or otherwise procuring the other to commit the crime; and/or (3) pursuant to a conspiracy to commit this crime, with the intent that this crime be committed.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2020.

STEVEN B. WOLFSON Clark County District Attorney Nevada Bar #001565

BY

GIANCARLO PESCI

Chief Deputy District Attorney

Nevada Bar #007135

17BGJ017B/17F14369B/dd-MVU LVMPD EV#1708024571; 1708090029 (TK3)

# ORIGINAL

1 GPA STEVEN B. WOLFSON 2 Clark County District Attorney Nevada Bar #001565 3 GIANCARLO PESCI Chief Deputy District Attorney 4 Nevada Bar #7135 200 Lewis Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89155-2212 5 (702) 671-2500 6 Attorney for Plaintiff 7 8 9 THE STATE OF NEVADA, 10 11 -VS-12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

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FILED IN OPEN COURT STEVEN D. GRIERSON CLERK OF THE COURT BY.

DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

C-17-328587-2 **Guilty Plea Agreement** 

Plaintiff,

RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, aka Raekwon Robertson, #8252804

Defendant.

CASE NO:

C-17-328587-2

DEPT NO:

XII

### **GUILTY PLEA AGREEMENT**

I hereby agree to plead guilty to: COUNT \*- CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY (Category B Felony - NRS 200.380, 199.480 - NOC 50147) and COUNT ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (Category B Felony - NRS 200.380, 193.165 - NOC 50138), as more fully alleged in the charging document attached hereto as Exhibit "1".

My decision to plead guilty is based upon the plea agreement in this case which is as follows:

The State retains the right to argue. Both parties stipulate to concurrent time to the charges the Defendant was previously found guilty of, at trial, in the instant case.

I agree to the forfeiture of any and all weapons or any interest in any weapons seized and/or impounded in connection with the instant case and/or any other case negotiated in whole or in part in conjunction with this plea agreement.

I understand and agree that, if I fail to interview with the Department of Parole and

Probation, fail to appear at any subsequent hearings in this case, or an independent magistrate, by affidavit review, confirms probable cause against me for new criminal charges including reckless driving or DUI, but excluding minor traffic violations, the State will have the unqualified right to argue for any legal sentence and term of confinement allowable for the crime(s) to which I am pleading guilty, including the use of any prior convictions I may have to increase my sentence as an habitual criminal to five (5) to twenty (20) years, life without the possibility of parole, life with the possibility of parole after ten (10) years, or a definite twenty-five (25) year term with the possibility of parole after ten (10) years.

Otherwise I am entitled to receive the benefits of these negotiations as stated in this plea agreement.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF THE PLEA**

I understand that by pleading guilty I admit the facts which support all the elements of the offense(s) to which I now plead as set forth in Exhibit "1".

I understand that as a consequence of my plea of guilty, the Court must sentence me to imprisonment in the Nevada Department of Corrections, as follows:

**COUNT 1** - for a minimum term of not less than ONE (1) year and a maximum term of not more than SIX (6) years. The minimum term of imprisonment may not exceed forty percent (40%) of the maximum term of imprisonment. I understand that I may also be fined up to \$5,000.00.

I understand that I am eligible for probation for the offense to which I am pleading guilty. I understand that, except as otherwise provided by statute, the question of whether I receive probation is in the discretion of the sentencing judge.

COUNT 2 - for a minimum term of not less than TWO (2) years and a maximum term of not more than FIFTEEN (15) years, plus a consecutive term of ONE (1) year to FIFTEEN (15) years for the deadly weapon enhancement. The minimum term of imprisonment may not exceed forty percent (40%) of the maximum term of imprisonment. I understand that I may also be required to pay a fine.

I understand that I am not eligible for probation for the offense to which I am pleading

guilty.

I understand that the law requires me to pay an Administrative Assessment Fee.

I understand that, if appropriate, I will be ordered to make restitution to the victim of the offense(s) to which I am pleading guilty and to the victim of any related offense which is being dismissed or not prosecuted pursuant to this agreement. I will also be ordered to reimburse the State of Nevada for any expenses related to my extradition, if any.

I understand that I must submit to blood and/or saliva tests under the Direction of the Division of Parole and Probation to determine genetic markers and/or secretor status.

I understand that if I am pleading guilty to charges of Burglary, Invasion of the Home, Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Sell, Sale of a Controlled Substance, or Gaming Crimes, for which I have prior felony conviction(s), I will not be eligible for probation and may receive a higher sentencing range.

I understand that if more than one sentence of imprisonment is imposed and I am eligible to serve the sentences concurrently, the sentencing judge has the discretion to order the sentences served concurrently or consecutively.

I understand that information regarding charges not filed, dismissed charges, or charges to be dismissed pursuant to this agreement may be considered by the judge at sentencing.

I have not been promised or guaranteed any particular sentence by anyone. I know that my sentence is to be determined by the Court within the limits prescribed by statute.

I understand that if my attorney or the State of Nevada or both recommend any specific punishment to the Court, the Court is not obligated to accept the recommendation.

I understand that if the offense(s) to which I am pleading guilty was committed while I was incarcerated on another charge or while I was on probation or parole that I am not eligible for credit for time served toward the instant offense(s).

I understand that if I am not a United States citizen, any criminal conviction will likely result in serious negative immigration consequences including but not limited to:

- 1. The removal from the United States through deportation;
- 2. An inability to reenter the United States;

- 3. The inability to gain United States citizenship or legal residency;
- 4. An inability to renew and/or retain any legal residency status; and/or
- 5. An indeterminate term of confinement, with the United States Federal Government based on my conviction and immigration status.

Regardless of what I have been told by any attorney, no one can promise me that this conviction will not result in negative immigration consequences and/or impact my ability to become a United States citizen and/or a legal resident.

I understand that the Division of Parole and Probation will prepare a report for the sentencing judge prior to sentencing. This report will include matters relevant to the issue of sentencing, including my criminal history. This report may contain hearsay information regarding my background and criminal history. My attorney and I will each have the opportunity to comment on the information contained in the report at the time of sentencing. Unless the District Attorney has specifically agreed otherwise, the District Attorney may also comment on this report.

### WAIVER OF RIGHTS

By entering my plea of guilty, I understand that I am waiving and forever giving up the following rights and privileges:

- 1. The constitutional privilege against self-incrimination, including the right to refuse to testify at trial, in which event the prosecution would not be allowed to comment to the jury about my refusal to testify.
- 2. The constitutional right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, free of excessive pretrial publicity prejudicial to the defense, at which trial I would be entitled to the assistance of an attorney, either appointed or retained. At trial the State would bear the burden of proving beyond a reasonable doubt each element of the offense(s) charged.
- 3. The constitutional right to confront and cross-examine any witnesses who would testify against me.
- 4. The constitutional right to subpoena witnesses to testify on my behalf.
- 5. The constitutional right to testify in my own defense.
- 6. The right to appeal the conviction with the assistance of an attorney, either appointed or retained, unless specifically reserved in writing and agreed upon as provided in NRS 174.035(3). I understand this means I am unconditionally waiving my right to a direct appeal of this conviction,

including any challenge based upon reasonable constitutional, jurisdictional or other grounds that challenge the legality of the proceedings as stated in NRS 177.015(4). However, I remain free to challenge my conviction through other post-conviction remedies including a habeas corpus petition pursuant to NRS Chapter 34.

#### **VOLUNTARINESS OF PLEA**

I have discussed the elements of all of the original charge(s) against me with my attorney and I understand the nature of the charge(s) against me.

I understand that the State would have to prove each element of the charge(s) against me at trial.

I have discussed with my attorney any possible defenses, defense strategies and circumstances which might be in my favor.

All of the foregoing elements, consequences, rights, and waiver of rights have been thoroughly explained to me by my attorney.

I believe that pleading guilty and accepting this plea bargain is in my best interest, and that a trial would be contrary to my best interest.

I am signing this agreement voluntarily, after consultation with my attorney, and I am not acting under duress or coercion or by virtue of any promises of leniency, except for those set forth in this agreement.

I am not now under the influence of any intoxicating liquor, a controlled substance or other drug which would in any manner impair my ability to comprehend or understand this agreement or the proceedings surrounding my entry of this plea.

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1	My attorney has answered all my questions regarding this guilty plea agreement and its
2	consequences to my satisfaction and I am satisfied with the services provided by my attorney.
.3	DATED thisday of March, 2020.
4	m.4.
5	Packeon Robinson
6	RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, aka Raekwon Robertson
7	Defendant
8	AGREED TO BY:
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10	GIANCARLO PESCI
11	Chief Deputy District Attorney Nevada Bar #7135
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#### CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL:

I, the undersigned, as the attorney for the Defendant named herein and as an officer of the court hereby certify that:

- 1. I have fully explained to the Defendant the allegations contained in the charge(s) to which guilty pleas are being entered.
- 2. I have advised the Defendant of the penalties for each charge and the restitution that the Defendant may be ordered to pay.
- 3. I have inquired of Defendant facts concerning Defendant's immigration status and explained to Defendant that if Defendant is not a United States citizen any criminal conviction will most likely result in serious negative immigration consequences including but not limited to:
  - a. The removal from the United States through deportation;
  - b. An inability to reenter the United States;
  - c. The inability to gain United States citizenship or legal residency;
  - d. An inability to renew and/or retain any legal residency status; and/or
  - e. An indeterminate term of confinement, by with United States Federal Government based on the conviction and immigration status.

Moreover, I have explained that regardless of what Defendant may have been told by any attorney, no one can promise Defendant that this conviction will not result in negative immigration consequences and/or impact Defendant's ability to become a United States citizen and/or legal resident.

- 4. All pleas of guilty offered by the Defendant pursuant to this agreement are consistent with the facts known to me and are made with my advice to the Defendant.
- 5. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the Defendant:
  - a. Is competent and understands the charges and the consequences of pleading guilty as provided in this agreement,
  - b. Executed this agreement and will enter all guilty pleas pursuant hereto voluntarily, and
  - c. Was not under the influence of intoxicating liquor, a controlled substance or other drug at the time I consulted with the Defendant as certified in paragraphs 1 and 2 above.

Dated: This O day of March, 2020.

MICHAEL SANFT, ESQ.

17F14369B/dd/MVU

1 IND STEVEN B. WOLFSON 2 Clark County District Attorney Nevada Bar #001565 3 GIANCARLO PESCI Chief Deputy District Attorney 4 Nevada Bar #007135 200 Lewis Avenue 5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-2212 (702) 671-2500 6 Attorney for Plaintiff 7 DISTRICT COURT 8 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 9 THE STATE OF NEVADA, 10 CASE NO: Plaintiff. C-17-328587-2 11 DEPT NO: XII -vs-12 13 RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, aka, SECOND AMENDED Raekwon Robertson, #8252804 SUPERSEDING 14 INDICTMENT Defendant. 15 16 STATE OF NEVADA ) ss. 17 COUNTY OF CLARK The Defendant above named, RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, aka, Raekwon 18 Robertson, accused by the Clark County Grand Jury of the crime(s) of CONSPIRACY TO 19 COMMIT ROBBERY (Category B Felony - NRS 200.380, 199.480 - NOC 50147) and 20 ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (Category B Felony - NRS 200.380, 21 22 193.165 - NOC 50138), committed at and within the County of Clark, State of Nevada, on or about August 2, 2017, as follows: 23 COUNTA'- CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY 24 25 Defendant RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, aka, Raekwon Robertson, did on or about August 2, 2017 willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously conspire with an unknown co-26

EXMIBIT 1

2, said acts being incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein.

conspirator to commit a robbery, by the conspirators committing the acts as set forth in Count

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### COUNTA-ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON

Defendant RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, aka, Raekwon Robertson, did with an unknown co-conspirator, willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously take personal property, to wit: a wallet, cellular telephone, and makeup case, from the person of MARIAH ROMATKO and/or U.S. Currency, from the person of AGNES STEIN, or in their presence, by means of force or violence, or fear of injury to, and without the consent and against the will of MARIAH ROMATKO and/or AGNES STEIN, with use of a deadly weapon, to wit: a handgun, the Defendant and/or an unnamed co-conspirator being criminally liable under one or more of the following principles of criminal liability, to wit: (1) by directly committing this crime; and/or (2) by aiding or abetting in the commission of this crime, with the intent that this crime be committed, by counseling, encouraging, hiring, commanding, inducing and/or otherwise procuring the other to commit the crime; and/or (3) pursuant to a conspiracy to commit this crime, with the intent that this crime be committed.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2020.

STEVEN B. WOLFSON Clark County District Attorney Nevada Bar #001565

BY

GIANCARLO PESCI Chief Deputy District Attorney Nevada Bar #007135

17BGJ017B/17F14369B/dd-MVU LVMPD EV#1708024571; 1708090029 (TK3)

Electronically Filed 8/4/2020 9:07 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

VS.

RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON and DAVONTAE AMARRI WHEELER,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C-17-328587-2 C-17-328587-3

DEPT. NO. XII

BEFORE THE HONORABLE MICHELLE LEAVITT, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

RECORDER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS SENTENCING

APPEARANCES:

For the State: GIANCARLO PESCI

Chief Deputy District Attorney

PARKER BROOKS
Deputy District Attorney

For Defendant Robertson: MICHAEL W. SANFT, ESQ.

For Defendant Wheeler: JAMES J. RUGGEROLI, ESQ.

RECORDED BY: SARA RICHARDSON, COURT RECORDER

1	LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020, 12:48 P.M.
2	* * * *
3	THE COURT: State of Nevada versus Raekwon Robertson and Davontae
4	Wheeler, case C328587.
5	THE CLERK: All of the parties are on Bluejeans, Judge.
6	THE COURT: Okay. So Mr. Robertson and Mr. Wheeler are both present
7	and in custody.
8	Mr. Robertson, is there any legal cause or reason why judgment should
9	not be pronounced against you at this time?
10	DEFENDANT ROBERTSON: No.
11	THE COURT: Mr. Robertson, any reason why we shouldn't proceed with
12	sentencing?
13	DEFENDANT ROBERTSON: No, there is not.
14	THE COURT: Okay. By virtue of the jury verdict and guilty plea agreement in
15	this matter, I hereby adjudicate you guilty of Counts 1 and 4, conspiracy to commit
16	robbery; Count 2, attempt robbery with use of a deadly weapon; Count 3, first
17	degree murder with use of a deadly weapon; and Count 5, robbery with use of a
18	deadly weapon.
19	Does the State wish to be heard on this?
20	MR. PESCI: Yes, Your Honor. I would note that I believe we have online a
21	victim speaker.
22	THE COURT: Okay.
23	MR. PESCI: Which is John Relato, and so I would ask that pursuant to
24	statute he would be able to go last.
25	THE COURT: Okay. And is the victim appearing by Bluejeans?

MR. PESCI: I saw -- I thought I saw his name listed, but, yes.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. RELATO: Yes, sir. I'm in Bluejeans right now.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

Go ahead, Mr. Pesci.

MR. PESCI: Thank you very much, Your Honor. You know the case, so I won't go over the facts again with you. In looking at the Department of Parole and Probation's recommendation, and here's the thing I want to underscore, the State stands by its recommendation and negotiation as far as Counts 4 and 5. Those counts are to run concurrent to what you give for Counts 1, 2, and 3. I think the sentencing put forth by Parole and Probation as far as Counts 4 and 5 are appropriate as far as that length of sentence and as far as 4 and 5 running consecutive to each other. But they should, altogether, run concurrent.

When you look at what your decision is as far as the sentence on the murder, P and P is recommending a life sentence and that's appropriate as a life has been taken. As far as the deadly weapon enhancement, they're looking at a 36-to-240 months. And so when you take into consideration this particular defendant, you know, he really does not have much of a criminal history before. Obviously, that inures to his benefit in this particular situation when you're looking at that deadly weapon enhancement. The problem is, however, is the other case, Counts 4 and 5, I mean, it's a part of this case, but Counts 4 and 5 where he did use a weapon in another case.

And then I think what's really, really telling and why you should deviate from the Division's recommendation and go higher on the deadly weapon enhancement is in fact his conviction under C347711 where, as I read it, it was an

attempt possession of a dangerous weapon or facsimile by incarcerated person. So that's a charge he picked up in the Detention Center after his arrest on this homicide prior to our sentencing. From Odyssey, it appears he was on calendar today on that, so I'm not sure if he was adjudicated, that was also to run concurrent. So, but I think that kind of speaks to the risks associated with him and the underlying facts as far as, you know, that first shot is the shot that comes from his weapon that incapacitates the victim and puts him in the position where he gets that head shot.

And so I think it would be appropriate to go higher on the deadly weapon enhancement and otherwise, those -- those Counts 1, 2, and 3, they should run consecutive and we'll submit it to your discretion.

And right now do you want me to just speak about Raekwon Robertson's?

THE COURT: Sure, yeah, just Raekwon.

MR. PESCI: The other thing, for Mr. Robertson's benefit, I -- I don't know how to answer his letters. He's written me a letter. He was looking for the P.S.I. I just wanted to let him know, I cannot communicate with him because he's represented by counsel. But as soon as I got the letter, I sent a copy of the P.S.I. to Mr. Sanft who I believe already had it. But it's just I'm not allowed to talk to him and so that's why I couldn't bring him his P.S.I., but I sent it to his counsel.

THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you.

Mr. Robertson, do you want to say anything?

DEFENDANT ROBERTSON: Yeah, I received my P.S.I. yesterday, I sent the letter on Friday. I basically sent him the letter because I couldn't get in contact with my attorney and I didn't want my sentencing day to get pushed back because I didn't have my P.S.I.

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THE COURT: Okay. Do you want --

MR. PESCI: Which he said, and I just -- I just didn't -- I couldn't respond or communicate with him so I wanted to explain that to him here today.

THE COURT: Okay.

DEFENDANT ROBERTSON: That's fine.

THE COURT: Mr. Robertson, are you okay to go forward or do you need additional time?

DEFENDANT ROBERTSON: No, I got it. I got it. I received it yesterday.

THE COURT: Okay. Do you want to say anything?

DEFENDANT ROBERTSON: No. I'm -- no.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Sanft?

MR. SANFT: Do you mind if I --

THE COURT: No, go ahead.

MR. SANFT: Your Honor, I think in this matter with regards to Mr. Robertson the Court has -- had heard the facts in this case during the course of the trial. I've spoken with Mr. Robertson and explained to him what his options are at this particular point and based upon the recommendation of P and P, you know, the bigger issue that we have is that he was convicted of a first degree kid -- first degree murder with use of a deadly weapon, so obviously the suggestion at this particular point is a life-tail or a life sentence. The question then becomes whether or not it's 20-to-life plus a consecutive whatever that looked like on the other end.

We're going to submit everything to the Court. And the reason for that is this, Mr. Robertson is intent on filing an appeal, is intent on going forward with that aspect of it. I believe that ultimately what we have here is a situation where Mr. Robertson's in a position where the reason why he's not talking to the Court or

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saying anything to the Court is because he wants to reserve that -- that right.

With that being said, the suggestion that I think -- at this particular point is that we don't run the sentences consecutive to one another in terms of the charges, we instead focus on I believe it's Count 3, which is the --

THE COURT: The murder.

MR. SANFT: -- the murder with use and we run all the other sentences concurrent to that -- to that charge. That would be my only request at this particular point.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. SANFT: And we'll submit it.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. PESCI: And, Judge, if I could really fast, I apologize, he also has eight additional days credit for time served based on the timing of our sentencing. So it looks like the P.S.I. says 1,024 as of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, but now we're at the 11<sup>th</sup>, and so he should -- I think that adds up to 1,032. Is that right, Mr. Sanft?

MR. SANFT: We have no objection to 1,032, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. And do you want to call your first speaker?

MR. PESCI: Or do you want him at the end, Your Honor? Because we still have to do Mr. Wheeler and pursuant to statute, the speaker gets to go last.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. I'm assuming you have no objection to that? MR. SANFT: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Robertson, in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada, this Court does now sentence you as follows, in addition to the administrative assessment, the D.N.A. fee, and the collection fee, you'll be required to submit to genetic marker testing if you've not already done so. As to Count 1, the

Court's going to sentence you to 24 to 72 months in the Nevada Department of Corrections. As to Count 2, the Court's going to sentence you to 48 to 120 months, plus a consecutive 48 to 120 months for the deadly weapon enhancement. As to Count 3, the Court's going to sentence you to life in the Nevada Department of Corrections with parole eligibility beginning after a minimum of 20 years has been served, and an 8-to-20 years for the deadly weapon enhancement to run consecutive. As to Count 4, the Court's going to sentence you to 24 to 72 months; as to Count 5, 48 to 180 months, plus a consecutive 48 to 180 months for the deadly weapon enhancement.

They're all to run concurrent for an aggregate of 28 to life in the Nevada Department of Corrections, impose restitution as to Count 5 of \$200.00 and then restitution of 8,729.53 joint and several with your codefendant as to the other charges. And he has 1,032 days credit for time served.

MR. SANFT: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. PESCI: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Wheeler.

DEFENDANT WHEELER: Yes. Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You're ready to go forward?

DEFENDANT WHEELER: Yes, ma'am. I am.

THE COURT: Okay. By virtue of the jury verdict returned in this matter, I hereby adjudicate you guilty of Count 1, conspiracy to commit robbery; and Count 3, second degree murder; and pursuant to the verdict, Count 2 will be dismissed.

Does the State wish to be heard?

MR. PESCI: Yes, Your Honor. Your Honor, what I would ask you to do is

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follow the Department's recommendation as far as Count 1 being 24 to 72 months. I think that's appropriate. However, I would ask you to part company with the Department's recommendation on Count 3, as they do not recommend a life-tail. I think it would inappropriate for the codefendant to get the life-tail and this one to not. I understand that he has been convicted of second degree murder, but nonetheless, a life was taken and it's appropriate that there should be at least a life-tail. So -- and it's also appropriate from P and P to run it consecutive. So I think Count 3 should be a 10-to-life and that should run consecutive to the 24-to-72 on Count 1.

As far as the restitution, I'd ask for the same joint and several. And then I'm sure Mr. Ruggeroli, I hope he's got it figured out, the credit for time served because the P.S.I. had it factored out to an April 15<sup>th</sup> date and obviously we're a little bit further along, so whatever that number is I'll defer it to Mr. Ruggeroli and ask that the victim's cousin, who testified at trial, who's on Bluejeans, gets to speak last.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Wheeler, do you want to say anything?

DEFENDANT WHEELER: No. No, ma'am.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Ruggeroli.

