

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF [REDACTED]

COUNTY OF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] being duly sworn, deposes and states:

1. I am [REDACTED] years old. My date of birth is [REDACTED]. I reside at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I once lived in Suffolk County, New York. I am giving this affidavit of my own free will. I am not under duress, nor coercion, nor the undue influence of anyone. I contacted John Ray, Esq. by telephone on September 15, 2023. I did so because I am aware that John Ray has been representing the family of Shannan Gilbert. I trust him. I had seen him on T.V. I am aware that John Ray has drafted the words in this affidavit. He has done so with my consent and at my direction, after an extensive conversation I had with John Ray regarding that which is contained in this affidavit. The words herein accurately reflect my knowledge and information. I adopt the words in this affidavit as my own words.
2. In or about October 2009, I was a taxi driver in Suffolk County, New York. I was employed as a taxi driver by Colonial and other companies at that time. I believe my employer was located in Sayville, New York. My employer's dispatcher directed me at that time to drive to a little road off of Ocean Ave. in Ronkonkoma to pick up a customer. This place was a bar, not far from Exit 59 of the Long Island Expressway. I was to have picked up a person named Matt.
3. When I arrived at the bar, I observed an extraordinarily large man, wearing an army-like fatigue jacket, crouching down on a very small street next to the bar where I had

pulled up. He rose, so that I observed his immense size. He approached my cab. He appeared to be wearing jeans and a white T-Shirt. His hair was more or less light-colored, but not blonde. He was a white man. I had been told by my dispatcher the place of destination for this customer, but I no longer can recall that location. This large man approached my taxi to enter it. His words to me seemed arrogant. He entered into the rear of my taxi. He sat in the rear seat, on the edge of the seat and in the middle of it. He said to me words to the effect that "We're going for a long ride in the woods" and indicated that we had to pick up a girl who was in a house across the street from the bar. My taxi was stopped very close to that house on a very narrow side street. I could see a white girl in the window in that house. I believe the window in the house where I saw the girl, was open.

4. I told the large man that I could not take him on the trip he had indicated, that I had to clear it with my dispatcher. He argued with me. He said words to the effect that "are you being a smart ass?" As we argued, he said to me that he wanted to kill me if I would just give him a reason to do so. He insisted he wanted to kill me. I heard him click a gun. While this occurred, I could hear my dispatcher yelling words to the effect that "you got a gun on my driver, I see you, I got a call in" to someone. I said words to the effect that "I don't even know you." The large man had a sort of identification chain hanging on him, but I could not see the full I.D. I asked him if he was a cop. He said he was a cop. When I asked him where he was a cop, he replied "Brooklyn".
5. I told the large man to just get out of my car and I would not press charges. Then a man who I subsequently took to be the girl's boyfriend as told to me later on by the dispatcher pulled into the house's driveway. I turned off the car. I said that I was not

moving, that I was not driving from this spot. I told him that he could have the keys and take the car, that he could have my money. I asked him would he speak to his mother that way? He replied with intense anger that "my mother is dead!" my dispatcher said to him to just walk away. The large man stepped out of the car. He leaned into the front passenger window. The dispatcher told me that the large man asked the boyfriend and girl for a ride, to which one of them replied words to the effect that "no, the cops are on their way". The large man went into a nearby wooded area and shot his gun off two times, according to the dispatcher. I had already started the car and I had already driven down the street when the large man did whatever the dispatcher told me that he did.

6. As I drove down the street, a Suffolk County Police Officer in a white and blue police car approached from the other direction, with no headlights nor any siren. The officer had dark hair, appeared to be in his thirties in age. I told the police officer that the large man had pulled a gun. The officer told me that he was responding to a call, that the dispatcher had called in and a girl had also called in. I said to him words to the effect that "he's one of yours, he's had a bad night, he pulled a gun". The officer's vehicle then crept down the street past my car.
7. I drove away to other calls. I told my family members about this incident, including my nephew who was a police officer and I told my sister of the event described above. I also told other drivers of the event. Recently, I saw Rex Heuermann on T.V. He was the large man I encountered in the incident described above and he was the large man I saw in the incident I describe below. I was afraid of him. I now know him to be known as Rex Heuermann.

8. In another incident which preceded the one above by at least several weeks, my dispatcher sent me to pick up a passenger at the Sayville Motor Lodge on Sunrise Highway. I was told by my dispatcher that the prospective passenger had asked for a female driver, and that she had locked herself in a bathroom in a room at the motel. I drove in behind the motel. I saw a dark, apparently greenish-grey SUV on a side street near to the motel. I drove into the parking lot, to the left. I looked for the correct room number. ~~When I located it, I blew my car's horn and flashed my lights at the room.~~ I did these things on and off for seven to eight minutes. No one had come out of the room.
9. Then a very large man came out. He appeared to have a bit of a belly. He ran to the side street. He tried to block his face with his arms. Then a girl ran out. She was petite. She was crying and shaking. She entered my taxi, in the rear right seat. She said that we had to get away from there. I noticed that one of her eyes had something defective about it, that it appeared to droop. Her hair was pulled back neatly, like a ballerina would have done. She wore jeans and a shirt. She was not dressed provocatively. She said that she was glad that she had gotten me as a driver.
10. The girl told me that she met the large man on Craigslist. He befriended her, she said. She said that he said to her that he would take care of her mom, her sisters, and her boyfriend. She said that he placed a thick white envelope on the nightstand in the room. She said that he told her that whatever happens tonight, this envelope was for her and her family. But she said that she saw a rage in his face. She said that when he went to the bathroom she looked into the envelope. She said that the envelope was filled with cut-up paper. She said that he shook her and that he was aggravated. She said that he

got aggressive, so she ran into the bathroom and locked herself in there. She said he banged on the door.

11. The girl never told me her name. I believe the incident took place when it was still a little warm outside. The girl wore a little, light jacket, a dark color. She had a pocketbook which was not large. She said that "they" were always calling her to come out to Long Island. She said that she did not want to come out to Long Island. She told me about her family, including her sisters and her mother. She said that as to her mother, I would not be able to understand her situation with her mother. Much of our conversation took place at the Sayville Motor Lodge or at the Ronkonkoma train station. She had a long wait in order to take the 2:00 am train to New York City. She had a distinctive voice. She was articulate. She paid for the ride and tipped me five dollars. She then sat with another taxi driver in his car waiting for the train, because I had to pick up other customers.

12. I saw her on T.V. where she was identified as Shannan Gilbert. I am certain that the girl was Shannan Gilbert. I recognized her unusual eye droop and her voice. Her story she told me of her family matched the family of Shannan Gilbert. Rex Heuermann appeared to me to be the very big man I saw coming from the motel room I mentioned in my affidavit. I recognized Shannan Gilbert. I told my dispatcher of this incident. I also told the female manager at the Sayville Motor Lodge of this incident. The manager appeared to be a native of India. I told other taxi drivers of this incident. The dispatcher had the telephone number of the large man. I called the police tipline when Rex Heuermann was arrested. I spoke with a young woman and told her the basic facts

which I knew. I spoke twice with the tipline that day. I have never received a return call.



Sworn to before me this

20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023

*DV Patel*

NOTARY PUBLIC

DIPAN V. PATEL  
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY  
Commission # 50132160  
My Commission Expires 07/21/2025

