

#22* Statements of Sears Employees
- JIM WALSH - JIM WALSH
(Adam Walsh) B. WALSH

July 10, 1997

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT #22

TO: RALPH J. RAY, JR.
 Chief Assistant State Attorney

FROM: PHILIP J. MUNDY
 Investigator

SUBJ: Statements of Sears Employees

RE: Homicide Investigation of Adam Walsh

ENCL: 1) Statement of John KING
 2) Statement of Aurora DELGADO
 3) Statement of Joanne BRAUN

Mr. KING observed Reve WALSH enter the store and leave her son at the video game area. About thirty or forty minutes later he learned that the boy was missing. He did not have the video game area under constant observation during that time. He saw Mrs. WALSH and states that she seemed upset but not hysterical.

Aurora DELGADO also saw mother and son enter the store and the child being left to play the video games. Later Mrs. WALSH came to her and asked her to page her missing son Adam. She described Mrs. WALSH as calm.

Joanne BRAUN saw Mrs. WALSH enter the store but did not notice a child being with her. She later observed Mrs. WALSH and described her as being calm.

None of these witnesses identified anyone from the photo line up which contained a photo of Ottis TOOLE (ref. Investigative memo #21).

Statements were taken from these witnesses for the record and in an effort to resolve to some extent the testimony of William MISTLER regarding the behavior of Mrs. WALSH.

Philip J. Mundy
 INV. PHILIP J. MUNDY

cc: Det. John Kerns, Hollywood P.D.

ENCLOSURE
ONE

Statement
JOHN KING

Inv. Phil Mundy
June 24, 1997

THIS IS GOING TO BE WITNESS STATEMENT IN REGARDS TO STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INVESTIGATION NUMBER 96-02-262. THE FOLLOWING WILL BE A STATEMENT OF MR. JOHN B. KING, K-I-N-G, BLACK MALE, DATE OF BIRTH JULY 11, 1962 AS GIVEN TO STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATOR PHILIP J. MUNDY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT. THE STATEMENT IS BEING TAKEN AT THE SEARS RETAIL STORE LOCATED ON PINES BOULEVARD AND FLAMINGO ROAD IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA ON TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1997 BEGINNING AT ABOUT 10:10 AM.

THE FOLLOWING NOTATIONS WILL DISTINGUISH SPEAKERS:

**PM: PHILIP MUNDY
JK: JOHN KING**

PM: As an investigator with the State Attorney's Office I have the authority to take your statement under oath so I need you to raise your right hand and do you solemnly swear or affirm that the statement you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth so help you god?

JK: I affirm.

PM: For the record would you please state your full name and date of birth?

JK: John Bernard King, my date of birth is July 11, 1962.

PM: Where are you currently employed?

JK: Sears Grand Central. I am not familiar with the address here.

PM: It is Pines Boulevard and Flamingo Road?

JK: Pembroke Pines Boulevard and Flamingo Road that is correct.

PM: And how long have you been employed with Sears?

JK: Well I just came back to Sears, it is going on the third year now.

PM: From previous conversations with me you are aware that our office is investigating the disappearance and the death of one Adam Walsh correct?

JK: Yes sir.

PM: Back on July 27, 1981 were you employed with the Sears store located on Hollywood Boulevard and Park Road in the City of Hollywood?

JK: Yes sir.

PM: What hours were you working that day, what department were you working in?

JK: I can't recall the exact hours. I think it was during the earlier part of the day. I can't remember exactly what time I was scheduled.

PM: Do you recall if you were working say between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM?

JK: I believe so. Somewhere in that time, maybe 10:00 to 4:00. Somewhere in that time

frame.

PM: And do you remember what department you were working in?

JK: Yes sir. Catalog ordering.

PM: Catalog ordering?

JK: That is correct.

PM: Not the toy department?

JK: Not the toy department.

PM: Did there come a time when while you were working you saw a woman who you later came to know as a Mrs. Reve Walsh?

JK: Yes sir. I saw a young lady, she came in with her son.

PM: Describe to me what you saw?

JK: Well at the time I was up front getting some merchandise because it was my job duties to receive all the merchandise that was canceled and we would put them in the back, but at the time when I was out I would notice the kids that would come in and play on the Atari game and this particular young lady came in with her son. He wanted to play. She didn't want him to play. She seemed like as if she didn't have time and he was upset so he persisted to play the game. So she left him there. And she went on her way.

PM: Did you overhear some of the conversation between the mother and the boy?

JK: The only thing I can recall hearing that he adamantly conveyed to her that he wanted to play the game because at the time the Atari games were very popular. So she let him stay there and play while she went on to do what she needed to get done.

