

Entry 6 Elder Statement

SWORN STATEMENT OF JOHN ELDER,
TAKEN AT THE CAMDEN COUNTY HOSPITAL BY FRED DURKIN, 6/15/20XX-1

1
2
3
4
5 Q Mr. ELDER, my name is FRED DURKIN and I am investigating the shooting that took place at the
6 Infernal Club last month. You've been in the hospital since that shooting, and the doctor has
7 just cleared you to give an interview. Do you mind talking to me about that shooting?
8 A No, I don't mind.
9
10 Q Let me get some preliminary matters out of the way first. State your name, please.
11 A JOHN ELDER.
12
13 Q Where do you live?
14 A 301 Folsom Place.
15
16 Q All right, sir. Is that here in Camden City?
17 A Yes, sir.
18
19 Q What is your date of birth?
20 A June 31, 20XX-29.
21
22 Q There's only thirty days in June.
23 A Well, maybe it's June 30. I know it's the last day of June.
24
25 Q How tall are you?
26 A 6'3'.
27
28 Q And how much do you weigh?
29 A 275.
30
31 Q Do you have a criminal record?
32 A I done some time for selling crystal meth once or twice. I done some time for DUI
33 manslaughter, too.
34
35 Q Do you know a man by the name of MOE HELTON?
36 A Yes, sir.
37
38 Q How long have you known Mr. HELTON?
39 A Near bout all my life.
40
41 Q Was he a friend of yours?

Entry 6 Elder Statement

1 A Yes, sir. We was on the wrestling team together. He was the captain of the team my senior
2 year.

3

4 Q Can you estimate his height and weight for me?

5 A Around 5'9, maybe 170 pounds.

6

7 Q Do you know a man by the name of GARY GOODMAN?

8 A Yes, sir.

9

10 Q How long have you known him?

11 A Four or five years. Somebody told me he was a freshman on the wrestling team my senior year,
12 but I don't remember him from that.

13

14 Q How big a man is he?

15 A He's gotta be 6'5" and weigh near 300 pounds.

16

17 Q Was he a friend yours?

18 A No, sir.

19

20 Q Do you have any bad feelings or hard feelings towards him?

21 A No, sir.

22

23 Q Ever had any difficulties with him?

24 A No, sir.

25

26 Q Now about BARRY GOODMAN, do you know him?

27 A Yes, sir.

28

29 Q How big a man do you think he is?

30 A He's a big'un, probably about my size.

31

32 Q Did you ever have any hard feelings towards Mr. BARRY GOODMAN?

33 A No, sir.

34

35 Q Or him towards you that you're aware of?

36 A No, sir.

37

38 Q Now, let's go back to the day you got shot. Were you at the Infernal Club on that date?

39 A Yes, sir. That's where I got shot.

40

41 Q And how was it that you came to go to the Infernal Club?

42 A I drove up, me in my uncle's car.

Entry 6 Elder Statement

1
2 Q Did anyone go with you?
3 A Yes, sir.
4
5 Q Who?
6 A SHEMP CAMPBELL and STANLEY HOPKINS.
7
8 Q When you got to the Infernal Club, what did you do?
9 A I was standing up in front of the dance floor. I went in.
10
11 Q Did you do anything else?
12 A No, sir.
13
14 Q Talking to any friends or anything like that?
15 A Standing and talking to STANLEY and SHEMP.
16
17 Q Was MOE HELTON at the Infernal Club when you got there?
18 A Yes, sir.
19
20 Q Did you and he at any time have any occasion to speak to MOE HELTON?
21 A No, sir.
22
23 Q Did you see any kind of a fight between MOE HELTON and anyone else?
24 A Yes, sir.
25
26 Q And who was that?
27 A BARRY GOODMAN.
28
29 Q How long had you been at the Infernal Club when you saw this?
30 A About 45 minutes.
31
32 Q Okay. And in that 45-minute period of time, had you spoken at all to MOE, do you remember?
33 A No, sir.
34
35 Q Had you spoken at all to GARY GOODMAN or BARRY GOODMAN?
36 A No, sir.
37
38 Q Did you see how the fight started between these two men?
39 A I just seen an argument.
40
41 Q Was it a verbal argument to begin with?
42 A Verbal. Talking, you know.