MR. RUGGEROLI: Thank you, Your Honor. Judge, I would like to point out a number of factors in mitigation for Mr. Wheeler. Judge, you know this, but he was not alleged to have participated in the other counts that were referenced regarding the codefendant. So his allegations were limited to this case, Judge.

The jury has spoke and I'm going to ask you to take a look at what they actually said in their verdict. I don't want to go through a lot of the facts, but some of the things are appropriate for Your Honor to consider. I would like to point out some background on Mr. Wheeler's behalf, Judge. He has no significant criminal history

 whatsoever. He has no prior felonies, no prior gross misdemeanors, and no other cases, as I mentioned that he was alleged to have been involved in regarding this period of time.

Judge, he has asserted his innocence. But we do want to point some things out in terms of expressing our condolences to the victim and the victim's family. Judge, the jury found kind of interesting conclusion for Mr. Wheeler's counts because they did find that he was part of a conspiracy, however, they found him guilty of second degree murder but not having a weapon involved and what's interesting about that, Judge, is that the State had presented their case that Mr. Wheeler was armed. They believed and presented it to the jury that he was also present at the time of the shooting, Judge. It very much appears that the jury did not agree with their version of events in a number of ways, and most importantly, they have acquitted him of the deadly weapon and I do think that that is very significant.

Judge, again, we want to express our condolences to the family, but also mention, the jury did not find that Mr. Wheeler was a direct participant with the murder in this case. We are going to take those issues up on appeal. In looking at some additional factors for mitigation, Judge, I would like to point out that Mr. Wheeler was only 22 years old at the time of this offense. He has strong family and friend support. I did provide Your Honor with some letters from friends and family.

Additionally, I believe his mother and another family member are present in court today. They've been present on almost every appearance throughout his litigation in this case, Judge. He has that family support, friend support, church support in place for when he is eventually released from custody and I'm going to ask Your Honor to give him a sentence that allows him the

opportunity to have a future and to get out and to utilize those resources and to continue being a part of that family and his community the way he was before these allegations came about.

Mr. Wheeler is a father to two very young children. Judge, those letters show that he is -- he was a good father and wants to be available for those children. He has a disabled 75-year-old grandmother. His mother, who, again, I believe is present in court, has poor health. Mr. Wheeler previously provided her with caretaking and was a tremendous asset to her in her life. Additionally, Your Honor, Mr. Wheeler helped out his family and the community. He helped out the church. He has a history of employment prior to being arrested in this case.

He has also served full time as a personal care assistant for the Addus, and that's A-D-D-U-S, Home Healthcare. Judge, he provided to the church and the community. We have provided letters. During his time in custody, family has noted that he has exhibited a clear display of change and maturity. He has plans for the future including being a part of helping African-Americans stay out of trouble, stay out of jail, contributing to the church and the community, taking care of his children, and loving his family the best way that he knows how, Your Honor.

Parole and Probation is recommending 24 to 72 and then they are very importantly recommending a 10-to-25-year definite term on the second degree murder, Judge. Now, they are asking for that to be run consecutive. It is our request that you would follow P and P's recommendation but run the counts concurrent. Again, Judge, we do want to express our condolences to the family. I calculated 1,034 days and I do believe that that is the correct number.

Finally, Judge, I do need to respectfully move to withdraw. Ms. Sandra Stewart will be taking over as appellate counsel. And I believe she's already

1	submitted an order to proceed really immediately after the sentencing this afternoor
2	THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much.
3	The State may call their witness, their first witness.
4	MR. PESCI: Judge, I believe Mr. Relato is online. I would also just, really
5	fast, as far as the credit for time served, I think it's the same amount of time as the
6	codefendant because I think they were arrested at the same time, same day.
7	THE COURT: Okay. So 1,032?
8	MR. PESCI: That's what I believe but we'll submit it to the Court.
9	THE COURT: Okay. What's his name again?
10	THE RECORDER: Relato, John Relato.
11	THE COURT: John Relato.
12	MR. RELATO: Yes, ma'am.
13	THE COURT: Mr. Relato, are you appearing by video and audio?
14	MR. RELATO: What did what can I do I need to attend on video?
15	THE COURT: Well, I don't know how I'm going to swear you in.
16	MR. RELATO: Oh, I'm sorry. Okay. I'll
17	THE COURT: Oh, there you go. Okay. All right. Will you please raise your
18	right hand so you can be sworn?
19	JOHN RELATO,
20	[having been called as a speaker and first duly sworn, testify as follows:]
21	THE CLERK: Can you please state and spell your first and last name for the
22	record.
23	THE SPEAKER: John Relato.
24	THE CLERK: Go ahead and spell, please.
25	THE SPEAKER: First name John, J-O-H-N, last name Relato, R-E-L-A-T-O.

THE CLERK: Thank you.

THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Relato.

THE SPEAKER: So I was told that I was -- I was to be given time to say a few words --

THE COURT: Sure.

THE SPEAKER: -- regarding my cousin. My -- I'm -- the victim, Gabriel Valenzuela, is my cousin, but practically he was my brother. I grew up with him. I celebrated birthdays, graduations with him and my own mother has practically raised him as her own. It really broke our hearts to lose him that night. I recall nights when my own mom and his mom, who is standing right besides me actually, would cry themselves to sleep every night due to the traumatic event of him losing his life protecting my family.

I'm sorry, this is really hard for me.

THE COURT: That's okay.

THE SPEAKER: My own sister who is autistic would need assistance for performing certain tasks and Gabriel was -- was actually, practically his -- her caretaker. He'd take her to groceries, Opportunity Village events, and to her friends for social gatherings.

On top of that, he was also a nursing student at the College of Southern Nevada. I may not be there with him as a nursing student, but I thought a few words from -- a few letters from his friends and cohorts describing him.

He is a great friend with so much to offer for his community. He is funny, kind, and a warm person, a member of the student nursing -- student nurse association and willing to step in when -- when needed. Gabe sets an example of what life could have been when it's full of happiness, love, and positivity. And he -- I

guess this is my favorite one, He was an angel among us.

He grew up wanting to be a nurse. His mom worked so hard as a caretaker to pay for his tuition and fulfill his dreams. That traumatic event that night delayed her scheduled surgery to the point that it worsened her condition. It pains me to attend these court events, but I'm just -- I am here to see that justice is carried out for my cousin's murder. Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: Thank you, very much.

THE SPEAKER: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Anything else? Okay. In accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada, this Court does now sentence you as follows, in addition to the administrative assessment, the D.N.A. fee, and the collection fee, you'll be required to submit to genetic marker testing. As to Count 1, the Court's going to sentence you to 24 to 72 months in the Nevada Department of Corrections. As to Count 3, the Court's going to sentence you to life in the Nevada Department of Corrections with parole eligibility beginning after a minimum of 10 years has been served. Count 3 to run consecutive to Count 1. He has 1,032 days credit for time served. And restitution in the amount of \$8,729.53 will be imposed and it's joint and several with your codefendant, for an aggregate term of 144 months to life.

Thank you.

MR. PESCI: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. RUGGEROLI: Judge, may I be allowed to withdraw, please?

23 || ///

24 || ///

25 || ///

1	THE COURT: Yes. Yes, your motion to withdraw is granted. Thank you.
2	MR. RUGGEROLI: Thank you, Your Honor.
3	PROCEEDING CONCLUDED AT 1:08 P.M.
4	* * * * * * *
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20	ATTEST: I do hereby certify that I have truly and correctly transcribed the audio-
21	video recording of this proceeding in the above-entitled case.
22	SARA RICHARDSON
23	Court Recorder/Transcriber
24	

Electronically Filed
06/17/2020
CLERK OF THE COURT

JOC

### DISTRICT COURT

### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

-VS-

RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON aka Raekwon Robertson #8252804

Defendant.

CASE NO. C-17-328587-2

DEPT. NO. XII

## JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION (JURY TRIAL / PLEA OF GUILTY)

The Defendant previously entered a plea of not guilty to the crimes of COUNT 1 - CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 199.480; COUNT 2 - ATTEMPT ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 193.330 193.165; COUNT 3 - MURDER WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (Category A Felony) in violation of NRS 200.010, 200.030, 193.165; and the matter having been tried before a jury and the Defendant having been found guilty of the crimes of COUNT 1 - CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 199.480; COUNT 2 - ATTEMPT ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY

WEAPON (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 193.330 193.165; COUNT 3 – FIRST DEGREE MURDER WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (Category A Felony) in violation of NRS 200.010, 200.030, 193.165; Defendant PLED GUILTY to COUNT 4 - CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 199.480; and COUNT 5 - ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 193.165; thereafter, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020, the Defendant was present in court for sentencing with counsel MICHAEL W. SANFT, ESQ., and good cause appearing,

THE DEFENDANT IS HEREBY ADJUDGED quilty of said offenses and, in addition to the \$25.00 Administrative Assessment Fee, \$200.00 Restitution as to COUNT 5, \$8,729.53 Restitution to be paid Jointly and Severally with Co-Defendant, and \$150.00 DNA Analysis Fee including testing to determine genetic markers plus \$3.00 DNA Collection Fee, the Defendant is sentenced to the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDC) as follows: **COUNT 1** - a MAXIMUM of SEVENTY-TWO (72) MONTHS with a MINIMUM Parole Eligibility of TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS; COUNT 2 - a MAXIMUM of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120) MONTHS with a MINIMUM parole eligibility of FORTY-EIGHT (48) MONTHS, plus a CONSECUTIVE term of ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120) MONTHS with a MINIMUM parole eligibility of FORTY-EIGHT (48) MONTHS for the Use of a Deadly Weapon; COUNT 3 - LIFE with a MINIMUM parole eligibility of TWENTY (20) YEARS, plus a CONSECUTIVE term of TWENTY (20) YEARS with a MINIMUM parole eligibility of EIGHT (8) YEARS for the Use of a Deadly Weapon; **COUNT 4** - a MAXIMUM of SEVENTY-TWO (72) MONTHS with a MINIMUM parole eligibility of TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS; and

COUNT 5 - a MAXIMUM of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) MONTHS with a MINIMUM parole eligibility of FORTY-EIGHT (48) MONTHS, plus a CONSECUTIVE term of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) MONTHS with a MINIMUM parole eligibility of FORTY-EIGHT (48) MONTHS for the Use of a Deadly Weapon; ALL COUNTS to run CONCURRENT; with ONE THOUSAND THIRTY-TWO (1,032) DAYS credit for time served. The AGGREGATE TOTAL sentence is LIFE with a MINIMUM of TWENTY-EIGHT (28) YEARS.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2020.

Dated this 17th day of June, 2020

C8B F6F 4C9B EDCD Michelle Leavitt

MICHELLE LEAVITT DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Electronically Filed 6/24/2020 2:28 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

#### **NOASC**

MICHAEL W. SANFT, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 8245

2 SANFT LAW

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3 Las Vegas, NV 89101

Tel. (702) 497-8008 Fax. (702) 297-6582

michael@sanftlaw.com

5 Attorney for Raekwon Robertson

## IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Case No. Dep't No. C-17-328587-2

Plaintiff,

vs.

RAEKWON SETREY ROBINSON,

NOTICE OF APPEAL

XII

Defendant.

Notice is hereby given that Raekwon Robertson, defendant in the above-entitled action, appeals to the Supreme Court of Nevada from the Judgment of Conviction filed June 17, 2020.

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DATED this 24 June, 2020.

### /s/ Michael Sanft

MICHAEL W. SANFT, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 8245 Sanft Law 411 E. Bonneville Ave. Ste. 330 Las Vegas, NV 89101 Tel. (702) 497-8008 Fax. (702) 297-6582 Attorney for Raekwon Robertson

1 of 2

## 1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 2 I hereby certify that I am a person competent to serve papers, that I am not a party to the above-entitled action, and that on June 24, 2020, I served the foregoing document 3 on: 4 5 Steven B. Wolfson, Esq. 200 Lewis Avenue 6 Steven S. Owens, Esq. Las Vegas, NV 89155 Clark County District Attorney's Office Via e-mail: motions@clarkcountyda.com 7 8 9 10 11 DATED this June 24, 2020. 12 13 /s/ Michael Sanft MICHAEL W. SANFT, ESQ. 14 Nevada Bar No. 8245 SANFT LAW 15 411 E. Bonneville Ave. Ste 330 16 Las Vegas, NV 89101 Tel. (702) 497-8008 Fax. (702) 297-6582 Attorney for Raekwon Robertson 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

FILED

OCT 2 9 2020

Case No. C-17-328587-2 Dept. No. XII.....

CLERK OF COURT

IN THE COUNT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LES YEAR'S

Raekun Setty Robertson Petitioner, #**825**2804

> PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS (POSTCONVICTION)

A-20-823892-W Dept. 12

THE STate OF Newda

Respondent.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

(1) This petition must be legibly handwritten or typewritten, signed by the petitioner and verified.

(2) Additional pages are not permitted except where noted or with respect to the facts which you rely upon to support your grounds for relief. No citation of authorities need be furnished. If briefs or arguments are submitted, they should be submitted in the form of a separate memorandum.

(3) If you want an attorney appointed, you must complete the Affidavit in Support of Request to Proceed in Forma Pauperis. You must have an authorized officer at the prison complete the certificate as to the amount of money and securities on deposit to your credit in any account in the institution.

(4) You must name as respondent the person by whom you are confined or restrained. If you are in a specific institution of the Department of Corrections, name the warden or head of the institution. If you are not in a specific institution of the Department but within its custody, name the Director of the Department of Corrections.

(5) You must include all grounds or claims for relief which you may have regarding your conviction or sentence. Failure to raise all grounds in this petition may preclude you from filing future petitions challenging your conviction and sentence.

(6) You must allege specific facts supporting the claims in the petition you file seeking relief from any conviction or sentence. Failure to allege specific facts rather than just conclusions may cause your petition to be dismissed. If your petition contains a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, that claim will operate to waive the attorney-client privilege for the proceeding in which you claim your counsel was ineffective.

(7) When the petition is fully completed, the original and one copy must be filed with the clerk of the state district court for the county in which you were convicted. One copy must be mailed to the respondent, one copy to the Attorney General's Office, and one copy to the district attorney of the county in which you were convicted or to the original prosecutor if you are challenging your original conviction or sentence. Copies must conform in all particulars to the original submitted for filing.

#### PETITION

Name of institution and county in which you are presently imprisoned or where and how you are presently estained of your liberty: Hugh Desert State Prison Indian Springs, Newda 89070.

Name and location of court which entered the judgment of conviction under attack: The Honorable Michelle Bayitt, Department XII, Clark County, Eighth Judicial District Court.

3. Date of judgment of conviction: 2.24.2020

4. Case number: C-17-328587-2

5. (a) Length of sentence: Life With the Possibility Of Parole after 28 years.

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1	(b) If sentence is death, state any date upon which execution is scheduled: N/A
2	6. Are you presently serving a sentence for a conviction other than the conviction under attack in this motion?
3	Yes) No
4	If "yes," list crime, case number and sentence being served at this time: COUNT ONE : CONSPINACY
5	TO Commit Robbery (Category B Felony - NRS 200.380, 199.480 - NOC 50
6	And count two: (Robbery With Use Of A Deading Weapon) (6-30 years), (C-17-328587
7	7. Nature of offense involved in conviction being challenged: 1st Degree Murder WIUSE OF a deady West Atlempted Armed Robbery and Conspiracy to commint Robbery.
9	8. What was your plea? (check one)
LO	Not guilty
.1	(b) Guilty
12	(c) Guilty but mentally ill
L3	(d) Nolo contendere
L <b>4</b>	9. If you entered a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill to one count of an indictment or information, and a
1.5	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was
	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give details: I plead guilty TO an Seperate Indictment which Were combined
1.5	
L5 L6	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give details: I plead guilty TO an Seperate Indictment which Were combined
15 16	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give details: I plead guilty TO an Seperate Indictment which Were combined together with my previously conviction, But was sentenced to something totally different authority.
15 16 17 18	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give details: I plead guilty TO an Seperate Indictment which Were combined to the With Mrt Previously (Unuiction, But Wis Sentenced to Samethy, totally difference to the finding made by: (check one)  10. If you were found guilty or guilty but mentally ill after a plea of not guilty, was the finding made by: (check one)  Jury  (b) Judge without a jury
15 16 17 18 19	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give details: I plead guilty TO an Seperate Indictment which West combined together with my previously conviction, But wis sentenced to something totally different of the guilty or guilty but mentally ill after a plea of not guilty, was the finding made by: (check one)  Jury
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give details: I plead guilty TO an Seperate Indictment which Were combined to the With Mrt Previously (Unuiction, But Wis Sentenced to Samethy, totally difference to the finding made by: (check one)  10. If you were found guilty or guilty but mentally ill after a plea of not guilty, was the finding made by: (check one)  Jury  (b) Judge without a jury
15 16 17	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give details: I plead guilty TO an Seperale Indictment which Were combined to the with my previously conviction Bathles Sentenced to Samethy tokally different of the guilty or guilty but mentally ill after a plea of not guilty, was the finding made by: (check one)  Jury  (b) Judge without a jury
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give details: I plead guilty TO an Seperate Indictment which Were combined together with my previously (which is sentenced to samethy totally differenced). If you were found guilty or guilty but mentally ill after a plea of not guilty, was the finding made by: (check one)  Jury  (b) Judge without a jury  11. Did you testify at the trial? Yes
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 22	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give details: I. plead goilty TO an Seperate Indictment which Were combined to yether with Mr. Previously conviction BANGS Sentenced to Samethy, totally different of the guilty or guilty but mentally ill after a plea of not guilty, was the finding made by: (check one)  Jury  (b) Judge without a jury  11. Did you testify at the trial? Yes
1.5 1.6 1.7 1.8 1.9 2.0 2.1 2.2 2.2 2.2 2.2 3	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give details: I. Plead guilty TO an Seperate Indictment which Were combined to the following of the previously (considering BUNG). Sentenced to Samethy totally different of the guilty or guilty but mentally ill after a plea of not guilty, was the finding made by: (check one)  Jury  (b) Judge without a jury  11. Did you testify at the trial? Yes
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 22 23	plea of not guilty to another count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty or guilty but mentally ill was negotiated, give details: I. plead guilty TO an Seperate Indictment which Were combined to the with Mr. Pteriously Conviction, But Not Sentenced to Samething tokally different of the guilty or guilty but mentally ill after a plea of not guilty, was the finding made by: (check one)  Jury  (b) Judge without a jury  11. Did you testify at the trial? Yes

1	14. If you did not appeal, explain briefly why you did not: Because my attorners of Law told the con
2	on Record that He would appeal my case But have not yet filed the appeal
3	papers at all, it's Been pass 30 DARS, 50 I Don't Know if the Judge Will allow i
4	15. Other than a direct appeal from the judgment of conviction and sentence, have you previously filed any
5	petitions, applications or motions with respect to this judgment in any court, state or federal? Yes No
6	16. If your answer to No. 15 was "yes," give the following information:
7	(a) (1) Name of court. The Honorable Michelle Leavit, eighth Judicial District court.
8	(2) Nature of proceeding: "Motion to Withdraw of Counse", "HABEAN CORPUS",
9	And an "Direct Appeal" motion.
10	(3) Grounds raised: Helve Were no ground Made as OF yet Maining Because
11	my motion I filed #16, W/s denied By the clerk of court.
12	
13	(4) Did you receive an evidentiary hearing on your petition, application or motion? Yes
14	(5) Result: 1/A
1.5	(6) Date of result:
16	(7) If known, citations of any written opinion or date of orders entered pursuant to such result:
17.	N/A
18	(b) As to any second petition, application or motion, give the same information:
19	(1) Name of court: The Hohorable Michelle Leavitt, Eighth Judicial District court.
20	(2) Nature of proceeding: "MOHON to Withdraw OF Count"
21	(3) Grounds raised: NOUR, as OF Yet.
22	(4) Did you receive an evidentiary hearing on your petition, application or motion? Yes(No)
23	(5) Result: NIA
24	(6) Date of result: N/A
25	(7) If known, citations of any written opinion or date of orders entered pursuant to such result:
26	NIA
27	(c) As to any third or subsequent additional applications or motions, give the same information as above, list
28	them on a separate sheet and attach.