PM: The only reason I asked that is that if you could hear that it would mean I assume that you were fairly close to them.

JK: The only thing I could remember hearing, he wanted to play the game really extremely bad and she didn't want him to play because she seemed like she was in a rush to get to where she wanted to go and he persuaded her that he would be alright. And at that time she let him go. He went and played the game which the game was about two or three feet away from my department. The only thing that separated the Atari game which was on an incap was about four feet, five feet across from me.

PM: You don't remember about what time that was that that happened do you?

JK: Not really. I would be speculating.

PM: Did you notice if there were any other youths at the video games?

JK: At that particular game that he went on, it was no one on there at the time, that is why ^{HE} was able to get on that one.

PM: Did there ever come a time during that particular day that you witnessed a member of the Sears Internal Security staff come down to the video games because of some sort of problem amongst the children?

JK: No. I heard that at that time of the day that they had a problem with the kids and they had to put a couple of kids out. I heard that. You know through talk. But I didn't actually see it myself.

PM: Did there come a time on that day when you became aware that a child was missing?

JK: Yes.

PM: When did that happen?

JK: It must have been from the time the mother and the son came into the store. Let's say it was about maybe about 30 or 40 minutes later because at the time I was in and out so I couldn't say when the first time she was aware that her son was missing because you know I would never work out there I would just come out there periodically picking up merchandise, bringing it back and filling orders.

PM: That being the case, it is possible isn't it that things could have occurred outside where the video games were that you wouldn't have witnessed because of the duties you were performing?

JK: Absolutely. Yes sir at the time.

PM: Did there come a time when you saw this woman who came in with the boy after you were aware the boy was missing?

JK: Yes. I saw her, I can't recall which staff member she was with but when I saw her they came back in the area where she left him at which was across from my department which was the garden department and as you walk through the garden department you could have walked outside the door of Sears which is facing Park Road.

PM: When you saw her after you knew that the boy was missing, could you describe to me her demeanor, her behavior?

JK: She seemed like you know like the typical mother who was upset. She wasn't hysterical. She was just you know like worried. I could see it in her face. I didn't stay out there long enough to exactly see all of her body gestures but she looked like any concerned mother I would say.

PM: Do you remember what she was wearing that day?

JK: No sir I couldn't tell you that. And I wouldn't want to speculate.

PM: How about the little boy?

JK: I don't know. I am trying to remember. If I am not mistaken I think that Adam was wearing some kind of stripe shirt. I think I am not sure. But I think he was wearing a stripe shirt.

PM: Now of course when this happened and when you saw this woman and this boy come in, you didn't know who they were right?

JK: No sir. Not at all. They were just like any other customers that would come in and out and from time to time we see many kids wanting to play and their parents would say no. Some parents would say yes. And you know we would assume that was just the normal routine.

PM: What were the circumstances how you found out at some point in time that she was Reve Walsh and that the missing boy was Adam Walsh, was it through the newspapers, word of mouth?

JK: Well before that later on that day as I was doing my job duties, if a kid would be missing they would make an announcement so you would hear an announcement over there and they would first try to contact the kid, they would call the kid and tell him their mother is looking for him. They would say where to meet him at and you know I heard it vaguely, I thought about it but you know I say well you know the kid could have gotten mixed up and lost his parents. But as it progressed over a period of time they kept trying to locate the kid and they couldn't find him at the time and I just happened to go out and I saw Ms. Walsh you know looking for her son in that area where she left him. Then I remembered that was the lady I saw earlier with the boy who wanted to play at that particular Atari game.

PM: Did there come a time when anybody showed you any photographs of the little boy or did you see a photograph in the newspaper or on t.v.?

JK: I saw the photograph on a newspaper. After that happened there was an investigator who questioned me inside the office in my department which is the catalog ordering. I don't recall him showing me any pictures at the time. I don't recall but there was two guys and they were asking me about it so I did at that time to the best of my ability.

PM: What I am really getting at is did there ever come a time since this incident happened where you saw a photograph of the missing child and are able to say today that that was the boy you saw at the video games?

JK: No sir. I can only recall seeing Adam in the newspaper or on the news.

PM: On the day that this happened, on that day or either any day before or after while you were working there, did you ever witness an incident of a woman running up and down the aisles shouting, throwing her purse down?

JK: No sir.

PM: You didn't see

JK: I don't recall anything like that.

PM: You didn't see Mrs. Walsh do that that day did you?

JK: Absolutely not. Not to my knowledge. The first time I saw her and Adam walk into the store that day and that was probably the last time since the news and other events which transpired.