Entry 6 Elder Statement

1
2 Q Talking?
3 A Conversation.
4
5 Q Could you hear what they were saying?
6 A No, sir.
7
8 Q Now, could you see the expression on their faces?
9 A No, sir.
10
11 Q Could you see the demeanor that they had when they were talking?
12 A You mean how was they acting?
13
14 Q Yes.
15 A Yes, I seen it.
16
17 Q And their demeanor was, did they look like they were doing what?
18 A Having an argument.
19
20 Q How did this argument end?
21 A In a fight.
22
23 Q A fight?
24 A Yes, sir.
25
26 Q Who fought?
27 A MOE and BARRY.
28
29 Q Did you see who passed the first lick?
30 A No, sir.
31
32 Q Can you describe for us the fight between MOE HELTON and BARRY GOODMAN?
33 A It was as I see it, it started as an argument. And then they was asking each other. I mean they
34 were asking each other, "What's up? What's up?" And then they just started hand-to-hand
35 combat.
36
37 Q In what manner of hand-to-hand.
38 A Fist fighting.
39
40 Q What's that?
41 A Fist fighting.
42

Entry 6 Elder Statement

1 Q Was MOE HELTON swinging his fists?
2 A Yes, sir.
3
4 Q Was BARRY GOODMAN swinging his fists?
5 A Yes, sir.
6
7 Q Who was getting the better of the fight?
8 A At the end, MOE got the better of the fight.
9
10 Q About how long did they fight, if you recall?
11 A About a couple of minutes.
12
13 Q And it started off an even fight?
14 A Yes, sir.
15
16 Q And then somebody began to win?
17 A Yes, sir.
18
19 Q And who was that that won?
20 A GARY.
21
22 Q GARY?
23 A Yes, sir.
24
25 Q I mean between MOE HELTON and BARRY?
26 A Oh, MOE.
27
28 Q And MOE got on top of BARRY on the floor?
29 A No, they just stood toe to toe and slugged it out and MOE busted up BARRY's face pretty good.
30 There was blood everywhere. MOE knew how to hit somebody and cut them up. It's a trick he
31 learned when he was a Golden Gloves boxer. He was whipping BARRY's tail, but BARRY was
32 gutsy. He didn't try to run or give up or nothing. He hung right in there and kept on fighting.
33
34 Q Was BARRY ever on the floor with MOE on top of him?
35 A No, never.
36
37 Q Are you sure of that?
38 A Yeah. I saw the whole fight. BARRY never hit the floor.
39
40 Q Okay. Did anyone in that fist fight pull any kind of a weapon or use anything other than a fist?
41 A No, sir.
42

Entry 6 Elder Statement

- 1 Q Did anyone intervene in the fist fight?
- 2 A You mean, what you mean? What you mean?
- 3
- 4 Q Come in and interrupt it or do something to stop it?
- 5 A GARY, he come in.
- 6
- 7 Q GARY who?
- 8 A Not come in and stop it or nothing. But then he just come in like from behind me because I'm
- 9 standing.
- 10
- 11 Q What were you doing?
- 12 A Standing up like right in front of the dance floor where they was fighting.
- 13
- 14 Q So you were watching the fight?
- 15 A Yeah. It was a good fight until GARY pulled the gun and started shooting.
- 16
- 17 Q Did you see where GARY GOODMAN came from?
- 18 A Yes, sir.
- 19
- 20 Q Where did he come from?
- 21 A From behind me.
- 22
- 23 Q Had you taken any action to intervene in the fight?
- 24 A No, sir.
- 25
- 26 Q When GARY GOODMAN came around you?
- 27 A No, sir.
- 28
- 29 Q When GARY GOODMAN came around you, did you see what GARY GOODMAN did?
- 30 A Yes, sir.
- 31
- 32 Q What did he do?
- 33 A He come back and got on the dance floor, I guess, about two or three yards away from the fight
- 34 and stand up in a stationary position with a gun. And he hollered "MOE, get off of BARRY!" a
- 35 couple of times and then he pulled on the back of MOE's jacket. MOE backed up when GARY
- 36 pulled on him, so BARRY punched MOE one more time, and MOE pulled loose from GARY and
- 37 went back at BARRY. So GARY pulled a gun ...
- 38
- 39 Q [Interrupting] Did you see where he got the gun from?
- 40 A No, sir.
- 41
- 42 Q Did he do anything with the gun?