1	(d) Did you appeal to the highest state or federal court having jurisdiction, the result or action taken on any
2	petition, application or motion? NO, I HOWENPT.
3	(1) First petition, application or motion? Yes
4	Citation or date of decision: PIA
5	(2) Second petition, application or motion? Yes
6	Citation or date of decision: NIA
7	(3) Third or subsequent petitions, applications or motions? Yes
8	Citation or date of decision: N/A
9	(e) If you did not appeal from the adverse action on any petition, application or motion, explain briefly why you
.0	did not. (You must relate specific facts in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which
.1	is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in
.2	length) Because my attornery failed to file my appeal papers In the
.3	correct time order that was listed to 00 50.
.4	17. Has any ground being raised in this petition been previously presented to this or any other court by way of
.5	petition for habeas corpus, motion, application or any other postconviction proceeding? If so, identify: NO And 405,
.6	(a) Which of the grounds is the same: "Hahaw Corpus," and "Ineffect of Council",
7	Bs none has Been granted on filed and derved.
.8	(b) The proceedings in which these grounds were raised: MA
.9	
20	(c) Briefly explain why you are again raising these grounds. (You must relate specific facts in response to this
21	question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your
22	response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.) Because, I was trailed with another
23	person, I feel a) if I did not recieve a fair Trail And couldn't sign the deal on Tubel Because, it was a global Deal, my co-defendant alight want to take.
24	18. If any of the grounds listed in Nos. 23(a), (b), (c) and (d), or listed on any additional pages you have attached,
25	
	were not previously presented in any other court, state or federal, list briefly what grounds were not so presented,
26	and give your reasons for not presenting them. (You must relate specific facts in response to this question. Your
	and give your reasons for not presenting them. (You must relate specific facts in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not
26	and give your reasons for not presenting them. (You must relate specific facts in response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not
26 27	and give your reasons for not presenting them. (You must relate specific facts in response to this question. Your

	) <sup>1</sup>
1	with the evidence, I feel as If it Want enough, And the Jury Wint a good Box.
2	19. Are you filing this petition more than 1 year following the filing of the judgment of conviction or the filing
3	of a decision on direct appeal? If so, state briefly the reasons for the delay. (You must relate specific facts in
4	response to this question. Your response may be included on paper which is 8 1/2 by 11 inches attached to the
5	petition. Your response may not exceed five handwritten or typewritten pages in length.) I'm filing this 3 months
6	From the dule + get sentenced, Because my attorner, failed to due so withing the
7	20. Do you have any petition or appeal now pending in any court, either state or federal, as to the judgment
8	under attack? YesNo
9	If yes, state what court and the case number: NA
10	
11	21. Give the name of each attorney who represented you in the proceeding resulting in your conviction and on
12	direct appeal: "Michael Sanft", But an appeal has yet to Be filed.
13	- A)
14	22. Do you have any future sentences to serve after you complete the sentence imposed by the judgment under
15	attack? Yes No
16	If yes, specify where and when it is to be served, if you know: CAFHE JEVING MY 28-LIPE JENTENCE IN HE
17	Desert saule prous, Indian Springs, Nevada 89070.
18	23. State concisely every ground on which you claim that you are being held unlawfully. Summarize briefly the
19	facts supporting each ground. If necessary you may attach pages stating additional grounds and facts
20	supporting same.
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1	(a) Ground ONE: "Failed to file for an direct appear Within the 30
2	Day time frame".
3	
4	
5	Supporting FACTS (Tell your story briefly without citing cases or law.): (At
6	my attornery "Michael Sanft" has Supposed to file for an
7	Direct appeal that Day, But Only told the Judge that "like look
8	to appear the case", when infact the Judys "michael Leaust"
9	gaw me and my co-defendant 30 DAGs to De SO. I've
10	called, emailed, and wrote letters to mi afform obut the
1	"Direct appeal papers", But have not yet gotten an Response.
.2	I has giving a deal at trail, that I would have glady too
.3	BA the deal was an global deal, which meant that buth
.4	parties Had to sign the deal, which my co-defindant did not
.5	Want to 00 . also at trail the burys, Well hand proved By My
.6	attornery and my co-nerendents attorner, I feel as if there should
<b>.</b> 7	How Been at least 2 or 3 Black (African-American) Juys in
18	the Box, on Behave of me, and my co-perendents. It show
L9	How at least Been 31, of African American June On the permet
20	to Be face to the Black community.
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23	(ground 1, and 2, the same)
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1	(b) Ground TWO: Ineffective counsel"
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5	Supporting FACTS (Tell your story briefly without citing cases or law.):
6	My afternary mechal sanet failed to file direct appeal papers, within
7	the 30 pay ortiod time frame When He Infact Stated on Duper and
8	My atternary mechael sanet failed to file direct appeal papers, within the 30 day period time frame, when He Infact Stated on paper, and or Rowal that the word fail the Direct appeal paper.
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1	(c) Ground THREE: (EVICLOCE)
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5	Supporting FACTS (Tell your story briefly without citing cases or law.): He evidence of trail
6	want a 100% conviction, Due to the fact of certain facts, like
7	He D.A made He brys Believe that my FineArm West Used In the Much
8	Ballitics come of trail and Testify, yes, a match was made from the
9	I shell cosins, But Wight stre IF the Bylet came from my firetime.
LO	(2) D.A fail to Investige Where the Hundryon Carre from, I was sold the
11	Hundyn after the mirder happerd, which I Had no Knowledge Of, By
12	the Thumwn Witnesses on MY care 1 CO-Defendants, that took dock
L3	to testify at My trail.
L4	(3) the DA relayed Mainly on One Witness that has Mantal Health Issus
15	Ord claimed that (I) was hoth him and His Brother the night OF the
L6	Murder, Which I was not, I Certas if I was Tetyp By the two
L7	Browter after Jeaning they sold me the hordyn used In the Mirder
18	Offer the fact.
19	46 there were no physical evidence, photos, or Witheres Bardos
20	2 of my co=dependents, that placed me at the mude scence.
21	none Whatsoeur.
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1	(d) Ground FOUR: (Sentence Strukte)
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5	Supporting FACTS (Tell your story briefly without citing cases or law.): I was Sentenced to
6	Life W/pussibilly of purve after serving 28 years, But on sentering
7	DAY I has giving extra time For things that I Had already
8	plead quity on not only that, I there to serve mare sentences,
9	Ofter the fact of My 28 years is served When I signed
.0	Guity plea decls on certain charges as hull, I would like
.1	to for the court to see to it that I Be Resentenced
L2	Because somethere In the Judges Backs she hert wrong
L3	gave me extra time for things that I aleady pland
L4	guitty on but to Nortion have time Served on.
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EXECUTED at High Desert State Prison on the	e 14 day of the month of 10, 2020	·
R		
W. Tiel December Of the D. Stein		
High Desert State Prison Post Office Box 650		•
Indian Springs, Nevada 89070		
Petitioner in Proper Person		
1 official at 11 open 1 of 50 ft	VERIFICATION	
Under penalty of perjury, the undersigned declar knows the contents thereof; that the pleading is to information and belief, and as to such matters the	rue of the undersigned's own knowledge, except a	the foregoing petition and as to those matters stated on
pro	•	
<b>水</b> 力 ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) (		
High Desert State Prison		The Market of the State of the
Post Office Box 650		
Indian Springs, Nevada 89070		
Petitioner in Proper Person		
· ·		
	ATION (Pursuant to NRS 239B.030)	
The undersigned does hereby affirm that the prec	peeding PETITION FOR WARE OF HADEAS OF	DDUG St. 1 to Dt. t t
Court Case Number C-17-328587-2	Does not contain the social security number of an	DRPUS filed in District
	a cool and contain the coolar security manifest of all	ly person.
_ <i>NIA</i>		
Coderpose to follow &		i e relitio and
High Desert State Prison		e i mestatolica
Post Office Box 650 Indian Springs, Nevada 89070		
Petitioner in Proper Person		
teres and the second of the se	FICATE OF SERVICE BY MAIL	
Property Comments		
hereby ce	ertify pursuant to N.R.C.P. 5(b), that on this 14	day of the month of
, 20 20 I mailed a true and cor	rect copy of the foregoing PETITION FOR WRI	TOF HABEAS CORPUS
addressed to.		
Warden High Desert State Prison	Attorney General of Nevada	
Post Office Box 650	100 North Carson Street	
Indian Springs, Nevada 89070	Carson City, Nevada 89701	
Pilet Company		·
Clark County District Attorney's Office 200 Lewis Avenue		
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155		
Attaches		1.1. 1.1.1.1.1
NAME OF THE STATE		Service Servic
*		
High Desert State Prison		
Post Office Box 650		
Indian Springs, Nevada 89070		
Petitioner in Proper Person		
Petitioner in Proper Person	sign .	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

AA 1615

High Desert still Prilon Plo-Box 650 Indian spirs, Noveda 84070

WIGH DESERT STATE PRISON

OCT 18 2020

UNITS 3 A/B

BITCH BONNEY COM

	Motion	Electronically Filed
, S - 5 - 1	Steven D. Griebson	11/05/2020 Herry S. Francis
PP 21	200 Lews Ave, 300 Floor	CLERK OF THE COURT
DA 3	Las vegas, Neuroda 89155	
Ä	DISTRICT COU	NET
5	CIARK COUNTY, NEV	ada
Ŷ	THE STATE OF NEVADA	A-20-823892-W
<b>.</b>	plaintiff(5)	PASE NOI
8		C-17-328587-2
<u> </u>	-V5-	
10	RAEKWON ROBERTSON # 8252804	DEPTNO:
	Defendant	XII
12		
ış		
14	comes now, Rackwon R	oBertson, In proper
15	and herein above Respectfull-	Moves this Honorable
16	court for a "HABEAS CORD	s' on,
17	"Ineffective Countel" on a	
18	Michael Sanft Attoney at Law,	failed TO File My
19	"Notice of Appeal" Motion Withi	n the 30 DAY time
<u>C</u> 30	period. June 11, of 2020 at 13	
OCT OCT	court mintues that (MY) Alto	
OCT 1 5 2020 CLERK OF THE COURT	stated on Record, that my A	poech Would Be
1 5 2020 FTHE COUR	Set In motion, But Have not	Yet Miled Anx
RT 24	MOTICAL THE FORTH	mised TO (1),
25	Raeklyun Robertson #8252804	
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200		
		AA 1617

# Memoran Dum of Points And Authorites I would like to ASK the clerk of the court, To please consider my Request to Have mx motions filed so that I could at least HAVE He Chance for an Court Appearance To 6 Explain more Concoring the Issues at HAnd. (I) Rallan Robertson # 8252804, Have not 8 Spoken to Michael Santt, not one Time Since a Sentencing Day, I've thread calling, writting 10 and I've even Had family Members email Him, 11 But it sooms as if He's Kinisted As My Attorney 12 (I) feels as if My afternery "Michael Sanfit", Stand 13 at least porch out, 50 that I could stay GLIATE OF 14 Our fixer plans concering My CARE. (I) Rackwoh 15 Robertion Also Asks the Clerk Of the court to 16 please file for an "Dissmissal Of Counsel" mution One to the Short Summary Above. (I) 18 Ask that another state appointed attornery would 19 Be provided for me, to Depart me throughout 20 He course Of my Appeal. 22 please take into concenteration that (D) have not 23 Been Incortact with my attornery, nor has the 34 Been Inconfact with me, so Helituid not 25 Be able to Tryn Off on these motions. 77 78 AA 1618

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<u>}</u>	E dos Took Inch ( 100)
2	50 please, I ask that (you),
3	the clerk of the court set an court bate so that (I) Raekwork Robertson, And Mx
	Afformery "Michael Schff" could Discuss With
	the court that I would like the following
7	Mutions to Be Filed And, Pagroring Behind
	Filing those motions.
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51	Date this 10 day of 13 2020.
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79	(3) AA 1619

· ·	CEPTITION OF DEVVICE 157 IVIAL
2	Porsonant to NRCP Rule 5 (6), I Hereby Certify
3	filed I am the Petitioner/Derendunt named
٤	Please and that as the 10 pay of 12th
5	2020, T. Moried a live and correct con of this
٩	1020, " Mored of the Great Cornect con of this
V.	Steven D. Grienson
<u> </u>	200 Lewis Ave, 300 Floor
ci	los vegas, Nevada 80155
<b>.</b>	Giancailo Pesci
12.	Chef Doputy District Allower
13	Michael Sonft Nevack BAR#7135
1,1	228 5. fourth steet, 30 floor 200 Lewis Avenue
15	las vegas, Nevada 89101 las vegas, Nevada 89155-2212
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17)	
18	By: Raekwon Robertson
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70	AA 1620
	AA 1620

# AFFIRMATION Pursuant to NRS 2396.030 The Undersigned does hereby affirm that the preceding document "HABEAS CORPUS" Ineffective counsel" 5 6 Filed In Case Number: C-17-328587-2 8 · Document Does not contain the Social Security number 10 Of any person, 1 12 Document contains the Social Security number of a person 13 as required By: · A specific state or federal law to wit المعالم ا 15 16 · For the administration of a public program 8 19 For an application for a federal or State grant · Confidential Pamily Court Information Sheet NRS 125, 130, NRS 125, 230, and NRS 126,055) 23 24 DATE: 10.12.2020 Ranker Robinson 75

Rackwon Rubertson
CPrint names

N/A

26

(5) (Allows For) AA 1621

(Signature)

UNIT 3 A/B

HIGH DESTAT STATE PRISON

Rockwan Robertson \$1285056

HUNDESCH STATE PRISON

Indian Springs, Newada 89076 12, Box 650

LAS VEGAS NV 890

13 OCT 2020 PM 5 L



103 VOJAS NEWOOR 59155 200 Lewis Are, 3to Floor Heven Di Chrieran

AA 1622

A-20-823892-W

## DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Writ of Habeas Corpus COURT MINUTES December 22, 2020

A-20-823892-W Raekwon Robertson, Plaintiff(s)

VS.

State of Nevada, Defendant(s)

December 22, 2020 10:15 AM Inmate filed Petition

HEARD BY: Leavitt, Michelle COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 14D

COURT CLERK: Pannullo, Haly
RECORDER: Richardson, Sara

**REPORTER:** 

**PARTIES PRESENT:** 

Bernard B. Zadrowski Attorney for Defendant

**JOURNAL ENTRIES** 

Michael Sanft, Esq., present on behalf of the Petitioner. Petitioner not present.

Court noted the concern of this matter and ORDERED, Petition STAYED as Mr. Sanft has filed the direct appeal.

**NDC** 

Printed Date: 12/29/2020 Page 1 of 1 Minutes Date: December 22, 2020

Prepared by: Haly Pannullo

Case No.

A-20-823892-W

Dept. No. Dept. 12

FILED
MAY 2 6 2022

RX

IN THE EXAMPLE JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF NEVADA (Char)

Richard Palace # 1235056

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MArdur, slute of Hewada

Respondent

PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS (POSTCONVICTION)

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- (1) This petition must be legibly handwritten or typewritten, signed by the petitioner and verified.
- (2) Additional pages are not permitted except where noted or with respect to the facts which you rely upon to support your grounds for relief. No citation of authorities need be furnished. If briefs or arguments are submitted they should be submitted in the form of a separate memorandum.
- (3) If you want an attorney appointed, you must complete the Affidavit in Support of Request to Proceed in Forma Pauperis. You must have an authorized officer at the prison complete the certificate as to the amount of money and securities on deposit to your credit in any account in the institution.
- (4) You must name as respondent the person by whom you are confined or restrained. If you are in a specific institution of the Department of Corrections, name the warden or head of the institution. If you're not in a specific institution of the Department but within its custody, name the Director of the Department of Corrections.
- (5) You must include all grounds or claims for relief which you may have regarding your conviction or sentence. Failure to raise all grounds in this petition may preclude you from filing future petitions challenging your conviction and sentence.
- (6) You must allege specific facts supporting the claims in the petition you file seeking relief from any conviction or sentence. Failure to allege specific facts rather than just conclusions may cause your petition to be dismissed. If your petition contains a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, that claim will operate to waive the attorney-client privilege for the proceeding in which you claim your counsel was ineffective.

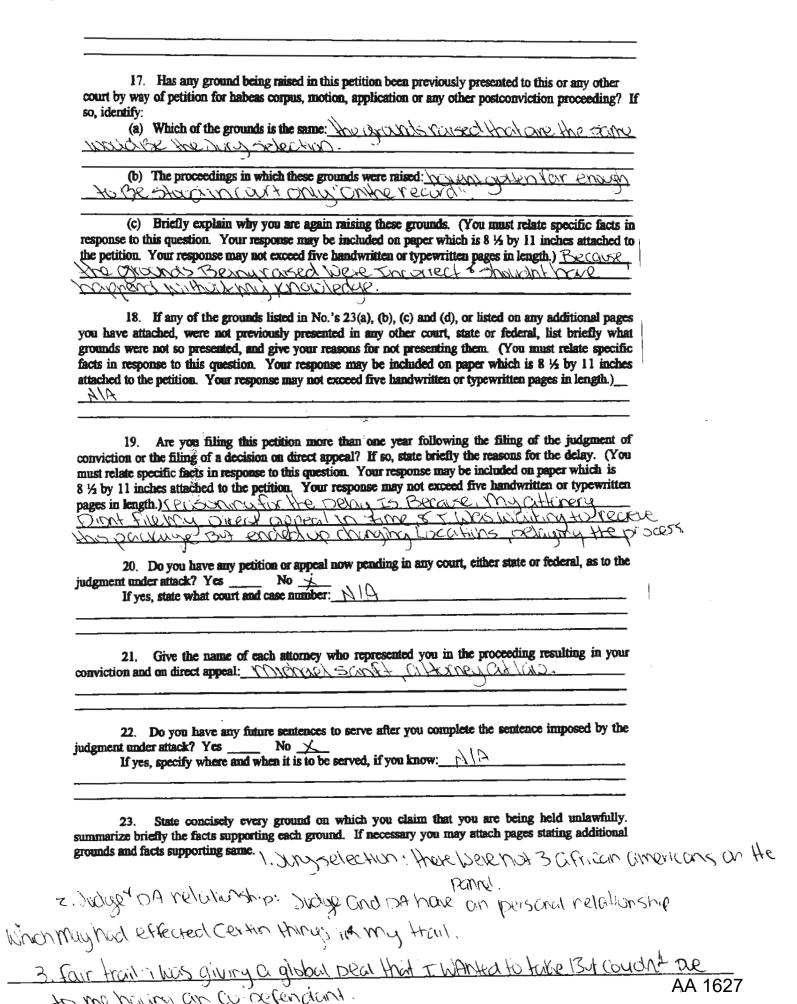
Was RECEIVED

(7) When the petition is fully completed, the original and one copy must be filed with the clerk of the state district court for the county in which you were convicted. One copy must be mailed to the respondent, one copy to the Attorney General's Office, and one copy to the district attorney of the county in which you were convicted or to the original prosecutor if you are challenging your original conviction or sentence. Copies must conform in all particulars to the original submitted for filing.

#### **PETITION**

	Name of institution and county in which you are presently imprisoned or where and how you try restrained of your liberty:
(ce)	ined of my ibory. By not recieving on four trail.
2.	Name and location of court which entered the judgment of conviction under attack:
	apply Judicial District Cast, chair cany; michelle Leavitt, Judige.
3.	Date of judgment of conviction: June 17, 2020
4.	Case number: (-17-328587-2
5.	(a) Length of sentence: Life With the p. UF parde OFter 28 years.
	(b) If sentence is death, state any date upon which execution is scheduled: N/A
is motion If NOVO	Are you presently serving a sentence for a conviction other than the conviction under attack in? Yes No
7.	Nature of offense involved in conviction being challenged: 15t open ee monder.
8.	What was your plea? (check one):  (a) Not guilty (b) Guilty (c) Nolo contendere
ilty to and	If you entered a plea of guilty to one count of an indictment or information, and a plea of not other count of an indictment or information, or if a plea of guilty was negotiated, give details:
-171-32 Wall	8587-2 But ended up Being Convicted on 1st Degree
10.	If you were found guilty after a plea of not guilty, was the finding made by: (check one)  (a) Jury (b) Judge without a jury
11.	Did you testify at the trial? Yes No _X
12.	Did you appeal form the judgment of conviction? Yes No ~ Ahomer Dark File in time
13.	Did you appeal form the judgment of conviction? Yes No X -> alturney with file in time and did appeal, answer the following:  (a) Name of Court: 1/A  (b) Case number or citation: 1/1 A
	(c) Result: 1/2

		(d) Date of result: 1/1/2
		(Attach copy of order or decision, if available.)
14	4. I	f you did not appeal, explain briefly why you did not: Secretary May Lawrer
Sicher	+ 7	ive in time cirer stating on record that he would and
0000	. A	TO CONO SO THE NORTH OF COLOUR AND TO THE OUT OF THE OUT OUT OF THE OUT OF THE OUT OF THE OUT OUT OF THE OUT OF THE OUT OUT OUT OUT
- E7.77X	7	if conon tourself of my care triporting
	<i>30</i>	ende.
15 filed any pe	i. ( etiti	Other than a direct appeal from the judgment of conviction and sentence, have you previously ons, applications or motions with respect to this judgment in any court, state or federal?  Yes No
16	. I	f your answer to No. 15 was "yes", give the following information:
(a)	(1)	Name of court: probably solved to be to the court
	(2)	Nature of proceeding mothers to condition on "Direct organi"
END	૽ૺ૽૽	n'notice or notice.
		Grounds raised: \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
لأم بعدد محمد	7.0	electrication contracts of a
		TADMIN TO DEADER THE TATION OF
X40 70C	<u>**</u>	mat I country recieve mission from which co- Defendon
	(4)	Did you receive an evidentiary hearing on your petition, application or motion?
		Yes No <u>/</u>
		Result: ALC
- 1	(6)	Date of result: \( \lambda \rangle \rangle \)
		If known, citations of any written opinion or date of orders entered pursuant to such result:
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		N Company of the Comp
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		to any second petition, application or motion, give the same information:
	(1)	Name of court: exolute judicial district court.
(	(2)	Nature of proceeding: " Divect appeal" & Overturn the sudgement
	<b>S</b>	Carriction,
(	(3)	Grounds mised: Yxu Ptot Selection,
		Chationship Between Judio and OA.
		receive and fair trail.
		Did you receive an evidentiary hearing on your petition, application or motion?
,	(7)	
		Yes No X
		Result: $l^{1/2}$
		Date of result: N/A
		If known, citations of any written opinion or date of orders entered pursuant to such a
esult:	14	<u> </u>
	A =	
		to any third or subsequent additional applications or motions, give the same
		bove, list them on a separate sheet and attach.
		l you appeal to the highest state or federal court having jurisdiction, the result or action
	tak	en on any petition, application or motion? M
	(1)	First petition, application or motion? Yes No
		Citation or date of decision:
	(2)	Second petition, application or motion? Yes X No
	<b>,</b> -,	Citation or date of decision: None OC ( Ve).
	/31	Third or subsequent petitions, applications or motions? Yes No
,	(2)	
1-5	7.0	Citation or date of decision: N/k
		ou did not appeal from the adverse action on any petition, application or motion, explain
		tid not. (You must relate specific facts in response to this question. Your response may
		aper which is 8 ½ by 11 inches attached to the petition. Your response may not exceed
		or typewritten pages in length) Becourse he can be reduced must be
Dexition	$a_{\mathcal{O}}$	is from my knownedge too as file it, for whosever
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	4 Octobration 11 of the
	ad Two: 1275-2001 relationships:
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	ewith & D. A (Desci) who Byth were assitunced
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in complete	esus myoun where since that's hor minist
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(c) Ground	(inte. 1( ))( 1( ))
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monting FACTS	(Tell your story briefly without citing cases or law.): My langer filed
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(d) Groun	d Four: 1/1 A
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poorting FACTS	Tell your story briefly without citing cases or law.):

wherefore, petitioner prays that the cin this proceeding.  EXECUTED at Ely State Prison, on the	court grant petitioner relief to which he may be entitled
of the year 2000.	ally or the month of 1120
2022	Rubertson, Raexwon Signature of petitioner
	Ely State Prison Post Office Box 1989 Ely, Nevada 89301-1989
(212)	
Signature of Attorney (if any)	
Manuel Sonft  Attorney for petitioner  3245, 370 Street - 700 (lax  Lasyleurs, Devada, 8910)	
Address	removed himsert.
VERIFIC	ATION
Under penalty of perjury, the undersigned dec petition and knows the contents thereof; that the pleadi matters stated on information and belief, and as to such	
	Routhin Robertson Politioner
	Michael Janet Attorney for petitioner

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE BY MAIL**

1. Robertan Backing	hereby certify pursuant to N.R.C.P. 5(b), that on
this 10 day of the month of Man	of the year 2027 mailed a true and
correct copy of the foregoing PETITION FO	OR WRIT OF HABLAS CORPUS addressed to:
•	
CM/Hillion Response	andent prison or jail official
<del>-60,</del> 2	Address Address
Attorney General Heroes' Memorial Building 100 North Carson Street Carson City, Nevada 89710-4717	District Attorney of County of Conviction  200 Lewis Gil.  Las vegas thereof 89156  Address

# **AFFIRMATION PURSUANT TO NRS 239B.030**

I, Mochioel	astrodus	, N	DOC#_1235056	
CERTIFY THA	T I <b>AM THE</b> UI	NDERSIGNED I	NDIVIDUAL AND TI	AT THE
ATTACHED D	OCUMENT EN	TITLED 100 200	to training with	
Hal	news confir	s Charton	(Mithan)	
DOES NOT CO	NTAIN THE SO	OCIAL SECURIT	TY NUMBER OF ANY	7
PERSONS, UNI	DER THE PAIN	S AND PENAL	TIES OF PERJURY.	
DATED THIS_	DAY	OF MA	<b>, 20</b> <u>22</u> .	
		ilaidoevt-soo		
INMATE PRIN	TED NAME: _	2000erson, R	ROSCOULT	
INMATE NDO	C# <u>N3SU</u>	15U		
INMATE ADDI	RESS: ELYSTA P.O.BO	X 1989		

, H.
Kackun Kubatsun 1735csk
CH State Dusan
PO BOX 1989
'DIY, HOUGICA SASSI

FILED MAY 2 6 2022

IN THE COUNTY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Raethun Kbertsur #1235056

Petitioner.

