

# SOMERVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## STATION REPORT

### INVESTIGATION #:

Time: 21:55 HRS

Date: 07/23/95

Case of: MURDER OF JANET DOWNING

Address: 71 BOSTON STREET SOMERVILLE, MA.

Nature of Case: MURDER M.C.L. CH265 S1

Reported By: OFFICER STEVEN JOHNSON #141

### REMARKS

ON THE ABOVE DATE AND TIME, I WAS ASSIGNED TO UNIFORM PATROL DUTIES IN MARKED CRUISER #183, WHEN I WAS DISPATCHED TO 71 BOSTON STREET FOR A REPORT OF UNKNOWN TROUBLE. CAR 182 OFFICER JOSEPH BLAIR WAS ALSO SENT TO THIS CALL. BEFORE WE ARRIVED THE DISPATCHER INFORMED US THAT FURTHER INFORMATION RECEIVED INDICATED THAT A MAN WAS BLEEDING AT THE 71 BOSTON STREET ADDRESS, AND CATALDC AMBULANCE HAD BEEN NOTIFIED AND WAS ALSO RESPONDING TO THE CALL.

OFFICER BLAIR ARRIVED ON LOCATION AND THEN I ARRIVED, SEVERAL SECONDS BEHIND HIM. WE WERE MET OUTSIDE OF THE RESIDENCE BY TWO MEN, LATER IDENTIFIED AS EDWARD O'BRIEN SR. OF 74 BOSTON STREET AND BARRY RECKLEY OF 73 BOSTON STREET WHO DIRECTED US INSIDE OF #71. WE ENTERED THRU THE FRONT DOOR, WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE HOUSE. THE DOOR WAS WIDE OPEN WHEN WE ENTERED. THE TWO MEN LED US DIRECTLY INTO THE DINNING ROOM, WHICH WAS LOCATED IMMEDIATELY TO THE RIGHT AS WE WALKED THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.

ONCE INSIDE I OBSERVED THE BODY OF A WHITE FEMALE LYING ON THE FLOOR NEXT TO THE DINNING ROOM TABLE. THE FEMALE WAS LYING FLAT ON HER BACK, WITH HER FEET CLOSEST TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE DINNING ROOM. THE FEMALE HAD BOTH OF HER ARMS OUT-STRETCHED BY HER SIDE, AND HER HEAD WAS TURNED TOWARDS HER LEFT SIDE. THE FEMALE WAS DRESSED IN A PAIR OF SHORT PANTS AND A "HALF SHIRT" OF THE TYPE THAT WOULD LEAVE THE STOMACH AREA UNCOVERED. THE RIGHT LEG OF HER SHORT PANTS HAD BEEN PULLED ASIDE SO THAT I COULD SEE HER UNDER PANTS, WHICH WERE WHITE.

AS WE OBSERVED THE BODY IT WAS OBVIOUS TO BOTH OFFICER BLAIR AND MYSELF THAT THE FEMALE HAD BEEN STABBED REPEATEDLY. OFFICER BLAIR, USING HIS PORTABLE POLICE RADIO, CALLED FOR THE DETECTIVES AND THE STREET SUPERVISOR. OFFICER BLAIR TRIED TO DETERMINE IF THE FEMALE WAS STILL ALIVE BY CHECKING HER CAROTID PULSE. SHE DID NOT HAVE ANY PULSE AT THIS TIME.

THE FEMALE APPEARED TO HAVE STAB WOUNDS ALL OVER HER BODY. I OBSERVED WOUNDS ON HER CHEST, ARMS, NECK, AND LEGS. THE ONLY AREA OF THE BODY ON WHICH I DID NOT OBSERVE STAB WOUNDS WAS ON THE VICTIM'S FACE.

AT THIS TIME THE FIRST OF TWO AMBULANCES ARRIVED, AND BEGAN TO ADMINISTER C.P.R. TO THE VICTIM. THEN THE PARAMEDICS ARRIVED AND ALSO BEGAN TO WORK ON THE VICTIM. OFFICER BLAIR ASSISTED THE AMBULANCE ATTENDANTS.

AT THIS POINT I BEGAN TO SPEAK TO THE TWO MEN WHO HAD MET US WHEN WE ARRIVED. THE MEN IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES FOR ME. MR. O'BRIEN EXPLAINED THAT THE VICTIM WAS MRS. JANET DOWNING OF THAT ADDRESS. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE VICTIM

ON THE FLOOR. MR. O'BRIEN STATED THAT HE DID NOT TOUCH OR MOVE THE BODY WAY.

THE OTHER MAN, MR. RECKLEY STATED THAT HE CAME OVER BECAUSE HE HAD HEARD DOWNING SCREAMING FOR HELP.

AS I SPOKE TO THE TWO MEN IN THE LIVING ROOM OF THE HOME, VERY NEAR THE HALLWAY, I OBSERVED THAT THE WATER WAS RUNNING IN THE BATHROOM SINK. THIS BATHROOM WAS LOCATED AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY, NEAR A SET OF STAIRS LEADING TO THE SECOND FLOOR. ALSO I OBSERVED A STAIN OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE BLOOD, ON THE CARPETING LEADING UP THE STAIRS, ON THE THIRD STEP. THERE WAS ALSO A SECOND BLOOD STAIN. THIS ONE WAS LOCATED ON THE WOOD TRIM SURROUNDING THE ENTRANCE TO THE DINNING ROOM. IT WAS APPROX. THREE FEET FROM THE FLOOR.

CAR 207 SGT. FEMINO AND CAR 188 SGT. STANFORD ARRIVED AND I FILLED THEM IN ON WHAT WE HAD SO FAR. SGT. STANFORD WENT OUTSIDE AND SPOKE TO RYAN DOWNING. AFTER HE HAD BEEN OUTSIDE FOR SEVERAL MINUTES WITH RYAN DOWNING, SGT STANFORD SENT ME OUTSIDE TO STAY WITH DOWNING WHILE HE WENT INTO THE HOUSE. FROM THIS POINT ON I WAS NEVER INSIDE THE HOUSE AGAIN.

AFTER APPROX. TEN OR FIFTEEN MINUTES FROM OUR ARRIVAL ON BOSTON STREET I MONITORED THE RADIO CALL FOR AN ARMED ROBBERY AND STABBING AT THE MIDNIGHT VARIETY STORE IN UNION-SQUARE. AT THE TIME THE CALL DID NOT MAKE ANY CONNECTION FOR ME, TO THE INCIDENT WE WERE DEALING WITH. HOWEVER WHEN MR. EDWARD O'BRIEN TOLD ME THAT THE VICTIM OF THE ARMED ROBBERY AT THE MIDNIGHT VARIETY STORE WAS HIS SON AND THAT HIS SON HAD A STAB WOUND TO HIS HAND, I IMMEDIATELY RELAYED THAT INFORMATION TO SGT. FEMINO.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

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OFFICER STEVEN JOHNSON #141