

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA

WILLIE DORRELL MINOR,

*

Petitioner,

*

v.

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CC-95-1118.80

STATE OF ALABAMA,

*

Respondent.

*

AFFIDAVIT OF WILLIE CAMMACK

State of Alabama

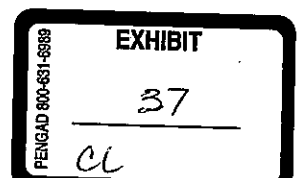
County of Tuscaloosa

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary,

Cheryl K. Muglach, on this 17th day of July,

2007, personally appeared Willie Cammack, known to me to be a credible person and of lawful age, who being by me first duly sworn, on his oath, deposes and says:

1. I have taught for over 25 years in the Tuscaloosa Public School system, and will retire at the end of this academic year. Over the years, I have taught students ranging in age from Elementary to Middle School. During the 1984-85 school year, I was Willie Minor's teacher in 5th grade at Stafford Elementary.
2. Aside from having Willie in my class, I also lived in the same neighborhood as him and his parents. I therefore had the opportunity to observe Willie not only at school but also in the neighborhood.
3. Willie was a bright student who never caused serious problems in my class. He was a class clown at times and somewhat unfocused, but I never had occasion to contact his



parents for bad behavior or being disruptive. Willie appeared bright and had the potential to do well in school.

4. Willie's grades in my class were not particularly good. This was surprising because Willie certainly struck me as having the ability to make good grades. On the other hand, I was teaching an accelerated class so it may have been that Willie had a little trouble keeping up with the material. The class was very challenging; for example, I required students to write and produce plays even at that young age. Despite Willie's less than stellar grades, I never had to contact his parents. At the time, the school system only reached out to parents when there was a real behavioral problem. Today, things are quite different in that the schools require parent-teacher conferences no matter how well or poorly a student is doing.
5. Willie had a sunny disposition and a pleasant demeanor. I would describe him as jubilant. He had a very good sense of humor.
6. In the years after I had Willie, I still saw him around the neighborhood. He was a very respectful boy and we talked whenever I saw him. I came to find out that he had dropped out of school, however. This was somewhat surprising because, as I said, Willie had a lot of potential, and sad because I expected him to go places. Nonetheless, this was something that happened to a lot of boys around Willie's age at that particular time. The neighborhood in which he lived was greatly touched by the drug epidemic. Drugs, particularly crack cocaine, were everywhere. The boys and young men there thought that selling drugs was the best way for them to succeed. The fact that the drug dealers had nice sneakers, clothes and cars made the lifestyle very appealing. This was particularly

so because elsewhere in the neighborhood there was a lot of poverty and there were not great employment opportunities.

7. I knew that Willie had become involved in selling and using drugs. Even so, we used to talk regularly when I would see him around at the corner store. He remained respectful and always went out of his way to speak with me. Not all of my former students were so approachable after they were no longer in school and involved in this kind of lifestyle, some didn't want to have anything to do with me.
8. As the years went by and Willie got more involved in selling and using drugs, it was easy to tell. Willie looked more washed out, and while Willie retained his pleasant nature, he always had a worried look on his face. This was easy to understand as the lifestyle obviously was very stressful. Many of my former students involved in drugs had their lives touched by violence. For instance, Michael Franks—the brother of LaToya Franks, Willie's old friend and mother of his son—was shot and killed near his house around the same time period that Willie was involved with drugs. Like Willie, Michael was another young man with a lot of potential.
9. When I read about Willie having been arrested for the murder of his son, I was shocked. I could have understood if Willie got involved in a violent incident that was drug related, but I could not imagine him hurting a child. I followed the case in the newspapers over the years, but no attorney for Willie ever asked me my opinion about the case. If I had been asked, I gladly would have testified at Willie's trial. I would have spoken about the matters discussed herein, and could have provided details about how drugs and violence ravaged Willie's old neighborhood and caught too many kids along the way.

Further affiant sayeth not, this the 17 day of July, 2007.

Willie Cammack
Willie Cammack

Tuscaloosa, AL

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 17th day of July, 2007.

Cheryl K. Mueglach

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: _____, 20____.

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF ALABAMA AT LARGE
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: Mar 26, 2011
BONDED THRU NOTARY PUBLIC UNDERWRITERS