VS.

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the take of Newada

Warden; State of Nevada,

Respondents.

CASE NUMBER:

A-20-823892-W Dept. 12

EX PARTE MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL AND REQUEST FOR EVIDENTIARY HEARING

COMES NOW, Charles of the Petitioner, in proper person, and moves this Court for its order allowing the appointment of counsel for Petitioner and for an evidentiary hearing. This motion is made and based in the interest of justice.

Pursuant to NRS 34.750(1):

A petition may allege that the petitioner is unable to pay the costs of the proceedings or to employ counsel. If the court is satisfied that the allegation of indigency is true and the petitioner is not dismissed summarily, the court may appoint counsel to represent the petitioner. In making its determination, the court may consider, among other things, the severity of the consequences facing the petitioner and whether:

- (a) The issues presented are difficult;
- (b) The petitioner is unable to comprehend the proceedings, or

1	(c) Counsel is necessary to proceed with discovery.
2	Petitioner is presently incarcerated at <u>elystake Prsso</u> is
3	indigent and unable to retain private counsel to represent him.
4	Petitioner is unlearned and unfamiliar with the complexities of Nevada state law, particularly
5	state post-conviction proceedings. Further, Petitioner alleges that the issues in this case are complex and
6	require an evidentiary hearing. Petitioner is unable to factually develop and adequately present the
7	claims without the assistance of counsel. Counsel is unable to adequately present the claims without an
8	evidentiary hearing.
9	Dated this \day of \
10	#1225050
11	Robertson Raektion 1233056
12	In Proper Person
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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE The undersigned hereby certifies that he is a person of such age and discretion as to be competent to serve papers. 20\_\_\_\_\_, he served a copy of the foregoing Ex Parte Motion for Appointment of Counsel and Request for Evidentiary Hearing by personally mailing said copy to: District Attorney's Office Address: Chancarlo presci 200 Lewis ail, as vegas, Nevada 89156 Warden Address:

ely state prisun

Robertson, Raekwan

# AFFIRMATION Pursuant to NRS 239B.030

The undersigned does hereby affirm that the preceding Appoint	<u>59</u>
OF COUNCIL AND YEAR & Elidentiary Hearing (Title of Document)	(motion)
filed in District Court Case number <u>C-V1-318587-2</u>	,
Does not contain the social security number of any person.	
-OR-	
Contains the social security number of a person as required by:	
A. A specific state or federal law, to wit:	
(State specific law)	
-or-	
B. For the administration of a public program or for an application for a federal or state grant.	n !
Signature May 10 2022	
Maillyon Robertson Print Name	
PriceKlich Kiburson Stake of Newdon.	



Steven D. Chierson

200 Lewis one, 300 floor

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TOS VAMOS INDENDAMBANTEDAMBANTEDAMBE

elystate prison Po Box la89 ely, nevada 89301

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AA 1636

## DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Writ of Habeas Corpus COURT MINUTES June 02, 2022

A-20-823892-W Raekwon Robertson, Plaintiff(s)

VS.

State of Nevada, Defendant(s)

June 02, 2022 08:30 AM Appointment of Counsel

HEARD BY: Leavitt, Michelle COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 14D

COURT CLERK: Pannullo, Haly; Villatoro, Reina

**RECORDER:** Richardson, Sara

**REPORTER:** 

**PARTIES PRESENT:** 

Bernard B. Zadrowski Attorney for Defendant Steven S. Owens Attorney for Plaintiff

**JOURNAL ENTRIES** 

Mr, Owens advised he can ACCEPT appointment and confirmed a conflict check was completed. COURT ORDERED, matter SET for Status Check regarding briefing schedule.

07/07/22 8:30 AM STATUS CHECK: BRIEFING SCHEDULE

Prepared by: Haly Pannullo

Electronically Filed
06/07/2022 12:13 PM
CLERK OF THE COURT

**ORDR** 1 STEVEN S. OWENS, ESQ 2 Nevada Bar No. 4352 1000 N. Green Valley #440-529 3 Henderson, Nevada 89074 Telephone: (702) 595-1171 4 owenscrimlaw@gmail.com Attorney for Petitioner Raekwon Robertson 5 6 **DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 7 RAEKWON ROBERTSON, CASE NO.: A-20-823892-W 8 DEPT NO.: XII 9 Petitioner, VS. 10 ORDER APPOINTING COUNSEL STATE OF NEVADA, 11 Respondent. 12 13 This matter having come before the Court on June 2, 2022, and the Court being fully 14 advised in the premises and good cause appearing, 15 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Steven S. Owens be appointed to represent Raekwon 16 17 Robertson in his Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus proceedings in case number A-20-823892-18 W. 19 Dated this 7th day of June, 2022 20 21 DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 22 93B 6DF C4D5 884F Respectfully Submitted, **Michelle Leavitt District Court Judge** 23 /s/ Steven S. Owens STEVEN S. OWENS, ESQ. 24 Nevada Bar No. 4352 25 26 27

## DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Writ of Habeas Corpus COURT MINUTES July 07, 2022

A-20-823892-W Raekwon Robertson, Plaintiff(s)

VS.

State of Nevada, Defendant(s)

July 07, 2022 08:30 AM Status Check: Briefing Schedule

HEARD BY: Leavitt, Michelle COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 14D

COURT CLERK: Pannullo, Haly
RECORDER: Richardson, Sara

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

Bernard B. Zadrowski Attorney for Defendant Steven S. Owens Attorney for Plaintiff

**JOURNAL ENTRIES** 

COURT ORDERED, opening brief due 08/22/22; Response due 10/05/22; Hearing on the Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus SET.

10/13/22 8:30 AM HEARING: PETITION FOR WRIT

Prepared by: Haly Pannullo

Electronically Filed 8/19/2022 12:10 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

**SUPP** 

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STEVEN S. OWENS, ESQ

Nevada Bar No. 4352

1000 N. Green Valley #440-529

Henderson, Nevada 89074 Telephone: (702) 595-1171

owenscrimlaw@gmail.com Attorney for Petitioner Raekwon Robertson

### DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

RAEKWON ROBERTSON,

Petitioner,

VS.

STATE OF NEVADA.

Respondent.

CASE NO.: A-20-823892-W

DEPT NO.: XII

### SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF

### PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS (POST-CONVICTION)

COMES NOW, Petitioner, RAEKWON ROBERTSON, by and through his counsel of record, STEVEN S. OWENS, ESQ., and hereby submits his Supplemental Brief in Support of Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus (Post-Conviction).

This Supplement is made and based upon the pleadings and papers on file herein, the Points and Authorities attached hereto, and any oral arguments adduced at the time of hearing this matter.

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DATED this 19th day of August, 2022.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Steven S. Owens, Esq.
STEVEN S. OWENS, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 4352
1000 N. Green Valley #440-529
Henderson, Nevada 89074
(702) 595-1171

Attorney for Petitioner RAEKWON ROBERTSON

#### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On December 14, 2017, Petitioner Raekwon Robertson was charged by way of Indictment in Case C-17-328587-2 along with two other co-defendants, Demario Lofton-Robinson and Davontae Wheeler, with counts of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery, Attempt Robbery with use of a Deadly Weapon, and Murder with use of a Deadly Weapon for the killing of Victim Gabriel Valenzuela on August 9, 2017. Attorney Michael Sanft confirmed as attorney of record on February 13, 2018, and represented Robertson through jury trial, sentencing and direct appeal.

When co-defendant Lofton-Robinson was unavailable at Lake's Crossing, Robertson proceeded to a joint jury trial together with co-defendant Wheeler for eight days from February 11<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. As a result, Robertson was found guilty and convicted of all three counts including First Degree Murder with use of a Deadly Weapon. On March 12, 2020, Robertson

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Petitioner was also charged alone in the same Indictment with counts of Burglary, Conspiracy and Armed

Robbery for a separate and unrelated incident occurring on August 2, 2017, at the Fiesta Discount Market to which he later pleaded guilty.

pleaded guilty to two additional counts of Conspiracy and Armed Robbery for the unrelated crime at Fiesta Discount Market which were run concurrent. Robertson was sentenced on all counts on June 11, 2020, and received an aggregate sentence of 28 years to Life in prison.<sup>2</sup> The judgment of conviction was filed on June 17, 2020.

Robertson's counsel filed a timely direct appeal on June 24, 2020, which was docketed as SC#81400. See Exhibit 3. Counsel filed an Opening Brief on November 12, 2020. See Exhibit 4. The Nevada Supreme Court filed its Order of Affirmance on May 14, 2021. See Exhibit 5. Remittitur issued on June 8, 2021. Id.

Meanwhile, Robertson filed premature pro se petitions for writ of habeas corpus in the instant case, A-20-823892-W, on October 29th and again on November 5th, 2020, which were stayed pending the outcome of the direct appeal. On May 26, 2022, Robertson filed another timely petition along with a motion to appoint counsel which this Court granted on June 2, 2022. A briefing schedule was set on July 7, 2022, and Robertson's counsel now files the instant supplemental petition.

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<sup>2</sup> In contrast, co-defendant Wheeler was only found guilty of Conspiracy and Second Degree Murder (without a deadly weapon) and received an aggregate sentence of 144 months (or 12 years) to Life in prison. See Exhibit 1.

After his return from Lake's Crossing, Co-defendant Lofton-Robinson pleaded guilty to Second Degree Murder

with use of a Deadly Weapon and Attempt Robbery and received a stipulated aggregate sentence of 18 to 45 years

in prison. See Exhibit 2.

#### **STATEMENT OF THE FACTS**

At trial, the State presented the following evidence. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and into the morning of the August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Petitioner Raekwon Robertson, Demario Lofton-Robinson, Davonte Wheeler, and Deshawn Robinson attempted to carry out an armed robbery. They arrived in the neighborhood of Dewey Avenue and Lindell Avenue just before midnight where they and their car, a white Mercury Grand Marquis, were observed by a passing jogger, Robert Mason who took note of the suspicious activity. Shortly after, they saw Gabrielle Valenzuela pull into his driveway and check his mail.

The four men quickly approached him, grabbed him, and told him to give them everything he had. Within a couple of seconds Valenzuela lay dying in his driveway, shot in his head and torso. The four men fled the scene without taking any of Valenzuela's property.

The State used accomplice DeShawn Robinson to validate the facts of the events.

Robinson agreed to this only after the State offered to remove the charge of Murder with use of a Deadly Weapon in exchange for his testimony against Robertson and Wheeler. Robinson testified that Petitioner Robertson carried a gun and participated in the attempted robbery and murder. The State also presented a text message Robertson sent to another accomplice on the day of the incident asking if he wanted to "hit a house," surveillance video showing Robertson in a car identified by a witness as being in the immediate vicinity of the crime scene at the time the crimes occurred, evidence of Robertson's fingerprints on that car, and a gun found at Robertson's house that had his DNA on it and contained bullets that matched casings found at the crime scene.

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#### **ARGUMENT**

An indigent defendant possesses a constitutional right to reasonably effective assistance of counsel at trial and on appeal. *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668, 687, 104 S. Ct. 2052, 2064 (1984) (trial); *Evitts v. Lucey*, 469 U.S. 387, 391, 105 S. Ct. 830, 833 (1985) (appeal); *Warden v. Lyons*, 100 Nev. 430, 432, 683 P.2d 504, 505 (1984), *cert. denied*, 471 U.S. 1004, 105 S. Ct. 1865 (1985). To state a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel sufficient to invalidate a judgment of conviction, a convicted defendant must demonstrate that counsel's performance fell below an objective standard of reasonableness, and that he was prejudiced as a result of counsel's performance. *Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 687-88, 692, 104 S. Ct. at 2064-65, 2067. Prejudice is demonstrated where counsel's errors were so severe that there is a reasonable probability that, but for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different. *Id.* at 694, 104 S. Ct. at 2068. A "reasonable probability" is a probability sufficient to undermine confidence in the outcome of trial. *Id.* The defendant carries the affirmative burden of establishing prejudice. 466 U.S. at 693, 104 S. Ct. at 2067-68.

Petitioner Robertson was denied his right to effective assistance of counsel under the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as set forth in the following claims for relief.

Additionally, to the extent they are not set forth below, undersigned counsel also incorporates by this reference all of the claims raised by Robertson in his pro se post-conviction habeas petitions filed on October 29, 2020, November 5, 2020, and May 26, 2022.

# I. FAILURE TO OBJECT TO OTHER BAD ACT EVIDENCE OF TEXT MESSAGE ABOUT "HITTING A HOUSE"

Before the start of testimony, the parties discussed the admissibility of evidence which the State intended to reference in its opening statement to the jury and elicit through witnesses

at trial. Trial Transcript, Day 2, pp. 309-318. Specifically, the day before the murder there was a posting via Messenger from Raekwon Robertson's Facebook account to DeShawn Robinson's cell phone: "Ask DJ if he trying hit a house tonight Me, you, Sace and him. Sace already said yeah." *Id.* The State argued for admissibility as res gestae because the victim was caught, in essence, in the middle of the efforts to "hit his house" and the statement showed intent. *Id.* Attorney Sanft objected on Robertson's behalf, but only on grounds that the message should not be referenced in opening statement out of an abundance of caution until such time as the State had laid proper foundation through a proper witness. *Id.* The State responded it had a good faith basis for admissibility and further argued the message was made in furtherance of the conspiracy to commit robbery as charged in this case. *Id.* The judge allowed the message to be referenced in the prosecutor's opening statement. *Id.* 

The State then told the jury about the message in its opening statement and presented its theory of the case: "Why were they there? They went to hit a house that night, but instead, something else happened. They saw an opportunity to hit Gabriel Valenzuela . . . ." Trial Transcript, Day 3, pp. 24-5, 36. The State then elicited the message about robbing or hitting a house through the cooperating co-defendant DeShawn Robinson and again through Det. Dosch without further objection from Robertson's counsel, Sanft. Trial Transcript, Day 4, pp. 117-128; Trial Transcript, Day 6, pp. 40-1.

The use of uncharged bad act evidence to convict a defendant is heavily disfavored in our criminal justice system because bad acts are often irrelevant and prejudicial and force the accused to defend against vague and unsubstantiated charges. *Tavares v. State*, 117 Nev. 725, 730, 30 P.3d 1128, 1131 (2001); NRS 48.045. The principal concern with admitting such acts is that the jury will be unduly influenced by the evidence, and thus convict the accused because

it believes the accused is a bad person. *Id.* In *Armstrong v. State*, 110 Nev. 1322, 1323, 885 P.2d 600, 600-01 (1994) (*citing Petrocelli v. State*, 101 Nev. 46, 692 P.2d 503 (1985)), this court has stated:

Before admitting evidence of a prior bad act or collateral offense, the district court must conduct a hearing outside the presence of the jury. During the hearing, the state must present its justification for admission of the evidence, . . . [and] prove by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant committed the collateral offense, and the district court must weigh the probative value of the proffered evidence against its prejudicial effect.

*Armstrong*, 110 Nev. at 1323-24, 885 P.2d at 601. The *Petrocelli* hearing must be conducted on the record to allow this court a meaningful opportunity to review the district court's exercise of discretion. *Id*.

Counsel was ineffective in failing to specifically object to the text message on grounds that it constituted evidence of an uncharged crime, namely, a conspiracy to burglarize or "hit" a house. But Robertson and the other defendants were not charged with burglary or home invasion. See NRS 205.060, 205.067. Instead, the conspiracy as charged was to rob a person outside on the street. The State even conceded in its opening statement that defendants supposedly got together that night to commit one crime, a residential burglary or home invasion, but when they saw the victim, they spontaneously took advantage of that new opportunity and committed an entirely different type of crime, a robbery of the person.

Accordingly, had there been a *Petrocelli* hearing, the text message would not have been admitted because it was not relevant to a conspiracy or intent to rob the victim in this case. The text message was extraordinarily prejudicial in that defendants were labeled as having preplanned a residential burglary or home invasion as opposed to simply committing a crime of opportunity. Because there was no *Tavares* instruction on other bad acts, the risk is too great

that the jury punished Petitioner Robertson for his bad character and convicted him of the charged offenses based on propensity.

# II. <u>FAILURE TO SEEK SEVERANCE OF TRIAL FROM CO-DEFENDANT</u> WHEELER.

While there were four defendants charged with this crime, they all received disparate outcomes and sentences in large part because Petitioner was tried jointly with his co-defendant Wheeler. Co-defendant Demario Lofton-Robinson escaped a joint trial because he was at Lake's Crossing at the time. Upon his return, he accepted a plea bargain for Second Degree Murder with use of a Deadly Weapon and received an aggregate sentence of 18 to 45 years in prison. See Exhibit 2. His younger brother, co-defendant DeShawn Robinson entirely escaped a murder charge by agreeing to testify for the State against the other defendants and eventually received probation. See Exhibit 6. Even co-defendant Davontae Wheeler was only found guilty of Second Degree Murder and was given an aggregate sentence of 12 years to life. See Exhibit 1. In contrast, Petitioner was the only one of the four to be convicted of First Degree Murder with use of a Deadly Weapon and received the most severe sentence of an aggregate 28 years to life.

If two or more defendants participated in the same unlawful act or transaction, the State may charge the defendants in the same indictment or information. NRS 173.135. But "[i]f it appears that a defendant . . . is prejudiced by a joinder . . . of defendants . . . for trial together, the court may order an election or separate trials of counts, grant a severance of defendants or provide whatever other relief justice requires." NRS 174.165(1). However, joinder is not preferable if it will compromise a defendant's right to a fair trial. *Marshall v. State*, 118 Nev. 642, 646-47, 56 P.3d 376, 379 (2002). "The decisive factor in any severance analysis remains

prejudice to the defendant." *Id.* More specifically, severance should be granted "if there is a serious risk that a joint trial would compromise a specific trial right of one of the defendants, or prevent the jury from making a reliable judgment about guilt or innocence." *Id.*, *quoting Safiro* v. *United States*, 506 U.S. 534, 539 (1993).

Petitioner was prejudiced in his association and joint trial with co-defendant Wheeler who was open-carrying a firearm at the convenience store shortly before the murder, yet was not convicted of using a deadly weapon. Wheeler's theory of defense was that he was no longer present at the time of the crime and he was mistaken for another suspect, Adrian Robinson, who was Petitioner's brother. Petitioner's defense on the other hand was that there was insufficient evidence to corroborate DeShawn Robinson's testimony. Wheeler successfully used his joint trial with Petitioner to his advantage to minimize his own culpability and shift blame to Petitioner. These mutually antagonistic defenses prejudiced Petitioner resulting in a more severe conviction and sentence, which could have been alleviated by severing his case from Wheeler. Additionally, Petitioner would have accepted the plea bargain offered by the State but was prevented from doing so because Wheeler refused the offer which was contingent on both accepting because they were being tried jointly. There had already been a de facto severance of co-defendant Demario Lofton-Robinson, so trying Petitioner and Wheeler separately would not have impaired the efficient administration of justice. Counsel was ineffective in failing to seek severance from co-defendant Wheeler in the trial of this case.

# III. FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE AND RAISE PETITIONER'S MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AT TRIAL AS DISPROVING SPECIFIC INTENT

Petitioner's counsel called no witnesses at trial and Petitioner himself did not testify.

So, the jury heard nothing at all about Petitioner's mental health issues and how they might

have affected his behavior and intent the night of the robbery. Evidence of a mental disorder or defect not raising to the level required for an insanity instruction may be considered in determining whether a defendant had the requisite intent at the time of the offense. See *Fox v*. *State*, 73 Nev. 241, 247, 316 P.2d 924,927 (1957); *United States v. Brown*, 326 F.3d 1143, 1146 (10th Cir. 2003) (Evidence of a defendant's mental condition is admissible for the purpose of disproving specific intent).

Prior to trial, Petitioner had undergone a couple competency evaluations by Dr.

Lawrence Kapel and Dr. John Paglini. See Exhibit 7. These reports confirmed that although

Petitioner was competent to stand trial, he suffered from "bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and

ADHD." *Id.* Although Petitioner was receiving treatment and medication while in custody, at
the time of the instant offense he had been off his medications for over a year. *Id.* When off
his medications, he reported hearing voices, paranoia, and blackouts and had no memory of the
offense. *Id.* Petitioner dropped out of school in 11<sup>th</sup> grade where he had been in special
education for a "learning disability" and he received social security. *Id.* 

Petitioner's mother, Erika Loyd, gave a voluntary statement to police on August 15, 2017, and she confirmed that he has mental illnesses for which he receives social security benefits. See Exhibit 8. Specifically, she explained that Petitioner has been diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar, mild mental retardation, learning disability, and sickle cell trait. *Id.*Petitioner was prescribed and took several medications to include Adderall and Abilify but she had him stop taking them because it made him "like a zombie." *Id.* 

Petitioner's counsel did not investigate nor present any of this mental health evidence at trial as a defense to the specific intent crimes of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery, Attempt Robbery with use of a Deadly Weapon, and First Degree Murder. *Washington v. State*, 132

Nev. 655, 664, 376 P.3d 802, 809 (2016) (Conspiracy is a specific intent crime); *Johnson v. State*, 123 Nev. 139, 142, 159 P.3d 1096, 1097 (2007) (An attempt crime is a specific intent crime); *Hancock v. State*, 80 Nev. 581, 583, 397 P.2d 181, 182 (1964) (First degree murder is a specific intent crime). Had the jurors heard the evidence of Petitioner's various mental health conditions and that he had not been taking his medications at the time, there is a reasonable probability they would not have found that he possessed the mens rea necessary for the specific intent crimes charged and he would have been acquitted or convicted of lesser offenses.