Entry 6 Elder Statement

- 1 A He fired it.
2
- 3 Q Did he fire it in any particular direction?
4 A Yes, sir.
5
- 6 Q And in what direction did he fire?
7 A Directly at MOE's back. It was crazy, his brother was face to face with MOE. He could have
8 killed his brother, too.
9
- 10 Q How many times did he fire?
11 A Four times.
12
- 13 Q Now, was it four shots in rapid succession or was there a break between them? Or just describe
14 how the shots were fired.
15 A I think it was fired you know, pow, you know. It wasn't rapid. It wasn't like an automatic or
16 nothing.
17
- 18 Q There was some space of time between the shots?
19 A Yes, sir.
20
- 21 Q When the first shot was fired, did you see any reaction from MOE?
22 A Yes, sir.
23
- 24 Q What did MOE do?
25 A He started falling.
26
- 27 Q He started falling?
28 A Yes, sir.
29
- 30 Q And what happened after when MOE started falling?
31 A GARY shot again as he was falling. He fell to his knees.
32
- 33 Q Okay. And when MOE HELTON hit his knees --
34 A Yes, sir.
35
- 36 Q -- what happened?
37 A I reacted. I attempted --
38
- 39 Q You reacted?
40 A Yes, I reacted toward GARY.
41
- 42 Q Okay. That would have been after the second shot that you reacted?

Entry 6 Elder Statement

1 A Yes, sir.
2
3 Q And what was your idea of going towards GARY?
4 A To help MOE.
5
6 Q In what way?
7 A To keep him from getting murdered, getting killed, you know.
8
9 Q Okay. As you were going towards GARY GOODMAN, did anything else happen?
10 A Did anything else happen?
11
12 Q Yes, sir. Did GARY GOODMAN do anything else while you were going towards him?
13 A He was still firing.
14
15 Q And how many more times did he fire before you got to him?
16 A Two times.
17
18 Q What happened when you got to him?
19 A I hit him.
20
21 Q Where did you hit him?
22 A In the face.
23
24 Q What did you hit him with?
25 A My fist.
26
27 Q How hard did you hit him?
28 A Just swinging, not hard.
29
30 Q And your --
31 A Trying to get his attention.
32
33 Q Trying to get his attention?
34 A Yes, sir.
35
36 Q Were you trying to stop him?
37 A Yes, sir.
38
39 Q When you hit GARY GOODMAN upside the head --
40 A Yes, sir.
41
42 Q What did he do?

Entry 6 Elder Statement

- 1 A He reached back and hit me with the butt of the gun on top of the head.
2
3 Q What happened when you got hit upside the head with the gun?
4 A I fell to my knees.
5
6 Q What did you do when you fell to your knees?
7 A I grabbed his knees.
8
9 Q You grabbed whose legs?
10 A I grabbed GARY GOODMAN's.
11
12 Q Was Mr. GOODMAN facing away from you or facing towards you when you did this?
13 A Towards me.
14
15 Q What happened after you grabbed Mr. GOODMAN's legs?
16 A He shot at me. Shot down on me.
17
18 Q Shot down on you?
19 A Yes.
20
21 Q Did he hit you?
22 A Yes, sir.
23
24 Q Could you feel yourself being hit?
25 A Yes, sir.
26
27 Q Where were you hit?
28 A In the back.
29
30 Q In the back?
31 A Yes, sir.
32
33 Q What was your reaction there to being struck with a bullet?
34 A What was my reaction?
35
36 Q Yes, sir, what did you do?
37 A What did I do?
38
39 Q Yes, sir.
40 A I kind of blacked out like I was thrown, I was thrown into shock.
41
42 Q All right. And how long were you out?

Entry 6 Elder Statement

1 A Just off and on.
2
3 Q Just off and on?
4 A Yes.
5
6 Q Could you remember anything that happened after you got shot that first time?
7 A Yes, sir.
8
9 Q All right. Tell us what happened that you can remember.
10 A After he shot the second time which missed me, SHEMP CAMPBELL came across me and kind of
11 dove into GARY and struggled with the gun.
12
13 Q All right. And you saw that?
14 A Yes, sir.
15
16 Q Could you see what happened in the struggle over the gun?
17 A No, sir.
18
19 Q What happened after that when –
20 A I was out.
21
22 Q -- when they was struggling over the gun?
23 A I was out after that.
24
25 Q Now, do you recall coming back to your senses at any time after that?
26 A No, sir.
27
28 Q When is the next time you remember anything that happened?
29 A I was in someone's arms.
30
31 Q In someone's arms?
32 A Yes, sir. Hitting me trying to wake me up, telling me to keep breathing.
33
34 Q Okay. Do you recall who that person was?
35 A Yes, sir.
36
37 Q Who was it?
38 A SHEMP.
39
40 Q SHEMP CAMPBELL?
41 A Yeah.
42

