

IN RE: CLEMENCY APPLICATION  
OF TYRA PATTERSON

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AFFIDAVIT OF SHARON WILSON

I, Sharon Wilson, under penalty of perjury and having been sworn to tell the truth, state the following:

1. I'm a fifty-nine year-old woman who lives in Montgomery County, Ohio.
2. I am of sound mind and have personal knowledge of the facts stated below.
3. In 1995 I served on the jury in *State v. Tyra Patterson*, 94-CR-2753. Tyra's charges related to the shooting death of Michelle Lai. We convicted Tyra of aggravated robbery and aggravated murder.
4. The prosecution presented evidence that Tyra grabbed a necklace from one of the victims of the robbery, after which one of the other robbers shot Michelle Lai. The most damning evidence the prosecution presented against Tyra was her videotaped statement. In that statement, Tyra confessed to ripping the necklace from the neck of the victim and then flushing it down the toilet when she got back to her apartment. In her statement, Tyra also mentioned seeing one of the other robbers with a gun earlier that night.
5. As best as I can remember, Tyra's lawyers did not present any evidence that her confession was false, or that people sometimes admit to crimes they did not commit.

6. Additionally, the defense failed to give us any reason to believe that Tyra's presence at the scene was innocent.
7. The way that the judge explained the law it seemed cut and dry that we had to find Tyra guilty of robbery and murder.
8. But when we got back to the jury room to begin deliberations I had doubts. When we took our first vote, I voted not guilty. The other eleven jurors voted guilty.
9. I voted not guilty initially because my gut told me that Tyra did not rob anyone and was instead in the wrong place at the wrong time.
10. After our initial vote we continued to review the evidence. I continued to stick to my position because my gut kept telling me Tyra was not guilty.
11. That night we deliberated into the early morning hours of the next day. The longer we deliberated the more pressure the other jurors put on me. It was late and they wanted to go home and I was holding the process up. One of the male jurors pointed to a pregnant female juror and said something like: "She should not be here this late. She's pregnant and needs to go home."
12. Finally I agreed to vote guilty. The reason I changed my vote is because the other jurors kept bringing up the videotaped statement where Tyra admitted to a robbery.
13. When the judge asked each of the jurors individually if we believed Tyra was guilty, my doubts returned momentarily. But then I remembered the videotaped statement and I stuck with my vote to convict Tyra.

14. After the court announced the verdict, Tyra screamed: "I didn't do anything!" I wondered why she would yell that out if she was actually guilty. I remember Tyra's statement like it was yesterday; it has stuck with me through the years.
15. The walk to my car from the courthouse after the verdict seemed very long. I wondered whether we had done the right thing in finding Tyra guilty.
16. On May 20, 2013, I met with David A. Singleton, one of Tyra's lawyers. During our meeting, Mr. Singleton played for me a tape of the 911 call Tyra made after the shooting. My meeting with Mr. Singleton was the first time I heard the 911 recording. Neither the prosecution nor the defense played the tape of the call at trial.
17. I think the defense should have played the tape. It was important evidence that we should've heard. The fact that Tyra called 911 was the responsible thing for her to do. To me, the 911 call she made is more consistent with innocence than guilt.
18. The fact that Tyra mispronounced her name initially during the call and then lied by saying that she heard about the shooting from a friend, rather than telling the dispatcher that she had actually witnessed the robbery, does not make me conclude that she must have been guilty because she was untruthful about those things. If Tyra picked up a necklace that had been thrown to the ground by one of the other robbers and then took it back to her apartment, which Mr. Singleton told me is Tyra's version of

events, then I could understand why she might have been afraid to place herself at the scene out of fear that she would be charged with the more serious crimes of robbery and murder if investigated by the authorities.

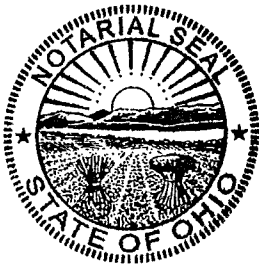
19. If I had heard the 911 call at trial, I would not have voted to convict her.
20. Mr. Singleton also showed me a transcript from Kellie Johnson's trial, which happened nearly a year before Tyra's. At Kellie's trial, Holly Lai testified that it was Kellie who grabbed the necklace from the neck of one of the victims.
21. I don't remember the defense using the transcript from Kellie Johnson's case at Tyra's trial. Holly Lai's testimony that Kellie Johnson snatched the necklace from one of the victim's would have been important to us because we wound up convicting Tyra based on our belief that she was the one who took the necklace from the victim.
22. If Tyra's lawyers asked Holly about her previous testimony, it probably got lost on us because Tyra had confessed and the defense did not challenge the truth of the confession.
23. I feel bad about the verdict. I realize that we did the best we could based on the evidence we had. I tried to hold out as long as I could because I believed in my gut that Tyra was not guilty. But I didn't have the evidence on my side to persuade the other jurors.
24. Had the 911 call been introduced in Tyra's trial, I would have had the ammunition I needed to convince other jurors that Tyra was not guilty.

25. I hope Governor Kasich grants Tyra's request for clemency. I hope she comes home soon.

Sharon F. Wilson  
Sharon Wilson

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013.

[Signature]  
Notary Public



David A. Singleton, Attorney At Law  
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF OHIO  
My commission has no expiration date  
Sec. 147.03 R.C.