## IV. <u>FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE AND RAISE PETITIONER'S MENTAL</u> HEALTH ISSUES AT SENTENCING IN MITIGATION

At sentencing on June 11, 2020, Petitioner informed the court that he had to go to the extraordinary length of personally contacting the prosecutor by letter to get a copy of his PSI because he could not get in contact with his own counsel. Transcript of Sentencing, June 11, 2020. He only received the PSI the day before sentencing. *Id.* Arguing on his behalf, counsel asked that all counts run concurrent but otherwise submitted the sentencing determination to the judge because she had heard the trial testimony and was familiar with the case. *Id.* But the prosecutor had asked for extra time on the deadly weapon enhancement and counsel failed to respond to this argument. *Id.* Counsel erred in failing to argue for a fixed term of 50 years on the murder charge as opposed to a life sentence and further erred in failing to argue for a 12-month minimum sentence on the deadly weapon enhancement. *Id.* In fact, counsel failed to present any mitigation evidence or argument at all. *Id.* As a result, and without being given any reason to reduce the sentence, the judge imposed a life term for the murder and gave the maximum possible sentence on the deadly weapon enhancement of 8 to 20 years consecutive. *Id.* 

Counsel failed to communicate with Petitioner in advance of sentencing and had no discernible plan or strategy for presenting mitigating evidence or arguments to rebut the prosecutor. Evidence of Petitioner's mental health issues including bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, paranoia and ADHD as set forth in the argument above and in Exhibits 7 and 8 are compelling mitigation evidence. Yet, the sentencing transcript is devoid of any reference to Petitioner's serious mental health conditions either from his own counsel or the judge in pronouncing the sentence. Had the judge been made aware of this evidence and had it been persuasively argued, there is a reasonable probability that she would have imposed a sentence somewhat less than the maximum allowed by law.

#### V. INEFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE OF COUNSEL ON APPEAL

The constitutional right to effective assistance of counsel extends to a direct appeal. *Burke v. State*, 110 Nev. 1366, 1368, 887 P.2d 267, 268 (1994). A claim of ineffective assistance of appellate counsel is reviewed under the "reasonably effective assistance" test set forth in *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668, 104 S.Ct. 2052 (1984). To state a claim of ineffective assistance of appellate counsel, a petitioner must demonstrate that counsel's performance was deficient in that it fell below an objective standard of reasonableness and resulting prejudice such that the omitted issue would have a reasonable probability of success on appeal. *Kirksey v. State*, 112 Nev. 980, 998, 923 P.2d 1102, 1114 (1996).

Petitioner continued to be represented by counsel Michael Sanft on direct appeal of his conviction, however counsel utterly failed to keep in touch and communicate with Petitioner about the appeal. Petitioner was so unaware of the appeal that he filed a pro se habeas petition in this case on October 29, 2020, which raised an appeal deprivation claim under the mistaken belief that no appeal had been filed. Unbeknownst to Petitioner, the appeal had been filed and

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was pending at that time. Even as late as May 22, 2022, Petitioner was still trying to contact Attorney Sanft regarding the appeal to no avail. Exhibit 9.

Pursuant to the Nevada Supreme Court Performance Standards for Indigent Defense (ADKT No. 411), Standard 3-5: Duty to Confer and Communicate With Client in preparing and processing the appeal, counsel should:

(a) assure that the client is able to contact appellate counsel telephonically during the pendency of the appeal including arrangements for the acceptance of collect telephone calls. Promptly after appointment or assignment to the appeal, counsel shall provide advice to the client, in writing, as to the method(s) which the client can employ to discuss the appeal with counsel; (b) discuss the merits, strategy, and ramifications of the proposed appeal with each client prior to the perfection and completion thereof. When possible, appellate counsel should meet in person with the client, and in all instances, counsel should provide a written summary of the merits and strategy to be employed in the appeal along with a statement of the reasons certain issues will not be raised, if any. It is the obligation of the appellate counsel to provide the client with his or her best professional judgment as to whether the appeal should be pursued in view of the possible consequences and strategic considerations; (c) inform the client of the status of the case at each step in the appellate process, explain any delays, and provide general information to the client regarding the process and procedures that will be taken in the matter, and the anticipated timeframe for such processing; (d) provide the client with a copy of each substantive document filed in the case by both the prosecution and defense; (e) respond in a timely manner to all correspondence from clients, provided that the client correspondence is of a reasonable number and at a reasonable interval; and (f) promptly and accurately inform the client of the courses of action that may be pursued as a result of any disposition of the appeal and the scope of any further representation counsel will provide.

None of this communication occurred in the present case. See also, Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 1.4 on Communication. This prevented Petitioner from having any input into the appeal process.

Additionally, although Attorney Sanft did file a direct appeal, the Opening Brief consisted of just two issues raising a *Batson* challenge and arguing lack of sufficient evidence for co-conspirator corroboration. Exhibit 4. Counsel did not file a Reply Brief. Exhibit 3.

Considering this was a direct appeal from an eight-day jury trial with a life sentence, such appellate briefing was wholly deficient and inadequate.

Appellate counsel briefly cited the law on sufficiency of the evidence but failed to articulate for the appellate court the facts and circumstances which raise a reasonable doubt about Petitioner's guilt. Exhibit 4. Although a .22 caliber firearm was found in Petitioner's possession which was similar to one discharged during the murder, this was a week after the crime and the State had no evidence that the firearm was not acquired or had come into Petitioner's possession sometime after the murder. The rifling on the .22 bullet was at best only similar to the rifling characteristics of the firearm found in Petitioner's apartment. Also, that particular firearm bore DNA not just from Petitioner, but from some other unidentified person who could have committed the murder. That unknown DNA was found on the clip of the gun itself. DNA from the clip is more probative of someone who loaded a firearm with the intention to use it, as opposed to DNA on the outside of the firearm which simply indicates Petitioner had touched the gun at some point. Even if Petitioner was present at the convenience store before the robbery, such is not suspicious as he actually lived nearby and it does not indicate that he subsequently must have travelled with the others to the nearby murder scene. The only independent eyewitness, jogger Robert Mason, could not identify Petitioner as being present.

Also, counsel should have raised a fair-cross section argument on appeal as this had been the subject of an objection and testimony from the jury commissioner at the beginning of the trial and the district court judge had denied the motion. There were only two African Americans on the sixty member jury venire which constituted an under-representation of African Americans and denied Robertson a fair trial by a jury composed of a representative fair

cross-section of the community. Trial Transcript, Day 2, p. 2-51. Co-defendant Wheeler's counsel made a motion to strike the venire and Attorney Sanft on behalf of Robertson joined the motion but offered no other argument or support. *Id.* pp. 4, 51. The district court judge found there was an absolute disparity of 7% and a comparative disparity of 58%. *Id.* p. 15. After testimony by the jury commissioner, the judge denied the motion for failing to show that underrepresentation was due to systematic exclusion. *Id.*, p. 51.

In *Morgan v. State*, 416 P.3d 212, 221 (Nev. 2018), the Court set forth a three-prong test that trial courts must follow in order to address the question of whether the venire is a representative cross section of the community: (1) that the group alleged to be excluded is a "distinctive" group in the community; (2) that the representation of this group in venires from which juries are selected is not fair and reasonable in relation to the number of such persons in the community; and (3) that this under representation is due to the systematic exclusion of the group in the jury selection process. *Id.*, *citing Williams v. State*, 121 Nev. 934, 939, 125 P.3d 627, 631 (2005). In *Valentine*, the Court found that the "random selection" practice of sending an equal number of jury summonses to each postal zip code without ascertaining the percentage of the population in each zip code which constituted a distinctive group, could establish a prima facie case of systematic exclusion of that group. *Valentine v. State*, 135 Nev. 463, 466, 454 P.3d 709 (2019).

Finally, appellate counsel also should have raised on appeal admission of the text message about "hitting a house" which implicated other bad acts for which Petitioner had not been charged. See Issue 1 above. Had counsel raised all the issues above, there is a reasonable probability that one or more of them would have been successful on appeal resulting in a different coutcome.

### **CONCLUSION** Wherefore, Robertson respectfully requests this Court find that counsel was ineffective at trial and on appeal and grant his Petition for post-conviction relief by vacating his judgment of conviction. Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022. Respectfully Submitted, /s/ Steven S. Owens, Esq. STEVEN S. OWENS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 4352 1000 N. Green Valley #440-529 Henderson, Nevada 89074 (702) 595-1171 Attorney for Petitioner **RAEKWON ROBERTSON**

1	<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>			
2	I hereby certify that on the 19th day of August, 2022, I served a true and correct copy of			
3	the foregoing document entitled SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PETITION			
4	FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS (POST-CONVICTION) to the Clark County District			
5	Attorney's Office by sending a copy via electronic mail to:			
6				
7 8	CLARK COLINTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE			
9	CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  Steve Wolfson			
10	Motions@clarkcountyda.com			
11	1. Tottons (contributing daily			
12	BY:			
13				
14	<u>/s/ Steven S. Owens, Esq.</u> STEVEN S. OWENS, ESQ.			
15	Nevada Bar No. 4352 1000 N. Green Valley #440-529			
16	Henderson, Nevada 89074 (702) 595-1171			
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18	Attorney for Petitioner RAEKWON ROBERTSON			
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# Exhibit 1

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**DISTRICT COURT** 

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

-VS-

DAVONTAE AMARRI WHEELER #5909081

Defendant.

CASE NO. C-17-328587-3

DEPT. NO. XII

## JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION (JURY TRIAL)

The Defendant previously entered a plea of not guilty to the crimes of COUNT 1 – CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 199.480; COUNT 2 – ATTEMPT ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 193.330, 193.165; and COUNT 3 – MURDER WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (Category A Felony) in violation of NRS 200.010, 200.030, 193.165; and the matter having been tried before a jury and the Defendant having been found guilty of the crimes of COUNT 1 – CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 199.480; and COUNT 3 – SECOND DEGREE MURDER (Category A Felony) in violation of NRS 200.010, 200.030, 193.165; thereafter, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of

June, 2020, the Defendant was present in court for sentencing with counsel JAMES J. RUGGEROLI, ESQ., and good cause appearing,

THE DEFENDANT IS HEREBY ADJUDGED guilty of said offenses and, in addition to the \$25.00 Administrative Assessment Fee, \$8,729.53 Restitution to be paid Jointly and Severally with Co-Defendant, and \$150.00 DNA Analysis Fee including testing to determine genetic markers plus \$3.00 DNA Collection Fee, the Defendant is sentenced to the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDC) as follows:

COUNT 1 - a MAXIMUM of SEVENTY-TWO (72) MONTHS with a MINIMUM parole eligibility of TWENTY-FOUR (24) MONTHS; and COUNT 3 - LIFE with a MINIMUM parole eligibility of TEN (10) YEARS, CONSECUTIVE to COUNT 1; with ONE THOUSAND THIRTY-TWO (1,032) DAYS credit for time served. Defendant found NOT GUILTY as to COUNT 2. The AGGREGATE TOTAL sentence is LIFE with a MINIMUM of ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FOUR (144) MONTHS.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2020.

Dated this Oth Bay willing 20:20

B78 AFB 2F45 3REE Michelin Leavitt

MICHELLE LEAVITT
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

# Exhibit 2

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DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

-VS-

CASE NO. C-17-328587-1

DEPT. NO. XII

DEMARIO LOFTON-ROBINSON aka Demario Loftonrobinson #5318925

Defendant.

## JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION (PLEA OF GUILTY)

The Defendant previously appeared before the Court with counsel and entered a plea of guilty to the crime of: COUNT 1 – MURDER (SECOND DEGREE) WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (Category A Felony) in violation of NRS 200.010, 200.030.2, 193.165; and COUNT 2 – ATTEMPT ROBBERY (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 193.330 thereafter, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022, the Defendant was present in court for sentencing with counsel TODD M. LEVENTHAL, ESQ., and good cause appearing,

THE DEFENDANT IS HEREBY ADJUDGED guilty of said offenses and, in addition to the \$25.00 Administrative Assessment Fee and \$150.00 DNA Analysis Fee including testing to determine genetic markers plus \$3.00 DNA Collection Fee, the Defendant is sentenced to

the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDC) as follows: COUNT 1 – a MAXIMUM of TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS with a MINIMUM parole eligibility of TEN (10) YEARS plus a CONSECUTIVE term of TWENTY (20) YEARS with a MINIMUM parole eligibility of EIGHT (8) YEARS for the Use of a Deadly Weapon; and COUNT 2 – a MAXIMUM of TEN (10) YEARS with a MINIMUM Parole Eligibility of FOUR (4) YEARS, CONCURRENT with COUNT 1; with ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-SIX (1,746) DAYS credit for time served. The AGGREGATE TOTAL sentence is FORTY-FIVE (45) YEARS MAXIMUM with a MINIMUM of EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS.

Dated this 19th day of May, 2022

Michiel Johnst

hvp

FDA CA2 6865 2316 Michelle Leavitt District Court Judge

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# Exhibit 3

#### Nevada Appellate Courts

#### Appellate Case Management System

C-Track, the browser based CMS for Appellate Courts

Find Case...

#### Cases

Case Search

Participant Search

Disclaimer: The information and documents available here should not be relied upon as an official record of action.

Only filed documents can be viewed. Some documents received in a case may not be available for viewing.

Some documents originating from a lower court, including records and appendices, may not be available for viewing.

For official records, please contact the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Nevada at (775) 684-1600.

Case Information: 81400

Short Caption: ROBERTSON (RAEKWON) VS. STATE Court: Supreme Court

Related Case(s): 76954, 78442, 81374, 81374-COA, 83547,

84792

Lower Court Clark Co. - Eighth Judicial District - C328587

Classification: Criminal Appeal - Life - Direct

Disqualifications:

Case(s):

Case Status: Remittitur Issued/Case Closed

Replacement:

Panel Assigned: Panel

To SP/Judge:

SP Status:

**Oral Argument:** 

Oral Argument Location:

**Submission Date:** 

How Submitted:

#### + Party Information

Docket Entries						
Date	Туре	Description	Pending?	Document		
06/30/2020	Filing Fee	Appeal Filing Fee Waived. Criminal. (SC)				
06/30/2020	Notice of Appeal Documents	Filed Notice of Appeal. Appeal docketed in the Supreme Court this day. (Docketing statement mailed to counsel for appellant.) (SC)		20-24126		
07/01/2020	Docketing Statement	Filed Docketing Statement. (SC)		20-24394		
07/01/2020	Transcript Request	Filed Request for Transcript of Proceedings (REJECTED PER 7/1/20 NOTICE). (SC)				
07/01/2020	Notice/Outgoing	Issued Notice of Deficient Transcript Request. (SC)		20 <sub>ri</sub> 244411 <sub>rn</sub>		

07/02/2020	Transcript Request	Filed Request for Transcript of Proceedings. Transcripts requested: 2/11/20, 2/12/20, 2/13/20, 2/14/20, 2/18/20, 2/19/20, 2/20/20, 2/24/20, 6/5/20, and 6/11/20. To Court Reporter: Sarah Richardson. (SC)	20-24538
08/11/2020	Transcript	Filed Notice from Court Reporter. Sara Richardson stating that the requested transcripts were delivered. Dates of transcripts: 2/11/20, 2/12/20, 2/13/20, 2/14/20, 2/18/20, 2/19/20, 2/20/20, 2/24/20, 06/11/20. (SC).	20-29641
10/21/2020	Order/Clerk's	Filed Order Granting Extension Per Telephonic Request. Appellant's Opening Brief and Appendix due: November 12, 2020. (SC).	20-38633
11/12/2020	Appendix	Filed Appellant's Appendix to Opening Brief. Vols. 1-7. (SC)	20-41426
11/12/2020	Brief	Filed Appellant's Opening Brief. (SC)	20-41429
11/12/2020	Brief	Filed Appellant's Corrected Opening Brief. (SC)	20-41430
12/09/2020	Brief	Filed Respondent's Answering Brief. (SC)	20-44750
01/25/2021	Case Status Update	Briefing Completed/To Screening/No Reply Brief Filed. (SC)	
04/29/2021	Order/Procedural	Filed Notice of Voluntary Disclosure. I (Justice Douglas Herndon) have no bias or prejudices as to any of the parties or issues in the litigation and do not believe that my impartiality could reasonably be questioned. However, I make this disclosure so that any person who wishes to request my disqualification may do so by filing a motion pursuant to NRAP 35. Any recusal request should be made in writing within seven (7) days of the filing date of this Voluntary Disclosure.	21-12350
05/14/2021	Order/Dispositional	Filed Order of Affirmance. "ORDER the judgment of conviction AFFIRMED." SNP21-RP/LS/AS (SC)	21-13945
06/08/2021	Remittitur	Issued Remittitur. (SC)	21-16344
06/08/2021	Case Status Update	Remittitur Issued/Case Closed. (SC)	
06/18/2021	Remittitur	Filed Remittitur. Received by District Court Clerk on June 9, 2021. (SC)	21-16344

#### Combined Case View

# Exhibit 4

#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

RAEKWON ROBERTSON,

Appellant,

VS.

Electronically Filed Nov 12 2020 05:43 p.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Respondent.

**Docket No. 81400** 

Direct Appeal From A Judgment of Conviction Eighth Judicial District Court The Honorable Michelle Leavitt, District Judge District Court No. C-17-328587-1

#### APPELLANT'S OPENING BRIEF

Michael Sanft (8245) SANFT LAW 411 East Bonneville Avenue, Suite 330 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 (702) 497-8008

Attorney for Appellant Raekwon Robertson

#### **NRAP 26.1 DISCLOSURE**

The undersigned counsel of record certifies that the following are persons and entities as described in NRAP 26.1(a) and must be disclosed pursuant to that rule. These representations are made so that the justices of this Court may evaluate any potential conflicts warranting disqualification or recusal.

- 1. Attorney of Record for Appellant:
  - a. Michael W. Sanft, Esq.
- 2. Publicly-held Companies Associated:
  - a. N/A
- 3. Law Firm(s) Appearing in the Court(s) Below:
  - a. Clark County District Attorney
  - b. Sanft Law, P.C.
  - c. Mace J. Yomplosky Esq.
  - d. James J. Ruggeroli Esq.

DATED this 21st day of October, 2020.

/s/ Michael Sanft
Michael Sanft, Esq. (8245)
SANFT LAW
411 East Bonneville Avenue, Suite 330
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
(702) 497-8008
Attorney for Appellant Raekwon Robertson

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#### JURISDICTIONAL STATEMENT

This is an appeal from a judgment of conviction after a jury trial finding Appellant Raekwon Robertson ("Robertson") guilty of 3 felony counts. (7 Apellant's Apendix "AA" 001632-AA001633). The Judgment of Conviction was filed on June 17, 2020. (7 AA001668-AA001670). The Notice of Appeal was filed on June 24, 2020. (7 AA001672). This Court has jurisdiction over this appeal under NRS 177.015 which provides for the right to appeal a final judgment in a criminal case.

#### **ROUTING STATEMENT**

This appeal is presumptively assigned to the Supreme Court because it relates to convictions for Category A and B felonies. NRAP(b)(1).

#### STATEMENT OF THE ISSUES PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

The State presented an impeached witness to connect unpersuasive evidence that when heard on its own could not have resulted in a guilty verdict.

As well, the District Court decided in error to deny Defendant's Batson challenge when the State excused the only remaining African-American venire-member.

#### STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Robertson began an eight day trial on February 11, 2020. (1 AA000142). The same day the State filed an Amended Superseding Indictment containing one count of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery, one count of Attempted Robbery with use of a Deadly Weapon, and one count of Murder with use of a Deadly Weapon. (1 AA000138).

After deliberation, the jury returned with guilty verdicts on all three counts. (7 AA001632-AA001633). On March 12, 2020 Robertson signed a Guilty Plea Agreement to one count of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery and one count of Robbery with a Deadly Weapon. (7 AA001645-AA001653). Robertson was sentenced on June 11, 2020 to 28 years to life. (7 AA001654-AA001667).

This Opening Brief now follows.

#### STATEMENT OF THE FACTS

The State presented the following evidence at trial. On August 8th, 2017 and into the morning of the August 9th, 2017 Raekwon Robertson, Demario Lofton-Robinson, Davonte Wheeler, and Deshawn Robinson carried out an armed robbery they planned that morning. (5 AA001011-AA001012).

They arrived in the neighborhood of Dewey Avenue and Lindell Avenue just before midnight where they and their car, a white Mercury Grand Marquis, were observed by a passing jogger, Robert Mason. (3 AA00686-AA000690). Shortly after, they saw Gabrielle Valenzuela pull into his driveway and check his mail. (5 AA001034-AA001035).

The four men quickly approached him, grabbed him, and told him to give them everything he had. (5 AA001034-AA001035). Within a couple of seconds Valenzuela lay dying in his driveway, shot in his head and torso. (5 AA001053). The four men fled the scene without taking any of Valenzuela's property. (5 AA001036).

The State used accomplice DeShawn Robinson to validate the facts of the events. (5 AA001048). Robinson agreed to this only after the State offered to remove the charge of Murder with use of a Deadly Weapon in exchange for his testimony against Robertson and Wheeler. (5 AA001048).

#### SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENT

A Motion to Strike the jury venire due to the systemic exclusion of a protected group was presented by Defendant and subsequently denied. The State then used a peremptory challenge to excuse the only remaining African-American venire-member. A second *Batson* challenge, raised on the grounds Juror 468 was excused because she is African-American, was

also denied. The State then presented an accomplice to this crime, Deshawn Robinson, to corroborate unconvincing evidence that on its own would not render a guilty verdict. Robinson had previously lied to investigators about what occurred that day, only deciding to enter an Alford plea after the State offered to remove the charge of Murder with use of a Deadly Weapon. (5 AA001060-AA001072).

#### ARGUMENT ON THE ISSUES

I. The District Court erred by denying Defendant's Batson challenge after the State utilized a peremptory challenge for a discriminatory purpose.

When the District Court denied Defendant's *Batson* challenge, subsequent the State's peremptory strike removing Juror 468, the only remaining African American venire-member, it denied Robertson the right to a fair and impartial jury. "Exclusion of black citizens from service as jurors constitutes a primary example of the evil the Fourteenth Amendment was designed to cure." *Batson v. Kentucky*, 476 U.S. 79, 85 (1986).

