



James “Jamie” Snow

Gender: Male

Race: White

Years Incarcerated: 24

Current Legal Representation: No

Conviction: Murder 1st degree

State: Illinois

Case Summary: In 1991, in Bloomington, IL, 18-year-old Bill Little was shot and killed in a gas station robbery. Moments before his death, Little triggered the gas station’s silent alarm, causing a police officer to report to the scene shortly after. Upon pulling up to the station, the officer saw nothing unusual, just a man filling his tires. This man, Danny Martinez, would become the “eyewitness” in the case. Danny Martinez claimed he heard two gunshots and saw a man run out of the gas station. He later identified Mr. Snow as the man who fled the gas station moments before the police went inside and found Mr. Little’s dead body. A month later, Jamie Snow was arrested for robbing a different gas station in Bloomington; in the process, he was asked a lot about the Little murder while being interviewed. In the line up the night of the murder Martinez picked two people, neither of which were Mr. Snow (but did not make a formal identification). In months following, police showed Martinez multiple lineups with Mr. Snow in them and he did not pick Mr. Snow. Martinez still didn't make an ID in 1994. He apparently ID'ed Mr. Snow in 2000 (nine years later) after Mr. Snow was in jail for a year, but detectives took no notes and made no reports of this happening. Additionally, Bill Little's mom had been calling Danny Martinez prior to his assertion of Mr. Snow’s guilt in 2000. Multiple jailhouse snitches Jamie didn't know testified against him. He was offered a plea to implicate someone else but did not take it because he “has no idea who did it”; if he took this deal he would have been home 3 years ago. Co-defendant Susan Claycomb (alleged getaway driver) was decided not guilty by jury, and was offered her freedom for her testimony against Snow but she refused; she had bad PTSD lost marriage and then died from ulcers.

Innocence Claims: Snow’s case is a clear example of eyewitness misidentification issues, as years went by before “eyewitness” Martinez ever identified Mr. Snow (after NOT identifying him several times, and identifying others). Several of the key characters have also since been exposed for corruption and misconduct: Jeff Pelo, the cop that apparently saw Martinez when he saw the suspect is now in Jail (440 years for rape and stalking), and Snow's attorney Frank Piel also ended up in prison (for bilking an elderly client out of more than \$278,000). Jamie’s case had a judge that was ruling favorably for Jamie but then he died in a bike accident and halted momentum. Jamie passed a polygraph test in 1994.

His case taken up by the Exoneration Project, which is who currently represents him. After years of FOIA request process and a FOIA suit, they had a judge order the state to turn over all documents; the state did a “document dump”. Prior to trial they gave lawyers 950 pages of discovery; the document dump revealed over 8,000 pages of documents - Mr. Snow is convinced they are still withholding information. Mr. Snow’s lawyers successfully argued in court that he should be able to view the documents, granted, but no one outside of the EP lawyers and Snow can view the docs. Current motion in court is to gain access to the original pre trial discovery (which Snow says he never saw) in order to compare to the turned over documents and identify what the state is withholding. Over 15 plus state witnesses have either recanted or changed their trial testimony. Including one jailhouse informant who wrote in a sworn statement, “Everything I said on the stand was a lie.” They have identified 5 people who were wrongfully convicted during Charles Reynard’s tenure as State’s Attorney in this small town with an average of around 1.9 murders per year. Three - Alan Beaman, Eric Drew and Donald Whalen - all had their cases overturned, due to state misconduct.

Current status: Forensic testing has been pending since 2009, to check victim’s clothes for DNA because there was a struggle before death, which turned into this ongoing conversation in court about documents .