

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE SUPREME COURT

State of South Carolina,  
Plaintiff,

v.

Gary L. L. Grant (#280988),  
Defendant.

RECEIVED

APR 09 2026

SC Court of Appeals

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SWORN STATEMENT AND NOTICE OF  
NEWLY DISCOVERED EVIDENCE

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TO THE HONORABLE COURT:

Please take notice that I, Kareem King, am a co-defendant in the above-captioned matter involving Gary L. L. Grant (#280988). I submit this sworn statement and notice to inform the Court of newly discovered evidence relevant to Mr. Grant's conviction.

I was informed by a family friend familiar with Mr. Grant's family that Mr. Grant had a hearing scheduled at the Berkeley County Courthouse on September 29, 2025. I intended to appear at that hearing to testify regarding information that neither Mr. Grant nor his attorney were previously aware of. However, I was advised not to attend. Specifically, a woman at the Berkeley County Clerk of Court's Office named Leah Dupree told me not to come, stating that Mr. Grant would not need me.

Because I was prevented from appearing, I now submit this sworn statement and respectfully request that the Court ensure Mr. Gary L. L. Grant receives a copy of this document, as I am willing and prepared to testify to the facts stated herein.

The reason I received a 22-year sentence is because I entered into a plea agreement with Prosecutor Blair C. Jennings. As a condition of that agreement, I was instructed to provide a statement claiming that Gary L. L. Grant was the trigger man. I complied and gave that statement.

Mr. Jennings repeatedly stated that he could not allow Gary Grant to win his trial and claimed that Mr. Grant and his brother were responsible for murders in another pending case at that time. Days before Mr. Grant's trial, Mr. Jennings met with me and another co-

defendant, Kerry Hollins, and coached us on what to say in court. We were instructed that if asked whether we had been promised anything or had made a deal, we were to answer no, despite the existence of an agreement.

The reason I did not come forward earlier is because the individual actually involved—Reginald Hamilton, also known as "Type," now deceased—threatened to kill my mother if I revealed the truth. This is the same individual referenced in Marquita Smith's statement, where she stated that Kerry Hollins placed him on the phone during the planning of the robbery and that he said no one would get hurt. At the time, he and Gary Grant associated socially, and he was out on bond for a murder charge.

This individual was the fourth participant, not Gary Grant. Gary Grant was targeted to divert attention away from my cousin, Jermaine Hartwell, whom the victim identified as the shooter.

Mr. Grant was charged with the same offenses as I was. However, because I agreed to cooperate, my charges were reduced. I entered into the plea agreement because I feared receiving a life sentence. Every statement I made implicating Gary L. L. Grant was false and made solely to secure the plea agreement offered by the prosecution. I stated only what I was instructed to say, including falsely claiming that I saw Gary Grant kill the victim.

I never testified at trial because no one came to transport me, yet I still received the agreed-upon sentence of 22 years in exchange for my written statement and cooperation. That statement was false. Gary L. L. Grant was not with us, and the wrong man is currently imprisoned.

I make this statement freely and voluntarily and am willing to testify under oath to these facts.

#### DECLARATION

I, Kareem King, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements of fact are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on this 3 day of MARCH, 20.

Kareem King

Kareem King  
Co-Defendant

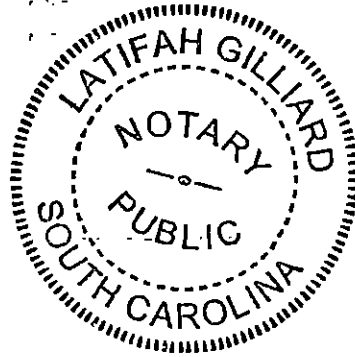
State of South Carolina

County of Charleston

On this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, before me, the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared Kareem King.

Notary Public Signature Latifah Gilliard

My Commission Expires: Jan 30 2034



James Bell

2687 Ranger Dr.  
Norm Charleston, SC  
29405

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Jenny A. Kitchings, Clerk

P.O. Box 11629

Columbia, S.C. 29211

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