Even though the District Court did not believe Defendant met the first prong of *Batson* it accepted the State's race-neutral explanation, "I'm never picking a criminal defense attorney, no matter what color, no matter what ethnicity, no matter what sex, no matter what gender, on my jury." (AA000614). In *McCarty v. State*, 371 P.3d 1002, 132 Nev. Adv. Op.

20 (Nev. 2016), the Nevada Supreme Court found the State of Nevada's race-neutral explanation pretextual when it stated, "It has nothing to do with race, but the State of Nevada's not going to leave somebody who works at a strip club on their panel."

After the State offered its race-neutral reason for its strike, the District Court denied the challenge without discussion for its reasoning. (AA000618). However, as the Nevada Supreme Court has stated, "At the third step, especially, an adequate discussion of the district court's reasoning may be critical to our ability to assess the District Court's resolution of any conflict in the evidence regarding pretext." *Kaczmarek v. State*, 120 Nev. 314, 334 (Nev. 2004).

During voir dire Juror 468 indicated she was enrolled at UNLV as a Criminal Justice major. The State then asked eight follow up questions where it learned that she wanted to become a Criminal Defense attorney. The State used this as their reason to strike the juror, however, simply stating that she aspires to become a criminal defense attorney is not indicia she could not be impartial. Juror 468 was asked three times if she would be fair and impartial and each time she answered in the affirmative. (AAOOO223, AAOOO388, AAOOO570).

Alternatively, Juror 462, who is not African-American, was only asked one follow up question when she stated she was enrolled at CSN to become a Medical Lab Scientist, a career field that would potentially include official investigatory roles. On the single follow up question by the State, Juror 462 indicated that she wanted to work with blood as she already had some experience with it. (AA000384). The State should have followed up in a similar manner they did with Juror 468. "Disparate questioning by prosecutors of struck veniremembers and those veniremembers of another race or ethnicity is evidence of purposeful discrimination." *McCarty v. State*, 371 P.3d 1002, 1010 (Nev. 2016).

### II. The State presented an unreliable witness to corroborate evidence that on its own could not have resulted in a guilty verdict.

When the jury returned with its guilty verdict, it did so using the testimony of a witness who admitted to lying to police and investigators about what transpired starting the morning of August 8th, 2017 into August 9th, 2017. Robinson only changed his story to investigators when the State offered to remove the charge of Murder with use of a Deadly Weapon. (5 AA001060-AA001072).

Jury Instruction number 9 states in pertinent part, "The credibility or believability of a witness should be determined by his manner upon the stand, his relationship to the parties, his fears, motives, interests or feelings..." (7 AA001597).

Knowing that Robinson must testify to the State's facts he had every motivation to deceive the jury during his testimony in order to protect his well being and future interest.

Jury instruction number 11 states in pertinent part:

"Evidence to corroborate accomplice testimony does not suffice if it merely casts grave suspicion on the defendant... If there is not sufficient independent evidence which tends to connect the defendant with the commission of the offense the testimony of the accomplice is not corroborated." (7 AA001599).

Evidence to support a finding of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt without corroboration of accomplice testimony is insufficient in this instant case.

A defendant in a criminal action is entitled to due process of law as guaranteed by the Fifth and Fourth Amendments to the United States Constitution. The Constitution prevents the criminal conviction of any person except upon proof of reasonable doubt. *In re Winship*, 397 U.S. 358, 364 (1970); *Edwards v. State*, 90 Nev. 255, 258-59, 525 P. 2d 328. 331 (1974). In reviewing a sufficiency of the evidence claim, a court must determine whether, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, any rational trier of fact could find the essential elements of

the crime beyond a reasonable doubt. *Jackson v. Virginia*, 443 U.S. 307, 319 (1979). This Court reviews insufficiency of evidence claims to determine, "[w]hether the jury, acting reasonably, could have been convinced by the competent evidence of the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt." *Wilkins v. State*, 96 Nev. 367, 374, 609 P. 2d 309 (1980). A verdict will be upheld only if supported by "substantial evidence." *Cunningham v. State*, 94 Nev. 128, 130, 575 P.2d 936, 937 (1978).

#### CONCLUSION

Robertson submits for the reasons and argument stated herein, his judgment of conviction be reversed and this case be remanded to the District Court.

DATED this 21st of October, 2020.

/s/ Michael Sanft

Michael Sanft, Esq. (8245) SANFT LAW 411 East Bonneville Avenue, Suite 330 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 (702) 497-8008

Attorney for Appellant Raekwon Robertson

#### CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

- 1. I hereby certify this brief does comply with the formatting requirements of NRAP 32(a)(4).
- 2. I certify that this brief does comply with the typeface requirements of NRAP 32(a)(5) and the type style requirements of NRAP 32(a)(6) because this brief has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using

Microsoft Word in 14 point font of the Times New Roman style.

- 3. I certify that this brief does comply with the word limitation requirement of NRAP 32(a)(7)(A)(ii). The relevant portions of the brief are 2,300 words.
- 4. Finally, I hereby certify that I have read this appellate brief, and to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, it is not frivolous or interposed for any improper purpose. I further certify that this brief complies with all applicable Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure, in particular, NRAP 28(e)(1), which requires every assertion in the brief regarding matters in the record to be supported by a reference to the page of the transcript or appendix where the matter relied on is to be found. I understand that I may be subject to sanction in the event that the

accompanying brief is not in conformity with the requirements of the Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure.

DATED this 21st day of October, 2020.

Michael Sanft, Esq. (8245) SANFT LAW 411 East Bonneville Avenue, Suite 330 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 (702) 497-8008 Attorney for Appellant Raekwon Robertson

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned does hereby certify that on the 21st day of October, 2020, a copy of the foregoing Appellant's Opening Brief was served by electronic filing as follows:

District Attorney's Office 200 Lewis Ave., 3rd Floor Las Vegas, NV 89155

Nevada Attorney General 100 N. Carson St. Carson City NV 89701

DATED this 21st day of October, 2020.

/s/ Michael Sanft

Michael Sanft, Esq. (8245)
SANFT LAW
411 East Bonneville Avenue, Suite 330
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
(702) 497-8008
Attorney for Appellant Raekwon Robertson

/s/ Michael Sanft

## Exhibit 5

#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, Appellant, vs. THE STATE OF NEVADA, Respondent. Supreme Court No. 81400 District Court Case No. C328587

FILED

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Atom A Shines

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATE** 

STATE OF NEVADA, ss.

I, Elizabeth A. Brown, the duly appointed and qualified Clerk of the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada, do hereby certify that the following is a full, true and correct copy of the Judgment in this matter.

#### **JUDGMENT**

The court being fully advised in the premises and the law, it is now ordered, adjudged and decreed, as follows:

"ORDER the judgment of conviction AFFIRMED."

Judgment, as quoted above, entered this 28 day of April, 2021.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my name and affixed the seal of the Supreme Court at my Office in Carson City, Nevada this June 08, 2021.

Elizabeth A. Brown, Supreme Court Clerk

By: Kaitlin Meetze
Administrative Assistant

C – 17 – 328587 – 2 CCJA NV Supreme Court Clerks Certificate/Judgn 4957199

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#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, Appellant, vs. THE STATE OF NEVADA, Respondent. No. 81400

FILED

MAY 1 4 2021

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT

BY S YOUNG

#### ORDER OF AFFIRMANCE

This is an appeal from a judgment of conviction, pursuant to a jury verdict, of conspiracy to commit robbery, attempted robbery with the use of a deadly weapon, and murder with the use of a deadly weapon; and pursuant to a guilty plea, of conspiracy to commit robbery and robbery with the use of a deadly weapon. Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County; Michelle Leavitt, Judge,

Appellant first argues that insufficient evidence supports the jury's verdict. When reviewing a challenge to the sufficiency of the evidence supporting a criminal conviction, this court considers "whether, after viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt." McNair v. State, 108 Nev. 53, 56, 825 P.2d 571, 573 (1992) (quoting Jackson v. Virginia, 443 U.S. 307, 319 (1979)). We conclude that sufficient evidence supported the convictions. One of the three accomplices testified that appellant, who was carrying a gun, participated in the attempted robbery and murder. The State also presented a text message appellant sent to another accomplice on the day

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Pursuant to NRAP 34(f)(1), we have determined that oral argument is not warranted in this appeal.

of the incident asking if he wanted to "hit a house," surveillance video showing appellant in a car identified by a witness as being in the immediate vicinity of the crime scene at the time the crimes occurred, evidence of appellant's fingerprints on that car, and a gun found at appellant's house that had appellant's DNA on it and contained bullets that matched casings found at the crime scene. See NRS 193.165; NRS 193.330; NRS 199.480; NRS 200.010; NRS 200.030; NRS 200.380. Based on this evidence, we reject appellant's assertion that the accomplice's testimony was not sufficiently corroborated. See NRS 175.291(1) ("A conviction shall not be had on the testimony of an accomplice unless the accomplice is corroborated by other evidence which in itself, and without the aid of the testimony of the accomplice, tends to connect the defendant with the commission of the offense . . . "); Heglemeier v. State, 111 Nev. 1244, 1250, 903 P.2d 799, 803 (1995) (providing that corroborating evidence is that which "independently connect[s] the defendant with the offense," and may be direct or circumstantial).

Appellant next argues that the State exercised a peremptory challenge in violation of Batson v. Kentucky, 476 U.S. 79 (1986). When considering a Batson challenge, the district court must engage in a three-step inquiry. McCarty v. State, 132 Nev. 218, 226, 371 P.3d 1002, 1007 (2016). First, the challenge's opponent "must make out a prima facie case of discrimination." McCarty, 132 Nev. at 226, 371 P.3d at 1007 (quoting Ford v. State, 122 Nev. 398, 403, 132 P.3d 574, 577 (2006)). Second, the challenge's proponent must provide a non-discriminatory rationale for the challenge. Id. Third, after evaluating the proponent's neutral explanation, the district court must determine if the challenge's opponent proved purposeful discrimination. Id. The first step is most where the proponent

SUPREME COURT OF MEVADA provides its race-neutral reason before the district court determines if the opponent made a prima facie case of discrimination. See Williams v. State, 134 Nev. 687, 691-92, 429 P.3d 301, 306-07 (2018).

Here, the State gave its race neutral reason, and the district. court then concluded that appellant failed to make a prima facie case of discrimination and that the Batson challenge therefore failed at the first step. We agree with appellant that the district court erred by resolving the Botson challenge on the first step, as that step became most when the State gave its race-neutral reason before the district court addressed the first step. Reversal is not warranted, however. The State offered a proper raceneutral basis for the peremptory challenge: the prospective jury was a criminal justice major and stated she intended to pursue a career as a criminal defense attorney, and the State explained that it would never pick an aspiring criminal defense attorney to sit on a jury. And we discern no disparate questioning or other evidence of purposeful discrimination, and appellant does not demonstrate any on appeal.2 See Purkett v. Elem, 514 U.S. 765, 768 (1995) (holding that "the ultimate burden of persuasion regarding racial motivation rests with, and never shifts from, the opponent of the strike"); McCarty, 132 Nev. at 227-28, 371 P.3d at 1008 (recognizing that disparate treatment of potential jurors can support a finding of purposeful discrimination under Batson). Accordingly, we believe that the record reflects that the district court ultimately reached the right result by denying appellant's Batson claim. See Cooper v. State, 134 Nev. 860, 864. 432 P.3d 202, 206 (2018) (insinuating that this court can address "steps two

The only prospective juror appellant points to as a comparison for disparate questioning was pursuing a degree in the medical field, not a criminal justice degree.



and three [of Batson] for the first time on appeal" where the record includes the State's race-neutral basis for the challenged strike); Hawkins v. State, 127 Nev. 575, 578-79, 256 P.3d 965, 967-68 (2011) (addressing steps two and three of Batson despite the district court's failure to state its reasoning on step three because the State's neutral explanation "did not reflect an inherent intent to discriminate" and the defendant failed to show purposeful discrimination); Kaczmarek v. State, 120 Nev. 314, 334-35, 91 P.3d 16, 30 (2004) (addressing Batson steps two and three even though the district court did not adequately state its reasons where the record included the State's race-neutral explanation and did not show any discriminatory motives).

Based on the foregoing, we ORDER the judgment of conviction AFFIRMED.

Parraguirre

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Silver

cc: Hon. Michelle Leavitt, District Judge Mayfield, Gruber & Sanft/Las Vegas Attorney General/Carson City Clark County District Attorney Eighth District Court Clerk

SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

#### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON, Appellant, vs. THE STATE OF NEVADA, Respondent. Supreme Court No. 81400 District Court Case No. C328587

#### REMITTITUR

TO: Steven D. Grierson, Eighth District Court Clerk

Pursuant to the rules of this court, enclosed are the following:

Certified copy of Judgment and Opinion/Order. Receipt for Remittitur.

DATE: June 08, 2021

Elizabeth A. Brown, Clerk of Court

By: Kaitlin Meetze
Administrative Assistant

cc (without enclosures):

Hon. Michelle Leavitt, District Judge
Mayfield, Gruber & Sanft/Las Vegas \ Michael W. Sanft
Clark County District Attorney \ Alexander G. Chen, Chief Deputy District
Attorney

#### RECEIPT FOR REMITTITUR

Received of Elizabeth A. Brown, Clerk of the S REMITTITUR issued in the above-entitled cause	
•	HEATHER UNGERMANN
Deputy	District Court Clerk

**RECEIVED**APPEALS
JUN - 9 2021

21-16344

## Exhibit 6



DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

-VS-

CASE NO. C-18-335287-1 DEPT. NO. XII

DESHAWN ROBINSON, #8241769

Defendant.

JUDGMENT OF CONVICTION

(PLEA OF GUILTY)

The Defendant previously appeared before the Court with counsel and entered a plea of guilty pursuant to North Carolina v. Alford, 400 U.S. 25 (1970), to the crimes of COUNT 1 – CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ROBBERY (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 199.480, and COUNT 2 – ATTEMPT ROBBERY WITH USE OF A DEADLY WEAPON (Category B Felony) in violation of NRS 200.380, 193.330, 193.165; thereafter, on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2022, the Defendant was present in court for sentencing with his counsel, JD EVANS, Esq., and good cause appearing,

THE DEFENDANT IS HEREBY ADJUDGED guilty of said offenses and, in addition to the \$25.00 Administrative Assessment fee, \$150.00 DNA Analysis fee, including testing to determine genetic markers, and \$3.00 DNA Collection fee, the Defendant is sentenced on COUNT 1 - to a MINIMUM of TWENTY-EIGHT (28) MONTHS and a MAXIMUM of SEVENTY-TWO (72) MONTHS, and on COUNT 2 - to a MINIMUM of TWO (2) YEARS and a MAXIMUM of FIVE (5) YEARS plus a CONSECUTIVE term of a MINIMUM of ONE (1) YEAR and a MAXIMUM of THREE (3) YEARS for use of a deadly weapon in the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDC), COUNT 2 CONCURRENT WITH COUNT 1, for an AGGREGATE SENTENCE

of a MINIMUM PAROLE ELIGIBILITY after THREE (3) YEARS and a MAXIMUM of EIGHT (8) YEARS, SUSPENDED; placed on PROBATION for an indeterminate period not to exceed ONE (1) YEAR. SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

- Obtain a High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) during the term of probation;
- Obtain and maintain full time employment;
- 3. No possession, control or consumption of alcohol and marijuana during the term of probation.

COURT ADDITIONALLY ORDERED GENERAL PROBATION CONDITIONS IMPOSED as follows:

Reporting: You are to report in person to the Division of Parole and Probation as instructed by the Division or its agent. You are required to submit a written report each month on forms supplied by the Division. This report shall be true and correct in all respects.

Residence: You shall not change your place of residence without first obtaining permission from the Division of Parole and Probation, in each instance.

Intoxicants: You shall not consume any alcoholic beverages whatsoever. Upon order of the Division of Parole and Probation or its agent, you shall submit to a medically recognized test for blood / breath alcohol content. Test results of .08 blood alcohol content or higher shall be sufficient proof of excess.

Controlled Substances: You shall not use, purchase, or possess any illegal drugs, or any prescription drugs, unless first prescribed by a licensed medical professional. You shall immediately notify the Division of Parole and Probation of any prescription received. You shall submit to drug testing as required by the Division or its agent.

Weapons: You shall not possess, have access to, or have under your control any type of weapon.

Search: You shall submit your person, property, place of residence, vehicle, or areas under your control, including any electronic devices such as phones and/or computers

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/ tablets, to search including electronic surveillance or monitoring of your location, at any time, with or without a search warrant or warrant of arrest, for evidence of a crime or violation of probation by the Division of Parole and Probation or its agent.

Associates: You must have prior approval by the Division of Parole and Probation to associate with any person convicted of a felony, or any person on probation or parole supervision or any gang members. You shall not have any contact with persons confined to a correctional institution unless specific written permission has been granted by the Division and the correctional institution.

Directives and Conduct: You shall follow the directives of the Division of Parole and Probation and your conduct shall justify the opportunity granted to you by this community supervision.

Laws: You shall comply with all municipal, county, state, and federal laws and ordinances.

Out of State Travel: You shall not leave the state without first obtaining written permission from the Division of Parole and Probation.

Employment/Program: You shall seek and maintain legal employment, or maintain a program approved by the Division of Parole and Probation and not change such employment or program without first obtaining permission. All terminations of employment or program shall be immediately reported to the Division.

Financial Obligation: You shall pay fees, fines, and restitution on a schedule approved by the Division of Parole and Probation. Any excess monies paid will be applied to any other outstanding fees, fines, and / or restitution, even if it is discovered after your discharge.

Dated this 5th day of July, 2022

2D8 F55 66CB 4FDA Michelle Leavitt

while

**District Court Judge** 

## Exhibit 7

2 1		
STATE OF NEVADA -v -	CLARK COUNTY	JUSTICE COURT CASE NO: DEPT:
RAEKWON SETREY ROBERTSON	LAS VECAS URTS	17F14369B JC Department 3
ID NO: 8252804	LAS VEGAS JUSTICE COURT FILED IN OPEN COURT	DISTRICT COURT CASE NO:
Interpreter Required	NOV 1 6, 2017.	CSASUYO TRACK DEPT.
REOUES'	, ~ '7W9,	ADETENCY
REQUES	FOR EVALUATION(S) FOR COM	MEIENCI
I, Jason R. Margalis above named defendant be evaluated for comp	, on behalf of ROBERTSO etency based on the following:	<del></del>
The defendant DOES NOT:		
appear to understand the charges or allegat	tion U understand the rar	ige and nature of the penalties
understand the adversarial nature of the legal process   display appropriate courtroom behavior		
appear to disclose to defense attorney pert	inent facts 🛮 🗹 demonstrate abilit	y to provide relevant testimony
do you believe the defendant currently suf	1	f punishment:
☐ TBI ☐ Dementia ☐	Alzheimer's	
li i ( a =1=3	ر مر م	Jason e macelow.com
	turn R 4M (702) 385-9777  Leture of Person Requesting Evaluation Contact Number & Email	
	ore the Court at a hearing where the De	
THE COURT FINDS AND ORD proceedings are suspended until the question o	ERS that doubt has arisen as to the conf competence is determined.	mpetence of the Defendant and that the
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the defendant having been charged with a	t pursuant to N.R.S.178.415 the approp	oriate evaluation(s) will be conducted;
☐ MISDEMEANOR ☐ GROSS MISDEMEANOR / FELONY competency hearing to be set at 9:00 A.M. in  District Court Department 9 on the ☐ 12/8		
FURTHERMORE, IT IS ORDE	RED the following records be made av	ailable to the Specialty Court Division
of the Clark County Courts: 1) Any and all jail medical records and incident reports. 2) Any arrecords and discovery.		
ADDITIONALLY, it is ordered the attorney and/or attorney's staff with any and all including but not limited to physician and nurs about the defendant's condition including but not attorney to the defendant including th	l medical/psychiatric records of the def ing records. Lastly, they shall speak wi	th the referring attorney and/or their staff
IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that no later than 5:00 PM on the third judicial o		bmitted to the Specialty Courts Division
DATED this Mor	day of NOV , 20	0 17
<del></del>	A Solin	17F14389B RFEC
	JUDGE	Request for Evaluation for Competency 8749266
•	•	

#### COMPETENCY EVALUATION - COVER SHEET

**EXICOMPETENT** INOT COMPETENT CASE NO : 17 F 14369R DEFENDANTNAME: ROCKWON Roberts LENGTH OF EVALUATION: 47 MINUTES EVALUATION DATE: 11-2517 11-98-17 REPORT DATE: INFORMED CONSENT: [X] YES [ ] NO SUMMARY OF RESULTS PERTAINING TO DUSKY V2. UNITED STATES Is there existential impairment or gross deficit in the following areas: YES NO Capacity to enderstand the nature of the eniminal charges. Capacity to understand the nature and purpose of court proceedings. 3. Capacity to aid and assist coursel in the defense. **DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSIONS:** Aris I Axis II 4050churty Axis III Axis [V Axis V PSYCHIATRIC HISTORY: YES NÔ Currently taking medication for markel illness: [بر] If yes, specify: Prior mental bealth treatment Prior bespitalizations: If yes, dates entialeration: MALINGENING: BEVIEW OF RECORDS - COLLATERAL INFORMATION Is there a substantial degree of weakness in the by | Discovery [X] Jail Medical Records interview, response style, or testing data that suggests a malingered disorder is present? [ ] Jail Disciplinary Records [ ] Mental Health Records [ ] YES [X] NO [ ] NOT EVLED OUT [ ] Diker Submitted by: Lowrence Kape

AA 1699

#### LAWRENCE KAPEL, Ph.D.

1090 Wigwam Pkwy #100 Henderson, NV 89074 (702) 454-0201

#### Competency Evaluation

Client Name: Rackwon Roberts

Case Number: 17F14369B

Date of Evaluation: 11-28-17

Date of Report: 11-28-17

The results of my evaluation are summarized in this report. Mr. Roberts reported a history of "bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and ADHD". He reported that he is currently receiving treatment. He reported that he had been off his medication for over one year prior to his arrest. In applying the Dusky standard he is aware of the charges he is facing and the options secondary to the charges. He is aware of the adversarial nature of the legal process. He is motivated to help himself and can relate in a rational and goal directed fashion. He reported no memory for the alleged offenses but is able to remember what he is accused of having done. He is able to relate his mental state at the time of the offense and is open to his attorney presenting his mental health history and mental state as factors in his defense. Overall, it is my opinion that he can aid in his defense and is competent to proceed.