Entry 6 Elder Statement

- 1 Q Were you still at the Infernal Club or were you somewhere else when that happened?
- 2 A I was still there.
- 3
- 4 Q Do you remember anything else?
- 5 A No, sir.
- 6
- 7 Q You blacked out again?
- 8 A Yes, sir.
- 9
- 10 Q What's the next thing you remember?
- 11 A I remember hearing, and I come back again and I remember hearing that MOE was dead.
- 12
- 13 Q Do you remember hearing anything else?
- 14 A No, sir.
- 15
- 16 Q What's the next thing you remember?
- 17 A That's all there is. I just kept hearing people keep on telling me to keep breathing. And then I
- 18 was telling them to spread the crowd back because I can't breathe.
- 19
- 20 Q Were you having trouble breathing?
- 21 A Yes, sir.
- 22
- 23 Q Were you taken to a hospital?
- 24 A Yes, sir.
- 25
- 26 Q Where were you first taken?
- 27 A Camden County.
- 28
- 29 Q Camden County Hospital?
- 30 A Yes.
- 31
- 32 Q Now, did they treat you there at Camden County or did they send you somewhere else?
- 33 A They did something to me. I can't remember. They treated me. Gave me some blood or
- 34 something.
- 35
- 36 Q Did you go anywhere else?
- 37 A No.
- 38
- 39 Q How long were you in the hospital?
- 40 A I'm still here.
- 41
- 42 Q Was the bullet removed from your body?

Entry 6 Elder Statement

1 A Yes, sir.
2
3 Q And where was it removed from your body?
4 A My back.
5
6 Q Is there a scar on your back from where you were shot?
7 A Yes, sir.
8
9 Q Would you mind showing me the bullet wound?
10 A No.
11
12 Q Okay, if you would please, sir, unbutton your shirt and pull it down. And then turn and point on
13 your back to where the wound is.
14 A (Witness complying)
15
16 Q You're putting your finger just above the spot?
17 A Yes, sir.
18
19 Q Is it that discoloration right there just to the right of your spine?
20 A Yes, sir.
21 Q Between your shoulder blades; is that correct?
22 A Yes, sir.
23
24 Q Do you have any lasting results from this?
25 A Yes, sir. I have on a colostomy bag.
26
27 Q A colostomy bag?
28 A Yes, sir.
29
30 Q And is there any prospect of having your colostomy bag removed and your bowel re-attached?
31 A I don't know, sir. They say it'll cost a lot of money and I don't have any money.
32
33 Q One last thing, Mr. ELDER, were you under the influence of drugs or alcohol on the night of this
34 shooting.
35 A I'm not sure I want to answer that question.
36
37 Q I'm not trying to make a case against you, I'm just trying to find out how well you can remember
38 what happened.
39 A Okay. I was smoking some weed, and I had two six packs of beer before I went to the Infernal
40 Club. When I was at the Club I only had three mugs of beer and did one line of coke. I had a
41 pretty good buzz on, but I can drink lots more than that without getting drunk.
42

Entry 6 Elder Statement

1 Q How long before the shooting was it that you did the line of coke?

2 A I did it right when I got to the club, so it was maybe an hour or two before the shooting.

3

4 Q Thank you. Mr. ELDER, have I forced you, threatened you, or coerced you in any way to give me
5 this statement?

6 A No.

7

8 Q Have I promised you any leniency or hope of reward in order to get you to make this statement?

9 A No.

10

11 Q Is your statement free and voluntary?

12 A Yes.

13

14 Q Do you solemnly swear that the statement you just gave is the truth, the whole truth and
15 nothing but the truth, so help you God?

16 A Yes.

17

18 This will conclude the interview with JOHN ELDER, held at the Camden County Hospital. It is now 10:00

19 PM on June 15, 20XX-1