
ELYRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Complaint:95-32182

Offense:TAPED STATEMENT OBTAINED FROM MELISSA ARROYO

Defendant:DANNY SMITH

On November 29, 1995 at approx. 0201 hrs. Ptlm. Sword learned from a confidential informant that a Ms. Melissa Arroyo had returned from California and was present at Bugsy's Speakeasy located on Broad St. in downtown Elyria. Officer Sword had made several attempts to contact Ms. Arroyo at her residence with no success.

Officer had recalled previous conversation with Arroyo and several statements she had made to me off duty regarding a Mr. Danny Smith. Ms. Arroyo indicated she had knowledge of a recent murder that had taken place with Mr. Smith apparently being involved, however she was extremely frightened of Mr. Smith and his "friends" if she was found to have spoken with police. I then advised Ms. Arroyo that if she wished to speak further she should contact myself or Det. Leiby rather than have patrons see her speaking with a Police officer. Arroyo failed to do so and proceeded to California for a period of time.

Upon making personal contact with Ms. Arroyo on Nov. 29, 1995 at Bugsy's, she indicated she would speak with Ptlm. Sword regarding the incident and that officer could pick her up in front of Bugsy's at closing time which she indicated was approx. 0215 hrs.

Upon picking Ms. Arroyo up, she was accompanied by her sister "Rosie", also present was Ptlm. E. Vankerhove. Ms. Arroyo indicated she would give taped statement regarding her personal knowledge of the Danny Smith Murder investigation. Prior to giving statement Melissa indicated she was not promised any favors or gifts in exchange for her speaking with officers. Details of statement as follows:

While out on a date with Danny Smith, Melissa stated the two of them went to a TGI FRIDAYS restaurant in North Olmsted. After having several drinks, Danny began to laugh making statement to the effect "I just killed someone." Melissa not believing Mr. Smith stated "no you didn't." Mr. Smith then went into detail stating "they (the unknown) beat this guy up real bad, tied his legs together near the

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ankles and proceeded to drag him from the rear bumper and run over the man with the vehicle they were in. Mr. Smith indicated he had been involved however failed to tell who was with him. Ms. Arroyo also indicated that the weather during this conversation was the fall season as it was cold outside.

Ms. Arroyo also indicated that during this conversation Mr. Smith had received numerous pages making numerous calls back stating "it was business" Ms. Arroyo then indicated that while Mr. Smith was in jail, he attempted to phone her several times with Ms. Arroyo failing to accept the calls. Ms. Arroyo then indicated an unknown black male approached her in the bar telling her that Danny was aware of her setting him up in a drug case, and that he knew where Melissa lived and where her family lived.

Unknown subject went on to say that if Melissa didnt want what happened to that guy (referring to earlier conversation) to happen to her or her family, then she should not testify against Danny.

Ms. Arroyo was very visibly scared, and is afraid for herself and her family. Ms. Arroyo was later transported to her current residence at [REDACTED] Lorain, by Ptlm's Sword and E. Vankerkhove.

REPORTING OFFICER

Ptlm. J. Sword 38/295

DATE: November 29, 1995

TIME: 2:43 a.m.

LOCATION: Elyria Police Department

Interview between Ptl. J. Sword (JS), Ptl. E. VanKerkhove (EV) and
Melissa Arroyo (MA) and Rosie Arroyo.

JS: Present in the room at the Elyria Police Department is Ptl. Sword,
Ptl. VanKerkhove, Melissa Arroyo and her sister, Rosie...it's all
the same last name?

MA: Yes.

JS: Rosie Arroyo. Melissa, for the tape can you state your name, your
full name and spell it for me?

MA: Melissa Arroyo. M-e-l-i-s-s-a A-r-r-o-y-o.

JS: OK, we're here in reference to a taped statement to be obtained by
Melissa regarding the Daniel Smith/Lally trial that's going on right
now. Melissa, prior to giving us information have you been promised
anything in exchange for your statement?

MA: No.

JS: OK. Can you tell me what information you have regarding Daniel
Smith's involvement with the murder of Mr. Lally?

MA: I went to T.G.I. Friday's with him and um, he had a few drinks and he
told me that he had murdered somebody. And.... I didn't believe him,
and then he went into detail and told me that um, they beat the crap
out of him and then um, they tied his ankles to the bumper and they
drove him up and down the street, and then they ran him over.

JS: OK, did he tell you who, who this was?

MA: No.

JS: Do you recall what the weather was like when he told you this?

MA: I don't remember.

JS: What season it was? Or approximate dates?

MA: It like the fall season.

JS: You might have to speak up a little bit.

MA: It was like the fall season.

JS: OK. You were at T.G.I. Friday's in North Olmsted?

MA: Yes.

JS: OK, do you remember about what time this was?

MA: No, I don't.

JS: OK. You mentioned earlier that he received several pages during your dinner. Could you explain that? What his actions were.

MA: He said it was for business. He had to collect money. Before he took me to T.G.I.Friday's he took me to some lady's house, um, that he hid his drugs at. He said she was a drug addict. She had a daughter. Um, we played one game of pool and then from there we went to T.G.I.Friday's.

JS: OK, when he discussed the, the guy that they dragged from the bumper, did he say where this took place at?

MA: No.

JS: Did this happen in Elyria or.....?

MA: He did not say, he just said that um, you know that he killed somebody.

JS: Did he say who was with him or...?

MA: No, he just laughed about it.

JS: OK, so as far as you know he was by himself?

MA: Mmmmm.

JS: You don't know if he was with anybody or not?

MA: No, he didn't mention anyone.

JS: OK. Is there anything else that we should know that might be helpful?

MA: Um, he called...when he got locked up, he called my house collect.

JS: What did he say?

MA: He, he, "Collect call to Melissa from Danny." I didn't accept the call, I hung up, he called back again. He said, "Melissa accept the fucking call." Um, then I hung up again and he called back again. Again, he said, he was like, "Melissa it's Danny...accept the fucking call.", and I hung up again.

JS: Did he ever make any threats towards you personally or through anyone else?

MA: He had somebody else come in the bar. I don't who he was, I don't know his name. He came in the bar and told me that um, Danny said that he knew that I had set him up and that um, he knew where I lived at and that my family lived there. If I didn't want what happened to that guy...to happen to me, that I shouldn't testify or whatever. You know, whatever I did to him.

JS: This guy that relayed this information, was he black, white, Hispanic?

MA: He was black, he was a black guy.

JS: OK and you don't know his first name, nickname...anything?

MA: Nothing.

JS: And this all happened while he was in the County Jail?

MA: Right.

JS: Did anybody else witness these threats?

MA: No.

JS: OK. Can you think of anything else?

MA: Um, he has, he has money hidden at this lady's house and um, he has drugs hidden at her house. She's supposedly a drug addict and she has a daughter. So that's where he hides his drugs at.

JS: Do you have any possible...do you have any knowledge of him possibly ordering...

MA: Yes.

JS: Certain people to uh, "take care of Mr. Lally", as far as, killing him?

MA: No.

JS: Or as far as you're aware, he was involved in it personally?

MA: He just told me that he...you know that he killed somebody, that's all he told me.

JS: The time is approximately 2:48 a.m., this will conclude the interview with Melissa Arroyo, November 29, 1995.

STATEMENT CONCLUDED.

Typed and transcribed by
Linda J. Borthwick
Secretary/Investigative Division

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