Information used to render the above opinion:

- 1. Jail medical record
- 2. Request for evaluation of competency
- 3. Criminal complaint
- 4. Clinical interview with Mr. Roberts

Identifying information: Rackwon Roberts is a 20 year old male who was evaluated in the Clark County Detention Center (CCDC). He is charged with Burglary while in possession of a firearm, 2 counts of Robbery with use of a deadly weapon, 2 counts of Conspiracy to commit robbery, Attempt robbery with use of a deadly weapon and Murder with use of a deadly weapon. He was referred by the Eighth Judicial District Court, Specialty Courts Division to aid in determining if he is competent to stand trial. He was advised that a copy of this report would be sent to the court and the customary

Client Name: Rackwon Roberts Case Number: 17F14369B Date of Evaluation: 11-28-17

psychologist-client confidentiality didn't apply. He agreed to proceed with the evaluation.

Behavioral observation and mental status: Mr. Roberts was interviewed in a private room at CCDC. He was cooperative with the interview. His speech was fluent and goal directed. His responses were appropriate to the questions asked and wasn't suggestive of loose associations or tangential thinking. His responses weren't reflective of active paranoia or psychosis. He was oriented to the month and year. He thought the current president was "Obama". He couldn't spell WORLD forward. He was able to complete serial 3's. He was able to answer simple abstract reasoning problems. Overall, his mental status was grossly within normal limits and not suggestive of active psychotic process or irrational thought process.

Current psychological symptoms: Mr. Roberts reported that he is currently taking medication for bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. He wasn't sure what the medication was. He reported that when he isn't taking his medication he will "hear stuff" that he described as "spirit voices" and that this will occur daily when he isn't on his medication but has stopped when he is on his medication. He also reported that he is "paranoid" thinking that people are "out to get me". He reported poor sleep. He reported intact appetite and energy level. He reported "memory loss" and "blackouts". He reported "mood swings". He denied suicidal ideation. He reported marked anger when he is provoked but denied premeditated desire to hurt anyone.

Past mental health history: Mr. Roberts reported that he has been under psychiatric care since he was 6 years old. He reported that his psychiatrist is Dr. Zedek. He reported that he has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and ADHD. He reported that his medical regimen had included "Adderal and bars" but that he hadn't been taking medication for over one year prior to his arrest. He denied any history of psychiatric hospitalizations.

Family mental health history: Mr. Roberts reported that both his grandmother and mother have bipolar disorder and his grandmother had schizophrenia.

Substance abuse history: Mr. Roberts reported that he would only drink alcohol on "special occasions" and that it wasn't a problem. He reported that he would smoke excessive amounts of marijuana daily ("20 blunts") for the year prior to his arrest and that he was smoking as a form of treating his psychiatric illness.

Legal history: Mr. Roberts reported that he was arrested one time for misdemeanor J-walking and that he was released on his "OR".

Health: Mr. Roberts reported that he has "sickle cell anemia" but isn't taking any medication for this.

Client Name: Rackwon Roberts Case Number: 17F14369B Date of Evaluation: 11-28-17

Education: Mr. Roberts reported that he left school in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade citing that he was in special education and didn't like this. He reported that he was in special education for "learning disability".

Psychosocial history: Mr. Roberts was raised in Las Vegas by his mother. He denied any childhood abuse. He has never been married and has no children. He wasn't working at the time of his arrest. He was receiving disability for his psychiatric illness and his mother is his payee.

Competency issues: Mr. Roberts reported that he is charged with "2 counts of conspiracy to commit robbery, 2 counts of armed robbery, burglary with possession of a deadly weapon, attempted robbery and open murder". He was aware that he is accused of committing acts on different days in August and that he was alleged to have done this with other people. He reported that the charges are serious and he could serve life in prison if convicted. He was aware that the murder charge was the most serious. He was able to define what guilty and not guilty meant. He was open to his attorney presenting mental health factors in his defense stating "I wasn't in a right state of mind". He was aware that a plea bargain was a deal for a lesser sentence and he would be open to plea offers if he could serve less than ten years in prison. He reported that he would rely on his mother for advice about accepting a plea offer. He was aware that probation entailed being under supervision. Overall, Mr. Roberts has the capacity to appreciate the legal charges and options secondary to the charges.

Mr. Roberts reported that is attorneys are "Robert Lawson and Jason". He reported that they are court appointed private attorneys. He is aware that they are supposed to be his advocate and that he would share information with his attorneys. He is aware that the district attorney is going to "send me away" and that the judge is referee in the trial. He was aware that in trial the district attorney will "use what they got against me" and that would include witness statements and physical evidence. Overall, Mr. Roberts has the capacity to appreciate the adversarial legal process.

Mr. Roberts is motivated to help himself. He reported no memory for the alleged offenses citing his not taking his psychiatric medication and having "black outs". However, his is aware of what he is alleged to have done. He reported that he would share information with his attorney and he related to the undersigned in a rational and goal directed fashion. He is open to his attorney presenting his mental state and mental health history both as mitigating factors to resolve his case and factors in his defense. Overall, he has the capacity to aid in his defense.

Client Name: Rackwon Roberts Case Number: 17F14369B Date of Evaluation: 11-28-17

Impression:

History of Bipolar disorder and Schizophrenia-per his report History of Learning disability-per his report History of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

LAWRENCE KAPEL, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist

#### COMPETENCY EVALUATION - COVERSHEET [X] competent ) not competent DEFENDANT'S NAME: Rackwon Robertson CASE #: 17F14369B EVALUATION DATE: Dec. 5, 2017 LENGTH OF EVALUATION: 70 minutes REPORT DATE: Dec. 6, 2017 INFORMED CONSENT: [X] YES [] NO <u>SUMMARY OF RESULTS PERTAINING TO DUSKY VS UNITED STATES</u> YES NO Is there substantial impairment or gross deficit in the following areas: 1. Capacity to understand the nature of the criminal charges. [X] 2. Capacity to understand that nature and purpose of court proceedings: [X]3. Capacity to aid and assist counse) in the defense. [X] **DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSIONS** Rule Out Bipolar Disorder without Psychotic Features Versus Mood Disorder; Cannabis Use Disorder Severe in Remission due to Incarceration: Rule Out Antisocial Personality Traits: Rule Out Malingering. PSYCHIATRIC HISTORY YES NO Currently taking medication for mental illness: [X] If yes, specify: Zyprexa and Benadry! Prior mental health treatment: Dr. Zedek [X][]Prior bospitalizations: [X] ì If yes, dates and duration:

MALINGERING	REVIEW OF RECORDS - collateral information
Is there a substantial degree of weakness in the interview, response style, or testing data that suggests a malingered disorder is present?  [ ] YES [ ] NO [ X ] NOT RULED OUT	[X] Discovery [X] Jail Medical records [ ] Jail disciplinary records [X] Mental health records [ ] Other

SUBMITTED BY: John Paglini, Psy.D.

**SIGNATURE** 

Tolle P4)

### John Paglini, Psy.D.

Licensed Psychologist 9163 West Flamingo, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89147

Phone: (702) 869-9188

Fax: (702) 869-9203

December 6, 2017

COMPETENCY EVALUATION

CLIENT:

Raekwon Robertson

CASE NUMBER:

17F14369B

DATE OF BIRTH:

February 6, 1997

AGE:

20-years/9-months

SEX:

Male

STATUS:

Male Single

ETHNICITY:

Black

REFERRAL SOURCE:

Specialty Courts

**EVALUATOR:** 

John Paglini, Psy.D.

#### **REASON FOR REFERRAL**

The Specialty Courts requested an assessment of Mr. Robertson to determine if he is competent to stand trial and aid and assist counsel in defense of his case. His attorney wrote defendant has conveyed to counsel on more than one occasion that he hears voices. Further and previous meetings with Mr. Robertson at CCDC he has pleaded with counsel to pursue the death penalty if he will be forced to serve more than ten years in custody. He has vacillated between claims of actual innocence on the one hand, and imploring counsel to pursue capital punishment in the event of a conviction. He has confided in counsel that he pretends to be normal to meet expectations. He exhibits erratic behavior, severe mood swings and occasional emotional and or history manic behavior. The Dusky Standard was utilized.

Mr. Robertson is competent to stand trial and aid and assist counsel in defense of his case.

#### PROCEDURES OF EVALUATION

- 1. Competency evaluation of Rackwon Robertson conducted by John Paglini, Psy.D., at Clark County Detention Center. December 5, 2017.
- 2. Utilization of Revised Competency Assessment Instrument.
- 3. Review of Discovery provided by Specialty Courts:
  - State of Nevada versus Rackwon Robertson Commit and Order; Clark County Courts Request Evaluation of Competency November 16, 2017; State of Nevada versus Rackwon Robertson and Codefendants Amended Criminal Complaint/Criminal Complaint; Court Minutes; LVMPD Medical and Behavioral Records.

Robertson, Rackwon Page 2

#### **CRIMINAL CHARGES**

Mr. Robertson and codefendants are charged with burglary while in possession of a firearm; conspiracy to commit robbery; robbery with use of a deadly weapon; attempt robbery with use of a deadly weapon; and murder with use of a deadly weapon.

#### INFORMED CONSENT

Mr. Raekwon Robertson was advised that this is a court ordered competency evaluation. Mr. Raekwon Robertson was advised there is no confidentiality. Mr. Raekwon Robertson was informed that a report will be submitted to the presiding judge, and then disseminated to the district attorney and defense counsel. Mr. Raekwon Robertson provided written consent for this evaluation.

#### MENTAL STATUS EXAMINATION/BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATIONS

Mr. Raekwon Robertson is a 20-year-old single black male who was approximately 5'11" and exhibits a thin build. He was dressed in detention center clothing and exhibited good hygiene. He has some arm tattoos. He has short hair and beard.

Mr. Robertson believed the date was August 30, 2017 when it was December 5, 2017. He was accurate on the day of the week, city and state and preceding President of the United States. He did not now the current President. His speech quantity was talkative with normal speech quality and no speech impairment. His mood was calm with appropriate range of affect. Mr. Robertson's thought processes were logical and goal oriented, yet simplistic. His thought content was appropriate to issues discussed. He claims that he has experienced auditory hallucinations. Mr. Robertson denied current suicidal/homicidal ideation intent or plan.

#### BRIEF PSYCHOSOCIAL HISTORY

Mr. Robertson was born on February 6, 1997 in Phoenix, Arizona. He resided there for a few months. He has lived in Las Vegas, Nevada since 1997. He denied he has lived elsewhere. He has been incarcerated since August 15, 2017. Mr. Robertson reported he was raised by his mother. His father was incarcerated in federal prison for 15 years and recently released. He described his childhood as "good, all I can dream of."

#### **EDUCATIONAL HISTORY**

Mr. Robertson believed he may have repeated 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He has always been in special education classes. He had some Clark County School District educational records. He appeared to be eligible for special education for being emotionally disturbed as assessed in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Per nurse he was on no medications for his diagnosis of ADHD, but apparently he had a diagnosis of bipolar disorder and he had previously been tried on Ability.

Mr. Robertson reported initially he attended Sunrise Mountain High School. He then was in Morris Behavioral School and another behavioral school. He dropped out 11<sup>th</sup> grade when he was in El Dorado High School.

Robertson, Rackwon Page 3

#### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Mr. Robertson reported he has never worked. He believes he has been on Social Security Disability but he is not sure what for. He reported that he may have been on Social Security Disability for "bipolar disorder, anxiety, schizophrenia, ADHD and ADD."

#### **PSYCHOLOGICAL HISTORY**

Mr. Robertson reported he has never been psychiatrically hospitalized. Mr. Robertson reported he has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder "I do, I have mood swings a lot, I'm calm and then I'm irritable." He reported he has always had racing thoughts as well as sleep problems. Sometimes he can sleep five to six hours a day. Mr. Robertson reported that he experiences auditory hallucinations. He reported that sometimes he hears laughter, but the voices do not tell him anything. He believes in spirits and ghosts and sometimes dead people like his grandmother will say his name. When asked when the auditory hallucinations began, he initially stated they began in jail. I reviewed Dr. Zedek's letter and asked him if he experienced auditory hallucinations previously. He then stated "yes, but not as bad." He reported the auditory hallucinations began at the age of 16. Regarding what the voices tell him in jail, he reported it is laughter, maybe a relative calls his name. He stated it occurs three to four times a day when he was not incarcerated and now while incarcerated "all day every day." He reported it is worse at night, then during the day. He was asked if the voices tell him to kill himself, and he reported no. Regarding paranoia he reported he always thinks people are out to get him or talk about him.

Mr. Robertson denied previous suicide attempts or self mutilating behavior. Mr. Robertson did have a progress note from by Dr. Zedeck a psychiatrist. Dr. Zedek saw Mr. Robertson on May 11, 2015 for a psychiatric evaluation. Dr. Zedek diagnosed Mr. Robertson with a bipolar disorder without psychotic features. Dr. Zedek stated that Mr. Robertson was never in a psychiatric hospital, nor was there any drug or alcohol problems in his life. This is obviously inconsistent because Mr. Robertson acknowledged consistent marijuana usage. Mr. Robertson's mental status exam was within normal limits.

Mr. Robertson reported that he may have taken Adderall as a child, but when he was prescribed medication from Dr. Zedek he never took it because they did not have a car to get to the pharmacy.

#### SUBSTANCE USE HISTORY

Mr. Robertson reported he previously drank, but he does not have an alcohol problem. He began to smoke marijuana at the age of eight. He stated he would take multiple ADHD pills and the marijuana calmed him down. Mr. Robertson reported from the age of 12 or 13 until his incarceration he smoked marijuana daily. Mr. Robertson denied all other drug usage.

#### MEDICAL HISTORY

Mr. Robertson denied surgeries or traumatic brain injuries. He reported he has a sickle cell trait and he denied any other medical problems. He reported he is on mental health medication but he cannot recall the name.

Robertson, Rackwon Page 4

#### **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

Mr. Robertson denied gang involvement or a prior arrest. He stated he was not arrested until the current index offense.

#### RELATIONSHIP HISTORY

Mr. Robertson reported he is single. He dated one female for approximately four to five years.

#### COMPETENCY EVALUATION

This evaluator utilized the Revised Competency Assessment Instrument as a guide. Mr. Robertson was asked about his current charges. He discussed that he has codefendants, has been charged with open murder, conspiracy, burglary with a deadly weapon, and two additional counts. He was asked about the alleged weapon and he was accurate. He also was asked about the alleged victim and he acknowledged that it was a stranger. He reported all of the charges are felonies and a felony is more serious than a misdemeanor. He reported he could receive life in prison and the charges are exceptionally serious.

Mr. Robertson provided appropriate definitions to the following: probation, conditions of probation, guilty, not guilty, public defender, judge, evidence and plea bargain. He is aware that he has to plead guilty to get a plea bargain and he also is aware of the rights he would give up. He initially exhibited some difficulties with the definition of district attorney and confidentiality. He is aware that a jury is a group of people who decide if he is guilty or innocent. He is aware that defendants do not have to testify but he could not explain why. He could not differentiate between a court trial and a jury trial. He reported that he was arrested at his home. He stated that he has two attorneys. He reported he gets along with them. He can help his attorney by "telling them the truth." He was asked if he disagreed with his attorney how he would handle this? He reported "fire them get a new PD." Regarding his behavior in court, he reported "cool, calm and collected, listen." He reported he can speak only when a judge asks him questions. If he acted out he will be taken out.

This evaluator utilized a brief hypothetical legal story to assess Mr. Robertson's legal reasoning abilities. He was asked four initial questions and he responded accurately to all four questions. He believed that the hypothetical defendant should take a plea bargain and he provided an advantage and disadvantage of a plea. Later, he was retested regarding prosecuting attorney, defendant, and confidentiality. He initially had some difficulties with the district attorney but once explained to him again he was accurate. He recognizes the district attorney is a person who is on the other side and is against him. Confidentiality "a secret," and defendant "me."

#### REVIEW OF CCDC RECORDS

Mental Health Evaluation September 28, 2017 indicates that he was hearing voices. Per CO patient stated he was hearing people to hurt people. "I hear voices to hurt people sometimes. Just at night though." "They tell me like to choke people or something when they're standing in front of me." He reported he only hears the voices between midnight and 1am. "When I think a lot I don't hear it but when I sit on my bunk around midnight I hear it." He also reported he cannot sleep. He does not want medication but he wants to talk to a counselor. He finally admitted he was not hearing voices, but he wants to speak to a counselor about his feelings. He is having

Robertson, Raekwon Page 5

trouble dealing with events that led to his arrest. "I'm possibly facing life in prison. That doesn't scare me. The other charges don't scare me but the murder charge does."

Psychiatric Evaluation on November 8, 2017. He was interviewed. "I want to kill anybody in my presence." He reported auditory hallucinations which he describes that tell him to hurt people. He states that his auditory hallucinations began in his childhood. He reported that he is diagnosed with schizophrenia at the age of 15 and saw Dr. Zedek starting at the age of 15. Treatment was Adderall and a medication that starts with an I. Cannabis usage since the age of 19 until he was booked. Diagnostic impression was schizophrenia and antisocial personality disorder. No medication indicated at this time. Transferred to 2C.

Psychiatric Progress Note on November 15, 2017. Still wants to hurt people. "The urge to hurt people will never go away." Denied suicidal ideation "I never want to hurt myself, only others." Continues to endorse auditory hallucinations which tell him to return to the devil's playground. He exhibits a positive affect when he talks about harming others and begins to smile and laugh. Does not appear to respond to internal stimuli. Calm and cooperate with the interview.

Psychiatric Progress Note on November 22, 2017. Inmate on Zyprexa and Benadryl. Compliant with Zyprexa and Benadryl. Inmate stated "I'm good. I want to go back to general population." He denies suicidal ideation, homicidal ideation, auditory and visual hallucinations. "This is contrast to the way he presented during his last several appointments when he reported thoughts of hurting others as well as auditory hallucinations telling him to do so and to go to the devil's playground when confronted about this inmate began to smirk and stated "I just want to get out of here." On November 15<sup>th</sup> he refused the Zyprexa and Benadryl; on November 16<sup>th</sup> he refused the Olanzapine and Benadryl. He refused the Diphenhydramine on November 19<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> 2017.

#### **ANALYSIS OF CASE**

The Specialty Courts requested an assessment of Mr. Robertson for competency. Mr. Robertson was interviewed on Tuesday December 5, 2017. Mr. Robertson reported he was previously on Social Security Disability for bipolar disorder, ADHD, and schizophrenia. He was seen by Dr. Zedek a local psychiatrist at the age of 18 on May 5, 2015. Dr. Zedek diagnosed him with bipolar disorder without psychotic features. Dr. Zedek noted that he was not on medication, he had no prior psychiatric hospitalizations, and no drug or alcohol problems. Obviously Mr. Robertson did not tell the truth to the psychiatrist because he smoked marijuana daily since the age of 12 or 13. There are no indications that Mr. Robertson is psychotic. Mr. Robertson did have a piece of paper from Clark County School District Records indicating that in 8<sup>th</sup> grade he was eligible for special education secondary to being emotionally disturbed. He was not on medication for ADHD but did have a diagnosis of bipolar disorder. Mr. Robertson reported be normally did not take any medication because he could not get to the pharmacy. Mr. Robertson denied prior suicide attempts. As noted he began to smoke marijuana at the age of eight and smoked marijuana daily since the age of 12 or 13. He denied other drug usage. It is possible that Mr. Robertson feigned psychotic symptoms with incarcerated. That needs to be ruled out.

Mr. Robertson's report to this evaluator was somewhat inconsistent with what was recorded in the records. To illustrate, Mr. Robertson reported in CCDC he began to experience auditory

Robertson, Raekwon Page 6

hallucinations since he was a child. He told me that the voices began while he was incarcerated. He then backtracked this to the age of 16. This would be inconsistent because Dr. Zedek's notes do not indicate that he was psychotic. It appears that Mr. Robertson claimed he was psychotic while incarcerated at CCDC but often at times the writer noted his thought processes appeared goal oriented and he did not appear to be responding to internal stimuli. He has been placed on psychiatric medication. He may have a diagnosis of bipolar disorder, but this needs to be ruled out.

#### DSM-V PROVISIONAL DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSION

Rule Out Bipolar Disorder without Psychotic Features Versus Mood Disorder; Cannabis Use Disorder Severe in Remission due to Incarceration; Rule Out Antisocial Personality Traits; Rule Out Malingering.

Mr. Robertson's IQ was not formally assessed but based on his word structure and responses he likely has a low average IQ. Mr. Robertson is competent to stand trial and aid and assist counsel in defense of his case. Mr. Robertson does not exhibit significant competency deficits. He has a good understanding of the current criminal charges. He exhibits adequate factual understanding and rational understanding of competency. He has the ability to aid and assist counsel in defense of his case.

I appreciate this interesting referral.

LP41)

Respectfully submitted,

John Paglini, Psy D. Licensed Psychologist

JPmc: 12/06/17

# Exhibit 8

### VOLUNTARY STATEMENT PAGE 1

EVENT #: 170809-0029

SPECIFIC CRIME: MURDER WITH A DEADLY WEAPON

DATE OCCURRED: TIME OCCURRED:

**LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE:** 

CITY OF LAS VEGAS CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: ERIKA LOYD

DOB: SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE: SEX:

HEIGHT: WEIGHT:

HAIR: EYES:

HOME ADDRESS: 6647 W. TROPICANA AVE #104 LV.

NV 89103

**WORK ADDRESS:** 

**PHONE 1:** 702-559-5117

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE M. BOGATAY, P# 7782, LVMPD HOMICIDE SECTION, on 08/15/2017 at 1515 hours. Also present is DETECTIVE MERRICK, P# 7549, LVMPD HOMICIDE SECTION.

Q: Operator this is Detective Bogatay, P# 7782, along with Detective Merrick, M-E-R-R-I-C-K, conducting an interview referenced at 17089-0029. Location of the interview is in the parking lot of 6647 West Tropicana Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89103. Person being interviewed is Erika, E-R-I-K-A, Loyd, L-O-Y-D. Date of birth is Social Security Number is . Her home address is 6647 West Tropicana Avenue, Apartment 104, uh, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89103. Her phone number is 702-559-5117 and today's date is 8-15-

### VOLUNTARY STATEMENT PAGE 2

EVENT #: 170809-0029 STATEMENT OF: ERIKA LOYD

2017 and the time - make sure I get the right time - is - it's 1515 hours. Okay.

