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STATEMENT OF YOVONKA BRYANT

Thank you for coming today.

I would like to say that I loved Rudy Eugene. Rudy and I had a relationship, boyfriend and girlfriend, for four months. We saw each other frequently. We texted each other, took videos of each other with my family and communicated until the day before his death. My purpose for doing this interview is to shed some light on who he was to me and my family. It is not to excuse his actions or try to justify them.

My relationship with Rudy began in March of this year. I loved the time that Rudy and I spent together. We took my children out to the park, we dined in restaurants, we had family games or movie night at one of my relative's houses and we often engaged in debates over what God really meant to people and who was the biggest Miami Heat fan. Rudy really enjoyed sports. He played flag football with my brother and cousins every Saturday afternoon. My children used the nickname "Uncle Beard" when they talked about him.

Rudy never drank alcohol or used drugs around me. I only saw him smoke a marijuana cigarette once.

One of the things that I loved about Rudy was how he talked about his family and how much he loved his mother and grandmother.

The care that he expressed for my son, the friend he became to my brother and cousins and the man he was to me will never be forgotten.

I felt safe with Rudy. In his presence his smile alone just uplifted my spirit. I could always count on him to encourage me. I truly did not have a care in the world when I was with him.

Rudy had dreams and goals in life. One of his goals was to start his own car detail company. He also dreamed of having a family life.

Life as we know it has changed for us. The fact that I cannot pick up the phone and hear his voice is the hard part. Words alone cannot express what Rudy meant to me and my family. We all miss him dearly. Rudy and I never discussed

cannibalism or voodoo. We watched CREFLO Dollar Ministries every morning. We also had private bible studies together. We spoke about marriage and I thought that he would be a good father to my children. There were no warning signs.

I am devastated by his loss and my heart goes out to the homeless man who became an innocent victim in this tragedy.

I wish that the public knew Rudy the way I did. I believe that he would never have knowingly and intentionally inflicted the harm that he did and that most likely there is a drug that he was given without his knowledge that caused him to do what he did. I am looking forward to learning the results of the toxicology report and I hope that no one will ever again have to suffer what Rudy and his victim did.

Gloria Allred
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