PM: One last thing, I spoke to you a week or so ago I think you will remember and I showed you some photographs of some men?

JK: Yes sir.

PM: You didn't recognize any one of those photographs did you?

JK: No. One of the faces as I said to you earlier looked familiar but I couldn't say where I seen that face from.

PM: You don't remember seeing any of those people at Sears particularly that day?

JK: No sir. I can't recall no.

PM: This will conclude the statement. Is there anything else I haven't asked you that you think you need to tell me about?

JK: No sir. Not right off the bat.

PM: This will conclude the statement.

STATEMENT TERMINATED

ENCLOSURE
TWO

Statement
AURORA DELGADO

Inv. Phil Mundy
June 18, 1997

THIS IS GOING TO BE A STATEMENT IN REGARD TO STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INVESTIGATION NUMBER 96-02-262. THE FOLLOWING IS GOING TO BE THE STATEMENT OF MRS. AURORA, A-U-R-O-R-A, DELGADO, D-E-L-G-A-D-O, A WHITE FEMALE, DATE OF BIRTH APRIL 29, 1940. THIS STATEMENT IS BEING TAKEN AT THE SEARS STORE IN THE PEMBROKE PINES SHOPPING CENTER IN THE CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FLORIDA ON THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1997 BEGINNING AT ABOUT 2:30 PM.

THE FOLLOWING NOTATIONS WILL DISTINGUISH SPEAKERS:

PM: PHIL MUNDY
AD: AURORA DELGADO

PM: As an investigator with the State Attorney's Office I have the authority to take your statement under oath so I need you to raise your right hand and do you solemnly swear or affirm the statement you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth so help you god?

AD: I do.

PM: Just for the record would you please state your full name and date of birth?

AD: My name is Aurora Delgado and my date of birth is April 29, 1940.

PM: You are currently employed by Sears?

AD: Yes for the last 20 years.

PM: And your current home address?

AD: Is the same, 310 SW 64th Way, Pembroke Pines.

PM: Going back to July 27, 1981 were you employed by Sears at that time?

AD: Yes I was.

PM: And which store?

AD: The Hollywood store.

PM: Do you recall what hours you were working that day? What department?

AD: I working the catalog ordering department and I usually work 10:00 to 2:00, 10:00 to 3:00 sometimes until 4:00. But I don't remember exactly until what time I worked that day.

PM: You do remember working that day don't you?

AD: Oh yes I did.

PM: Did there come a time when you working that day that you came in contact with a woman that you later learned to be a woman *NAMED REVE WALSH?*

AD: Yes I did.

PM: Could you tell me how that happened?

AD: When she came back to the little boy from the game that was across from me, she you know was looking for him and she asked me if I seen him and I told her no that he was playing there but I didn't know who he was so she started looking around and then she asked me to call the operator to page him.

PM: Let me back up then. While you were working there and you eventually met or came in contact with this woman who you know to be Mrs. Walsh now, prior to her coming to you did you see her before in the store?

AD: Yea I saw her coming in. Then she left the little boy in the Atari which was just across from the catalog and then she left you know toward the store. And a few minutes later I don't know how long she came back looking for him.

PM: When she came into the store and you saw her with the little boy you said she left him at the Atari game, video games or whatever. Can you remember anything about the little boy like his clothing or anything?

AD: Not really.

PM: Did you notice if there were any children around when she left him there?

AD: Yea there were some children. There were always children at the game.

PM: On that occasion when she leaves the little boy do you recall either the number of the children or the race of the children that were there?

AD: I don't remember how many but I know there was a black kid in there. There was one that was black, he was always there.

PM: He was always there?

AD: There was two or three every afternoon they were there. Every afternoon.

PM: More than one?

AD: More than one. There was always fights about that game, it was something else that game in there.

PM: When she left the boy there, besides the one black child that you seem to recall, there were other children as well?

AD: There were I would say I'm not sure my gosh, two or three more yea.

PM: You never witnessed any kind of a disturbance amongst the children at that time or while the little boy was there?

AD: At that time I don't remember. I don't think so.

PM: During the time he was there?

AD: I don't remember at that time.

PM: And the little boy that she left there, did you get a good look at him?

AD: No it was just a boy you know.

PM: You couldn't identify him?

AD: No, oh no.

PM: Later when you saw pictures of Adam Walsh, you didn't identify him did you?

AD: I don't even remember. Because now you know with all the pictures I seen of him and everything I don't even remember that.

PM: So just to reiterate, she leaves the little boy, she walks off, do you know where she went, did you see where she went?