Okay Erika thank you so much for meeting and talking with us. Uh, we just said - talked about that you live here in these apartments. What are these apartments names?

A: Uh, Casa Mesa Villas.

Q: Okay. And can you tell me who you live here with?

A: Uh, with - my son's live with me.

?: Okay, yeah.

Q: Who lives with you? Who do you live with?

A: I have two sons.

Q: Okay. And who are they?

A: Uh, Taedeon and Raekwon.

Q: Taedeon?

A: Uh-huh.

Q: And how do you spell Taedeon?

A: T-A-E-D-E-O-N.

Q: Okay. Same last name?

A: Uh, Taedeon, yeah.

Q: Okay.

A: Loyd.

Q: How old is Taedeon Loyd?

#### LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTARY STATEMENT PAGE 3

EVENT #: 170809-0029 STATEMENT OF: ERIKA LOYD

A: Taedeon is 20 - hell, is Taedeon 23 or 24. Damn, Tae just had a bi- whoo that embarrassing.

Q1: What's his birthday?

A: Uh, '94. He just had a birthday. Twenty-four. Did he just turn 24.

Q: What's birth - what's his month and day?

A: Wait - wait. Kwon should be 20 - yeah, so he's 24.

Q: Okay. And what's his birthday and (unintelligible)?

A: Uh, Taedeon was the second one, '94.

Q: Okay. And your other son?

A: Uh, Raekwon

Q: And how do you spell Raekwon?

A: R-A-E-K-W-O-N. Now I would like to know what did - what is this about though?

Q: Yeah, we're - I'm just getting (unintelligible).

Q1: We're getting there.

A: Okay. Okay. 'Cause (unintelligible).

((Crosstalk))

Q: First of all there's a lot of information that we're gonna be talking to somebody because we might find out very well that we don't need to talk to because you're not even related.

A: Okay.

Q: And now that we're getting a foundation for your (unintelligible).

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STATEMENT OF: ERIKA LOYD

#### ((Crosstalk))

A: You see my thing is I've never been any kind of trouble before or police and detectives so to me this is just like, "What the hell?"

Q. Oh, sure. Well you're definitely not in trouble.

A: Well I know that. Okay.

Q: You were certainly in the front seat and since and since you are with my dry cleaning...

A: Okay. All right. Okay.

Q: ...this is not, you know, uh, so yeah so we're just getting a foundation and then we'll start talking about...

A: Okay.

Q: ...what - what you may know, what - who you were with.

A: Okay.

Q: Things like that.

A: Okay.

Q: You might not know anything.

A: All right.

Q: Okay.

A: That's just strange 'cause they askin' about my oldest son and - okay. All right.

Q: Well it's very common that whenever we talk to anybody...

A: Mm-hm.

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#### VOLUNTARY STATEMENT PAGE 5

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Q: ...and it really doesn't matter if we're talkin' about a dog and a disturbance neighbor problem...

A: Okay.

Q: ...to see who lives with whom - everybody so that then we...

A: Okay.

Q: ...really talk to you.

A: Okay.

Q: Or something more serious and that's...

A: Okay. Okay.

Q: So Raekwon is your son?

A: Uh-huh.

Q: What's his last name?

A: Robertson.

Q: Robertson. And how about his birth date?

A: Uh, 2-6-97.

Q: Okay. And so the three of you live here?

A: Yes.

Q: You're the mother...

A: Yep.

Q: ...of both?

A: Yep.

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Q: Okay. And my partners showed up today and I don't know what happened.

Were you inside the apartments? Was somebody else...

A: No, actually...

Q: ...made contact with you?

A: ...I was on my home. Um, uh, I talked to my sons regularly. Um, I did get a phone call indicating that someone was at the door. Um, and as I explained, you know, I'm on my way home anyway. And here I am and I couldn't get into my home and,...

Q1: Who called you?

A: Uh, my son Raekwon.

Q1: Raekwon was there?

A: Oh-huh, yeah.

Q1: And what did he tell you?

A: Um, he just said someone was banging at the door. Um, however though the maintenance man was on his way over and normally I kinda notify them, you know what I mean, when somebody is about to come as far as the changing of the apartment things. And I came here and that was the last I've heard. I don't know anything.

Q: Okay.

Q1: How long has your son lived you with you - Raekwon?

A: Shit his whole life.

EVENT #: 170809-0029 STATEMENT OF: ERIKA LOYD

Q1: He's never moved out?

A: Mm, I won't necessarily say moved out. He would go and stay at friends for say some weeks at a time but he's always, always resided, uh, with me. Raekwon actually receives Social Security so he has to reside with me.

Q1: What was he injured?

A: Raekwon has - has mental illnesses. Raekwon has - Raekwon just has issues.

Q: And is he the oldest?

A: The baby.

Q: He's the baby.

A: Yeah.

Q: How many kids do you have total?

A: Two.

Q: Just these two?

A: Yep.

Q: Okay. And, um, so the reason why we're here is because of something that happened days ago. And we're tryin' to figure out about who was involved and we know you're not involved. You had left.

A: Okay.

Q: You're obviously a working mom.

A: (Unintelligible).

Q: You said you just came from work?

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A: Uh-huh.

Q: Where do you work?

A: The Surety Labs.

Q: Okay. And how about your sons do they work or go to school-

A: Neither one. Raekwon receives Social Security. My oldest one has his son and he helps his girlfriend with the baby.

Q: Okay. And Raekwon is what, 21?

A: He will be 21.

Q: Will be 21, okay. So he's still twenty right now.

A: He's been receiving, shit, Social Security since birth.

Q: Okay.

A: Literally.

Q1: So was he born with a...

A: Raekwon is, uh, they diagnosed Raekwon with schizophrenic, schizophrenia, mild mental retardation, learning disability, sickle cell trait. He just has a list of shit.

Q: Okay. Does he require, um, I mean the constant care? Is it just partial care?

Medication or...

A: Um...

Q: ...is there something?

A: I - me puttin' my foot up in his ass. I mean, seriously, I mean as little, I mean

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they had him on all kinda shit. Uh, Adderall, Abilify, you name it. I actually stopped it 'cause he was like a fuckin' zombie.

Okay. Does he drive or - and I know he's on disability but does he do... Q:

A: No, he doesn't have a vehicle.

Q: Okay.

Q1: What's your vehicle?

A: I got the, um, Chevy Impala over there.

Q1: What year?

A: 2001, Hm-hm.

Q1: Chevy Impala?

A: Mm-hm.

Q1: What color?

A: Tan. Then as a matter of fact, shoot, it's been down for shit like a week or two. I just got it outta the shop Saturday.

Q1: Saturday?

A: Yep, this Saturday.

Q1: Let's move onto - in the last two weeks, okay?

A: Okay.

Does Raekwon have a lot of friends? Q1:

A: Huh, to be honest with you I'm gonna say no 'cause he's actually like a fuckin' loner 'cause I talk about him about, like, "Why you don't you guys have like

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fuckin' girlfriends." I'm almost - I hate to say it like this but I'm almost kind of accused him of - I was like, "Shit is you fruity?" Because I've never - he doesn't do shit like - I'd say like normal 20-years old would do if that makes sense.

Q1: Okay. What's your work schedule?

A: I am Monday through Friday 8:00 to 5:00.

Q1: Okay. Does Raekwon ever leave the - the house in the middle of the night?

A: See that's the thing. Raekwon - that's thing. I go to sleep, Officer. I'm gonna be honest with you. Sh, I drink my vodka, okay, about 9:00-9:30, shit I'm out.

Q1: I'm out at 8:30 (unintelligible).

#### ((Crosstalk))

A: I'm gonna be honest with you sometimes like 8:30, 9:00 literally and then on top of it I actually close my bedroom door because I do have sons and they are always in the living room watching TV or like the music. So it's just easier for me to just close my door. And shit by the time I get up...

Q1: So what I'm getting is...

A: I'm going to work and everybody asleep.

Q1: Right. So what I'm gettin' is they could leave and you wouldn't know it?

A: It's a possibility. It's a possibility, yep.

Q1: You never caught 'em comin' in late at night?

A: No 'cause every time I wake up they're always there.

Q1: Okay. But do you always check - if you wake up in the middle of night do you

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always go out and check and see if they're there?

A: I do. I do. I do and that's just - I hate to say it I guess just bein' a mom.

Q1: Sure.

A: Um, and like I said with them actually - technically they're supposed to share rooms but Taedeon has this girlfriend now that has his son now all of sudden she done kinda moved in so Rae's actually been on the, uh, has been in the living room lately.

Q1: Okay.

A: So I always see him.

Q1: I'm gonna show you some photos, okay? Tell me if you recognize any cars in that photo ever comin' over and pickin' up Raekwon?

A: Nothing, no. No, sir.

Q1: Okay. There's nothing (unintelligible).

A: It kinda looks - it kinda looks like Rae.

Q1: Yeah, it is Rae.

A: It kinda looks but who the hell is that?

Q1: It's a hat.

A: That kinda looks like him.

Q1: Yeah. It is him. I'm here to tell you that's him. And that was at about 11:30 at night on what day the 9th?

Q: The - the 8th.

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Q1: 8th.

Q: Yeah, the 9th, you're right.

Q1: Yeah.

Q: Uh, actually 8 is 11 o'clock, yeah.

Q1: 8th into the 9th.

Q; Yeah.

Q1: Do you know the guy behind him?

A: No, who is that?

Q1: You've never seen him?

A: Uh-uh,

Q1: Let me swap you. I want you to see if you know the guy that came in right before. You ever seen him over here for...

A: Hell no. And you see and then that's the thing as well, um, as far as my - my home they already know we don't bring - we don't bring company to - to my house at all. That - that's a no-no. That's a no-no.

Q1: Okay.

A: Know what I'm saying?

Q: And this is a Tuesday night going into like Wednesday morning would be midnight.

Q1: Last week.

Q: So last week.

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A: I don't even know. I've never seen that person before.

Q1: Okay. Here's your son again with all four of the individuals. And I know that and I'm sure you're not gonna be able to tell me since you don't let anybody in your house, that's between 11:30 at night and midnight, 8th and the 9th.

A: Okay.

Q1: Now I'm gonna ask you something really serious, okay? If you want to look at that other picture I gave you really close...

A: Uh-huh.

Q1: ...he's wearing a gun.

A: Who was?

Q1: Raekwon.

A: Let me see that picture again.

Q1: In fact he's actually grabbing it.

A: I don't see a gun and I don't see him grabbin' at a gun.

Q1: Okay. See where his hand is, his right hand?

A: I see both hands here.

Q1: Oh, okay. Okay. The guy in front of him...

A: Okay.

Q1: I thought you pointed to him. But this guy - this is Raekwon, right?

A: It looks like him.

Q1: That's the one that looks like him, right. So you've never seen this guy right

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here?

A: I don't know who that is.

Q1: Okay. Have you ever seen Raekwon with a gun?

A: No, I don't even condone guns.

Q1: Have you ever seen Raekwon - does he have any black sweatshirts like that?

A: Shit all - everybody. I got black sweatshirts like that.

Q1: No, he does,

A: So, I mean, who doesn't.

Q1: Yeah, he does?

A: Yeah.

Q1: Okay, Let me see if I can find a - where he's wearing one.

A: Sure hope he was...

Q1: Does he ever where tennis shoes - again wear N- does he ever wear red Nike tennis shoes?

A: I've never seen - I've never seen any red shoes before.

Q1: Okay. Um, and before...

A: All I can say it'd be easier you guys can have access to the room. You know what I'm sayin' you guys...

Q1: Okay.

A: To me that would make more because like I said there's a lot of shit I don't know if he does, does not.

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Q1: Okay.

A: Like I said Raekwon gets Social Security. I get some - Raekwon money.

Q1: Right.

A: He - sometimes I don't know what Raekwon purchases.

Q1: Right.

A: Um, I don't know if he has, you know what I'm saying that this...

Q1: We got rules we gotta follow.

A: Okay.

Q1: And - and it's just for the courts.

A: Okay.

Q1: So we have to get the search warrant. That's what we're waiting for. But I will - that's where I was going. Before we came over here and we were on the recording...

A: Uh-huh.

Q1: ...I asked if you would sign consent for us to look in your car for the items that we're looking for.

A: Uh-huh. Yeah.

Q1: Yeah, and you would do that?

A: Yeah, I'll take you to my car. It don't even - that type of party.

Q1: Okay.

A: Yeah please by all means.

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Q1: Okay. So I'm probably gonna make you freak out right now. Can you read my lanyard?

A: I'm reading - 1 - I know - I know something ain't good. I know that.

Q1: Can you read my lanyard?

A: 1 know...

Q1: What's that say?

A: God damn. I know I wasn't even lookin' at that shit at first.

Q1: I work homicide.

A: What the fuck? Come on you all, what's up for real?

Q1: I work homicide.

A: What you tellin' me.

Q1: That there was a murder last week.

A: You sayin' that my son has something to do with that?

Q1: He was with three other guys.

A: You all bullshittin' me.

Q1: Excuse me, ma'am. I'll take this. Merrick.

Q Yeah.

Q1: Hey, buddy how are you?

Q: Last week, three other people and the four of them together.

Q1: Yes.

?: What kind of deal is (unintelligible).

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((Crosstalk))

A: It's serious.

Q1: We ran a search warrant on the house. We're gonna look through the car. Uh, just (unintelligible).

((Crosstalk))

Q: We've been working on this all week.

A: No, not - not - not Raekwon.

Q1: 0029 on the 9th.

A: Not Raekwon. I do too much for, mm.

Q1: Okay. Yep.

Q: And part of what you're looking at is we took photographs...

Q1: Yeah, 6647 (unintelligible)...

((Crosstalk))

Q: ...of an ongoing video surveillance.

Q1: Number 104 and I haven't got word from Mitch or (unintelligible).

((Crosstalk))

Q: Those are just - does that make sense? That's just photographs of what we have as an ongoing video surveillance.

Q1: He's after the judge's signature right now. Oh, we are in a parking - he just texted me. We're in a parking lot.

((Crosstalk))

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Q: And we do that in order to say, "Oh, this," because we cannot - not gonna show people whole videos and that's why sometimes those are a little grainy.

A: Gotcha.

Q1: Mm-hm.

Q: But is it, um, definitely a lot of pictures that we took from surveillance.

Q1: Uh, I can't really talk right now.

Q: Yeah.

A: Lord have mercy.

Q1: Bye-bye.

Q: So with any of that being said...

A: Lord have mercy.

Q: ...is there anything that you've noticed that's different or a conversation or him talking to you that just was either out of character or something you're not used to him asking.

A: That's the thing. Raekwon's, um, - how can I - Raekwon's a little mental, like, I don't - like I said, I'm a mom. He doesn't disrespect me or anything like that. But it's like I don't really ask too many questions. He don't volunteer information.

Literally when I say this kid he stays to himself.

Q1: Okay.

A: So I just really - and he already knows the type of person that I am so he probably wouldn't tell me.

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Q: How about his phone? Who pays for it besides - I mean I know he's...

A: Obama.

Q: Okay. And haven't you arranged though to get - you guys don't exchange - I mean you don't look through his phone...

A: No.

Q: ...you don't do any of that kind of stuff?

A: No, no, no. 'Cause like I said these are adults, you know, these are not kids.

Q: Right, mm-hm.

((Crosstalk))

Q: But that's what I'm saying. No con- he didn't make - have any conversation...

A: These are - these are

Q: ...with you 'cause you kinda stay out of his business?

((Crosstalk

A: Yeah - yeah -yeah.

Q: Okay.

A: Yeah, 'cause.

Q1: Have you ever seen any indication of bipolar with Raekwon? Does he fly off the handle and just go crazy every now and again?

A: Um, I'm gonna not say fly off the handle 'cause like I said I'm - I'm a mom so it's only certain...

Q1: Against his brother?

EVENT #

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STATEMENT OF: ERIKA LOYD

A: Um,...

Q1: Towards his brother?

A: No, 'cause they - like I said the two of them together they've always lived in the same hou- they - they know better and I don't - they know I work hard...

Q1: Right.

A: ...so it's like you guys bumpin' heads with one - now I do believe that they did have him - like I said bipolar, schizophrenia as far as his documentation, shit, they basically he was everything other than human...

Q: Yeah, ran the gamut.

A: ...if that makes sense.

Q1: Ran the gamut.

A: Okay, they - they put - put basically everything other than - other than human, uh, to the point to where literally even with some of the schooling I was, shit, trying to pull him out 'cause it's like hold on this boy's gonna grow up and just - you guys are still gonna have this label on him. Um, yeah, this is fuckin'...

Q1: So he didn't - he didn't finish school?

A: No.

Q1: Okay.

A: Nope.

Q1: Taedeon where's he at right now?

A: Taedeon my son? My - I don't know. He should - actually, shit, he might be over

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there by my car 'cause we were conversating and talking.

Q1: Okay. Do you think...

A: Yeah, but I could tell you for a fact, uh,...

Q1: Would Raekwon, uh, confide in Taedeon?

A: ...Taedeon would be - that I don't know.

Q1: Okay.

A: Not really I don't know.

Q1: Okay.

A: Just like I said, they're, um,...

Q1: You understand...

A: Once you see Taedeon they're - they're night and day.

Q1: Okay.

A: Completely. You could - you will see the whole mannerism, the way he look, everything that they're completely - literally you probably wouldn't even think these are both my sons. It's like that.

Q1: Okay.

A: Okay. And Tae hopefully he might be over here by the, uh, by the - by the apartment by now 'cause he actually had just went to drop off his step-son.

Q1: Okay.

A: So...

Q1: What does he drive?

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A: Well he drives his girlfriend's car it's a Sentra.

Q1: Okay.

A: And I could tell you for a fact Taedeon - Taedeon is like, uh, just like a, uh, like a old married man if that make sense. Him and his girlfriend - his girlfriend is always over at the house so...

Q1: Okay.

A: Yeah, and she doesn't let him go anywhere but to go get some fast food and back home. I'm sorry but...

Q1: Yeah.

A: ...seriously and - and they're always at the house.

Q1: Okay

A: And I actually was - we used to fuss. I was like, "I'm tired of you guys always," really, shit, oh my God. Huh. Lord have mercy.

Q1: You understand we just did not, uh, pick Raekwon's name out of a hat. We've done our research. We've done our investigation.

A: Mm, I'm sure you did. I'm sure you did.

Q1: And I'm sorry to be the one to tell you.

A: I'm sure you did. I'm sure you did.

Q1: But what I'm here right now for is - is if - listen to the hypothesis. If Raekwon told you what had happened...

A: Mm-hm.

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EVENT #: 170809-0029 STATEMENT OF: ERIKA LOYD

Q1: ...would you tell me?

A: Hell, yeah.

Q1: Okay.

A: Hell yeah.

Q1: Okay.

A: Yeah.

Q1: But he didn't?

A: No.

Q1: Okay.

A: No.

Q1: Okay,

Q: How about within your apartment? Is there anything that's there that, um, maybe they would have that's like their own storage place or your sons' own hiding - I mean, you know, how some parents have - like you said he's mostly on the couch...

A: Mm-hm.

Q: ...but some kids have a bedroom but they're adults that you don't even go in. Is there anywhere that you know...

A: No, not...

Q: ...that's off limits for you?

A: I don't want to say off limits...

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Q: 'Cause he might...

A: ...like, for example, um, like I said, like, Taedeon uses like the -the little tall closet and the main big closet is normally where Raekwon would keep a lot of his stuff at. Okay so if that...

Q: Right,

A: ...I don't know if that helps any.

Q: Okay.

A: Um,...

Q: But no places where it's like, "Mom do not go in there. That's my stuff. It's off limits," kind of like a private...

A: No, we don't - we don't - come on they don't pay rent.

Q: Right. Which is...

A: Okay. They don't pay bills. So that's why I say...

Q: Yeah.

Q1: There's nothing off limits.

Q: There's nothing off limits.

A: There's nothin'. I mean I -I - I - out of respect for them I just don't, okay. But anything, I mean, hell yeah, I'll go throughout. Shit, yeah,...

Q: Okay.

A: ...I mean I will if...

## LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTARY STATEMENT PAGE 25

EVENT #: 170809-0029 STATEMENT OF: ERIKA LOYD

Q1: Does he have more than one phone? Have you ever seen him with multiple phones? I know I've seen...

A: I've seen him like with different phones. There were num - you know what I mean?

Q1: Right. 'Cause of the Obama.

A: Exactly, Exactly,

Q1: Okay.

A: Damn.

Q1: You have anything else? Okay, let's end this and we'll drive over...

Q: Okay.

A: Yeah, please.

Q: Uh, it's the end of interview. Same people present and it's 1534 hours.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT 6647 W. TROPICANA AVENUE ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2017 AT 1534 HOURS.

MB:FM:Nettranscripts MSB004

M8B7787

# Exhibit 9

5.2.2022

CASENO: A-20-823892-W

C-17-37.8587 - Z

Hello,

( Department: 12)

I Recieved Legal Mail about a Week ago with Your office address and couldn't help But work You concerning my appeal.

Somewhere in my paperwork states that,

My aboreandant overturned the Judgement of his conviction hast Year on May 14, 2021, and I was wondering why I haven't Been Incontact with you concering my.

"Notice of appeal" & Since Sentencing,

please unclerstand that I Need You, I connut Fight the System By Myself, please "contact me Back, im currently housed at, " ely state prison".

(Erika) - 702.470.3400 - mom (Topeveon) - 702.273.5395 - Brother

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1	<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>						
2	I hereby certify that on the 19th day of August, 2022, I served a true and correct copy of						
3	the foregoing document entitled SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PETITION						
4	FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS (POST-CONVICTION) to the Clark County District						
5	Attorney's Office by sending a copy via electronic mail to:						
6							
7 8	CLADIZ COLNITY DICTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE						
9	CLARK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  Steve Wolfson						
10	Motions@clarkcountyda.com						
11	iviotions@ciarkcoantyaa.com						
12	BY:						
13							
14	<u>/s/ Steven S. Owens, Esq.</u> STEVEN S. OWENS, ESQ.						
15	Nevada Bar No. 4352 1000 N. Green Valley #440-529						
16	Henderson, Nevada 89074						
17	(702) 595-1171						
18	Attorney for Petitioner RAEKWON ROBERTSON						
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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify and affirm that this document was filed electronically with the Nevada Supreme Court on February 8, 2024. Electronic Service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the Master Service List as follows:

AARON FORD Nevada Attorney General

ALEXANDER CHEN
Chief Deputy District Attorney

/s/ Steven S. Owens STEVEN S. OWENS, ESQ.