

## Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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### **CONVICTION VACATED IN 2000 AURORA MURDER**

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An Aurora man convicted of murder in 2002 has been released from prison after a new investigation produced new evidence that raises doubt about his role in the crime.

Jonathan Moore, 30 (d.o.b. 7-15-1981), last known address of the 300 block of Blackhawk Street, Aurora, was convicted by a Kane County jury of the August 2000 murder of Shawn Miller of Montgomery. Moore was released from the Illinois Department of Corrections after the Kane County State's Attorney today petitioned the court to vacate the 2002 conviction. The petition was granted.

"This is about justice, not a conviction," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said. "The decision to have Jonathan Moore released from prison in this case is solely the result of new information that was not known at the time of the initial investigation and trial."

At about 5:45 a.m. Aug. 24, 2000, Miller, 20, of the 300 block of North Main Street, Montgomery, was shot to death with a Taurus 9mm semi-automatic handgun outside a Laundromat at 15 S. Lincoln Ave, Aurora. A 17-year-old Chicago man was struck with a bullet from the gun and paralyzed. A third victim, a 22-year-old woman, was not struck by bullets.

On Sept. 19, 2000, Moore was indicted on two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of attempted first-degree murder and one count of aggravated battery with a firearm.

Moore was convicted Aug. 23, 2002, by a Kane County jury, on all counts. On Nov. 7, 2002, Moore was sentenced to 75 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

On Nov. 12, 2004, the Illinois Appellate Court Second District upheld the conviction but reduced the portion of the sentence for the attempted murder by five years.

In 2011, a person not previously known to have information about the shooting contacted the Aurora Police Department. He said he was present when Miller was shot and said that Jonathan Moore was not the shooter. In addition, he identified other new witnesses who corroborated his statement, and he shared details of the

incident that had not previously been made public. Through this information, other witnesses were identified and interviewed. In total, the new investigation involved the re-interviewing of witnesses from the original investigation and the interviewing of new witnesses who were not known to police in 2000 and 2002.

The new investigation revealed information that previously was not known and created inconsistencies in previous testimony. This led police and prosecutors to conclude that significant doubt exists as to Jonathan Moore's role in the shooting.

"Jonathan Moore was prosecuted based on the evidence available, evidence that established probable cause to charge, and evidence that was sufficient to go to trial and convict. Two witnesses identified Jonathan Moore as the shooter. Jonathan Moore twice told police that he was at the scene when the shooting took place, that he acted as a distraction and a lookout for the shooter, and he gave conflicting stories to police. Further, this conviction was upheld by the Appellate Court of Illinois.

"However, when this new witness came forward and provided information, we started a new investigation. Our office and the Aurora Police Department immediately and expediently collaborated and interviewed and re-interviewed old witnesses and new witnesses. This new investigation has cast doubt on the conclusions of the original investigation, and has convinced us that asking the court to vacate this conviction is the right thing to do."

Aurora Police Chief Greg Thomas said, "The new information was corroborated with the interviewing of previously interviewed people and interviewing new, previously unknown individuals who had information relative to the crime. These new statements were corroborated between the witnesses and a different set of facts emerged. Facts that indicate there is doubt as to the conviction of Jonathan Moore."

The murder of Shawn Miller and attempted murder of the other victim remains under investigation. Anyone with information should call Aurora Police Investigations at (630) 256-5500 or call Aurora Area CrimeStoppers at (630) 892-1000. Callers to CrimeStoppers are anonymous and qualify for a cash reward of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to any arrest.