AD: She went down the aisle, you know it was a long aisle toward the center of the store, but I don't know where she went.

PM: Was^{it} in the direction of the lamp department?

AD: Yea.

PM: And then eventually she comes back, and she asked you to page the child?

AD: Right.

PM: Did she say

AD: When she asked me if I seen him, and she looked around a long time you know sometime, and she asked me again, and I was going to page him and I paged him.

PM: Did you see her from time to time after that in the store, Mrs. Walsh?

AD: You mean after that day?

PM: No no after you paged the boy? And then as the day goes on, do you see her again?

AD: Well yea she was there and she looked around and then later on she told me she was going to go to the mother in law and see if he went home you know to the grandmother, and then later on in the afternoon, I don't know if that day I worked later than usual because I remembered her coming back you know.

PM: After you realized you know that she was looking for this little boy who apparently was not where he was suppose to be, as you saw her could you describe to me how she was behaving, her demeanor?

AD: She was very calm, that is for sure. She was very calm.

PM: Did she seem upset or frightened?

AD: If she was she didn't show it to me. Or maybe because I was very upset. You know I am very you know I get upset with things you know so maybe I was upset and I didn't realize how she was, but she always looked pretty calm to me.

PM: Now on that day either before the little boy and the woman came into the store or even afterwards, did you ever see Mrs. Walsh or any other woman behaving in a really hysterical manner?

AD: No that I recall.

PM: Did you ever see a woman running up and down the aisle shouting something?

AD: No I don't remember.

PM: Did you ever see a woman again running up and down the aisle and at some point in time throwing a purse to the ground?

AD: No I don't remember any of that.

PM: In that general area where the toys and video games were, on that particular day especially, do you remember if there was a display perhaps on a table of shirts or some sort of clothing?

AD: I don't think so in that area. I don't think so.

PM: It wouldn't be appropriate for it to be there would it?

AD: No no in that area was paint, tools and toys and the garden shop and the catalog.

PM: So you wouldn't if that wasn't there then you wouldn't have seen somebody throw themselves on that table?

AD: No no I don't remember anything but I don't... not clothing at all no.

PM: Now when I ask about this person that was acting erratic or hysterical and it was a woman, number one you never saw Mrs. Walsh act that way?

AD: No.

PM: And to the best of your recollection you never saw anybody in the store act that way did you?

AD: I don't remember, I don't remember.

PM: You kind of recall the layout of the Sears store at that time right?

AD: Yea.

PM: In relation to where the video games were or where the camping equipment might

have been?

AD: I'm confused a little bit because the store changed. It could be that it was the toy department and then the camping equipment. But I am not sure of that.

PM: So it is possible?

AD: But it is possible.

PM: I spoke to you sometime back about a week or so ago and I asked you to look at some pictures, do you remember that?

AD: Yea.

PM: Just for the record you didn't identify anybody out of those pictures did you?

AD: No I didn't know anybody.

PM: And on the day that this boy disappeared did you see anybody in the store that was acting suspicious or looked suspicious?

AD: Not really.

PM: Has anybody else ever in conversation given you any information or say things to the effect like the things that they may have seen?

AD: No.

PM: Any thing else you can think about?

AD: Not really.

PM: That I haven't asked you?

AD: No. All I remember is that the boy was there, she came back, asked me you know if I seen him, I called the operator, that was it and she was telling me she went outside to go to the mother in law and that is all that I remember.

PM: This will conclude the statement of Mrs. Delgado and the time is about 2:45PM.

STATEMENT TERMINATED

ENCLOSURE
THREE

Statement
JOANNE BRAUN

Inv. Phil Mundy
June 24, 1997

THIS IS GOING TO BE A WITNESS STATEMENT IN REGARD TO STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATION NUMBER 96-02-262. THE FOLLOWING IS GOING TO BE THE STATEMENT OF JOANNE, J-O-A-N-N-E, LOUISE BRAUN, B-R-A-U-N, WHITE FEMALE DATE OF BIRTH JUNE 12, 1942 AS GIVEN TO INVESTIGATOR PHILIP J. MUNDY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT. THE STATEMENT IS BEING TAKEN AT 2241 SUNSHINE BOULEVARD, MIRAMAR, FLORIDA ON TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1997 BEGINNING AT ABOUT 11:10 AM.

THE FOLLOWING NOTATIONS WILL DISTINGUISH SPEAKERS:

**PM: PHILIP MUNDY
JB: JOANNE BRAUN**

PM: As an investigator with the State Attorney's Office I have the authority to take your statement under oath so I need you to raise your right hand and do you solemnly swear or affirm that the statement you are about to give will be the truth the whole truth so help you god?

