



# Edmond Police Department

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100 E 1st Street • Edmond, Oklahoma 73034 • Phone (405)359-4420

Governor Stitt,

On July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1999, residents of Edmond were shocked by the brutal, and unnecessary murder of one our community's long-time citizens, Paul Howell. Paul was a totally innocent victim. He was spotted and stalked by Julius Jones and Christopher Jordan. Just moments before the murder, an uninvolved witness, by the name of Michael Peterson, observed two young black males in a Cutlass waiting in the Braum's parking lot. Peterson described the driver as having cornrows. Just a few moments after this observation, a mere 2.1 miles away, Christopher Jordan let Julius Jones out of the Cutlass as Paul Howell pulled into his parents' driveway. Julius Jones approached the Suburban and executed Paul Howell barely a foot and half in front of where his nine year old daughter, Rachel, sat in the back seat.

Throughout the course of our investigation, Julius Jones and his family refused to cooperate. They had multiple opportunities to tell their story to our department. Julius Jones had over two and half years to talk prior to trial. His parents had two and half years also to come to the police department and share the alibi that they claimed existed during a 2005 evidentiary hearing. Imagine for a moment if your child was arrested and charged with murder and that he or she was with you when the murder occurred. It seems unfathomable that a parent would not be screaming that at the top of their lungs to anyone and everyone who would listen.... law enforcement, the media. Julius Jones chose the same route at his trial. He again chose not to tell his story, choosing not to testify. Julius Jones now wants to spin a new version of events.... free from the probing questions of an Edmond Police Detective, and free from the cross examination of an experienced prosecutor.

Julius Jones' supporters have made much to do about the witnesses that were located and interviewed by the Edmond Police Department. It is important to note that the Edmond Police Department did not have the luxury of choosing the witnesses. Outside of a very few uninvolved witnesses, like Michael Peterson, Julius Jones chose the witnesses by whom he chose to associate with. All of Jones's associates were convicted felons, and two were informants.

Also contrary to what Jones' supporters say, Jones was not enrolled at the University of Oklahoma at the time of the murder. He was, however, a three-time convicted felon with two other felonies and a misdemeanor pending in Cleveland County. Jones had taken property by force multiple times. In addition to hearing evidence regarding the murder, the jury heard all about Jones' acts of violence from all of those that he had previously victimized in the sentencing stage of his trial. Since his arrest by our department, Jones has added four more felony convictions to his criminal resume, including the almost identical armed carjacking of a Mercedes a mere six days prior to the murder.

Twenty-two years later, the evidence for Jones' conviction is even stronger today than when it was tried in 2002 due to advances in science. Jones' DNA was found on the red bandana, which was wrapped around the 25-caliber murder weapon, found in the crawl space above his bedroom. "The Last Defense" claimed that the red bandana would exonerate Julius Jones, it did not. They claimed that Christopher Jordan planted the gun and bandana but failed to explain why Jordan's DNA was not on the bandana if that were true.



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They also failed to explain why 25 caliber ammunition was recovered from Jones' personal vehicle that he took to a body shop the day after the homicide, if the 25 caliber gun was not his.

The Howell Family were well known citizens of Edmond both because of their family business and their philanthropic endeavors in our community. Paul was known and loved by many. He and his father Bill Sr. were very involved and supportive of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Edmond Police Department worked quickly and tirelessly to solve this crime. The Oklahoma City Police Department also partnered with our agency and provided us with support and assistance surrounding the search of the Jones' residence and Julius Jones' apprehension in Oklahoma City. Julius Jones and Christopher Jordan were soon arrested, (three and two days after the murder respectively), charged and brought to trial. Julius Jones now claims a racial epithet was used at the time of the arrest. His family filed a grievance over the search of their house. They never filed a grievance regarding a supposed racial epithet.

"The Last Defense" and others have tried to paint Edmond as a "sundown town", as a town fearful of black people. These statements are untrue. Citizens of Edmond were terrified, not because two young black males eventually were connected to the case, but because of the sheer randomness and the shocking and unnecessary nature of this crime. Race did not matter. This murder shook the community. Many citizens imagined that it could have easily been them.

The Edmond Police Department asks that you respect the verdict in this case. Twelve citizens of Oklahoma County listened to days of testimony, they deliberated, and they reached a verdict. Thirteen appellate judges from three separate appellate court systems reviewed this case for almost eighteen years. The United States Supreme Court denied certiorari four times.

Our department has personally reached out to the Howell family and expressed our condolences that almost 22 years later they are still being affected and traumatized by Julius Jones. Please allow the facts of this case to guide your decision in determining justice for Paul Howell and his family.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JD Younger", written in a cursive style.

JD Younger  
Chief of Police  
Edmond Police Department