JB: Yes I do.

PM: For the record would you please state your full name and date of birth?

JB: Joanne Braun, June 12, 1942.

PM: And your current home address?

JB: 2241 Sunshine Boulevard, Miramar 33023.

PM: Back on July 27, 1981 could you tell me who you were employed by at that time?

JB: Sears Roebuck at the Hollywood Mall.

PM: And that is on Hollywood Boulevard and Park Road in the City of Hollywood?

JB: Yes.

PM: Do you remember if not the exact hours the approximate hours that you were working on that day?

JB: Between 10 AM and 3 PM.

PM: And do you remember which department you were working in?

JB: I worked in the catalog department.

PM: You are aware we are investigating the disappearance and the death of a little boy named Adam Walsh and that is the reason for this interview correct?

JB: Yes.

PM: On July 27, 1981 did there come a time when you were working there that you saw a woman who you later learned to be Mrs. Reve Walsh?

JB: Yes.

PM: And how did that happen?

JB: I noticed her first when she came in to the store because the boys at package pickup were commenting on the clothes she had on. The outfit. And then later on she was sitting by package pickup appearing to be waiting for somebody.

PM: You don't have any idea about what time that might have been when you saw her come in?

JB: No. It I believe it would have probably been around 10:00 or 10:30 just after the store had opened.

PM: Why do you say that?

JB: Because that is usually our slow period of time for package pickup and I know we were just standing around and talking.

PM: That is the best of your recollection?

JB: Yes.

PM: When the woman came into the store, Mrs. Walsh, did you notice if she had a child with her?

JB: No I didn't.

PM: Now package pickup, catalog department where you were, in relation to the toy department could you tell me how that is?

JB: The toy department started at the end of the catalog counter.

PM: Were there video games in there?

JB: There was a video game right at the end of the catalog counter between catalog and customer service.

PM: Could you see that area from where you were?

JB: Yes.

PM: During that day did you notice children playing the games?

JB: Yes off and on.

PM: Did you take any particular notice of them?

JB: No because it was a frequent occurrence.

PM: At any time during the day did you become aware of any kind of an incident at the video games that caused one of the Sears employees to respond there and take care of what has been described as a disturbance amongst the children?

JB: No I really didn't notice anything like that.

PM: Later on after you saw Mrs. Walsh come in the store, I think you said you saw her again at the lawn area?

JB: At the package pickup.

PM: At the package pickup area. And what was she doing?

JB: She was sitting there, she appeared to be waiting for somebody to come.

PM: You didn't speak to her?

JB: That I can recall. No.

PM: Did there come a time and if so how, that you learned that her little boy was missing?

JB: I don't remember if I heard it through somebody at work or they had it over the loud speaker. And I don't remember if it was me or one of the package pickup boys talk to her and she said it was her son that was missing and she was waiting for her husband to come.

PM: During the time you were able to observe Mrs. Walsh, could you tell me how she seemed to you, her demeanor, her behavior?

JB: She seemed very calm. Like you know it was like an everyday thing it just didn't seem to appear to bother her at all that it was her son that was missing.

PM: About how long of a period of time were you able to see Mrs. Walsh, actually see her?

JB: I would say about 15 or 20 minutes.

PM: You don't know what she did before she came to the package pickup?

JB: No.

PM: And there came a time when she left package pickup?

JB: Yes.

PM: And so you don't know what she did after that?

JB: No I have no idea.

PM: At no time did you see Mrs. Walsh behaving in a manner like she ^{was} hysterical?

JB: No.

PM: Never heard her shouting?

JB: No.

PM: On that day or for that ^{matter} on any day before this incident happened or afterwards do you remember anytime when there was an incident of a woman running up and down the aisle shouting, slamming a purse down on the floor and throwing herself across a display table?

JB: No.

PM: I have some photographs of several men that I would like you to look at and the reason I am showing it to you is to ask if you have ever seen any of these people in the Sears store, not necessarily on that day but on any day before or after?

JB: I don't believe so no.

PM: Let the record reflect that the photo lineup contained the suspect Ottis Toole ^{IN} as the array of photographs that was just displayed. Besides what I have asked you so far Mrs. Braun is there anything else that you could think of that might have something to do with this case that I haven't asked you?

JB: No not that I can think of, nothing no.

PM: Nobody other than police personnel have talked to you about the case, offered any information about it, told you that they thought they knew something about it?

JB: No.

PM: Nothing of that nature?

JB: No.

PM: I think that is all the questions I have. This will conclude the statement and I thank you very much.

JB: Thank you.

STATEMENT TERMINATED