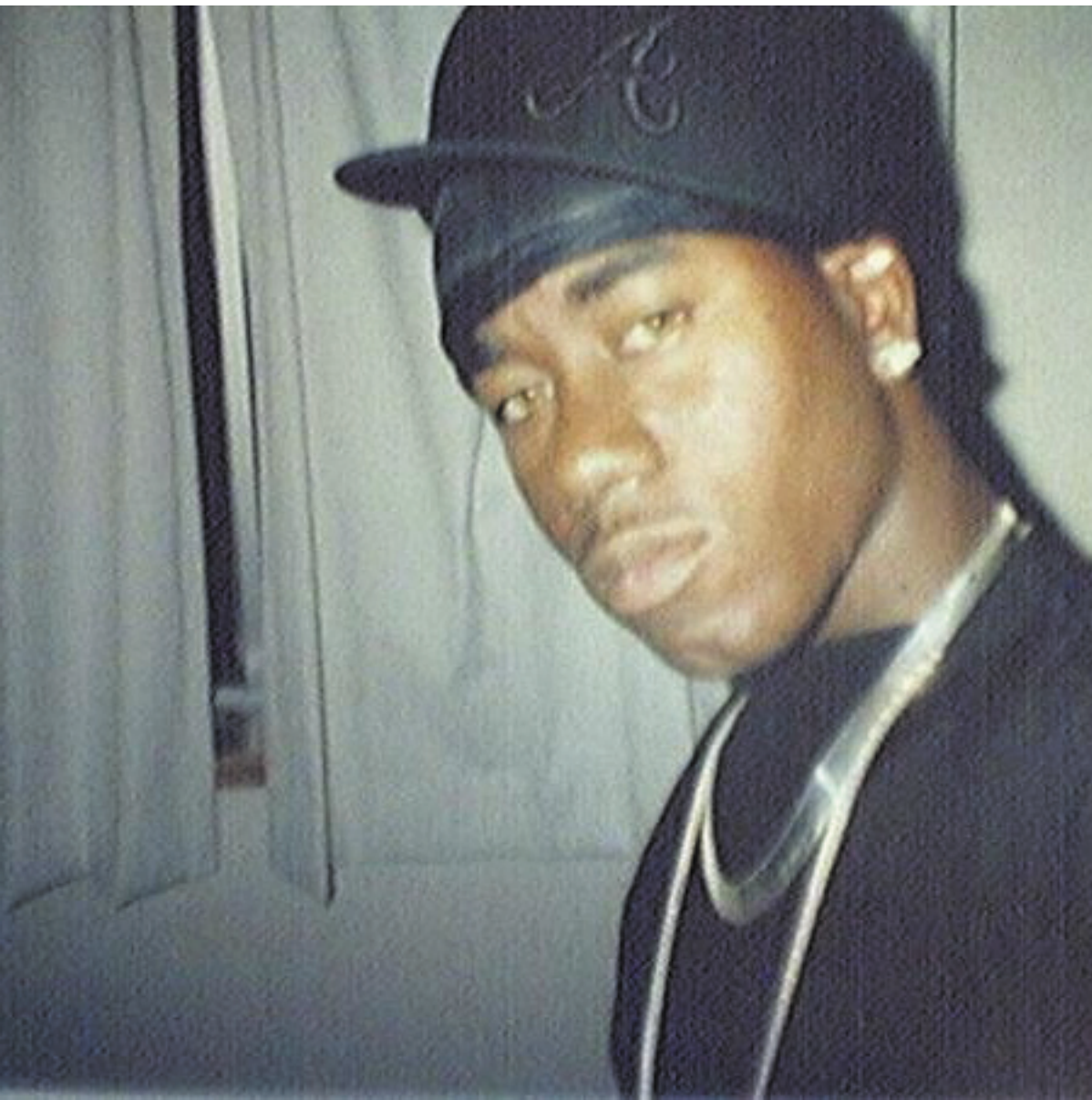


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More about Julius Williams

January 20, 2015Justice ProjectUW Tacoma Justice ProjectNo comments



By Joanna Sappenfield, Eva Revear, Danielle Burch, Chelsea Vitone, Brittany Hale

Jessica Williams remembers seeing Julius for the first time at the Tacoma Mall: They locked eyes as they were walking past each other, then turned to look several times. They exchanged numbers that day and married three months later, on Dec. 15, 2005. She was 18, he 24. She told reporters Williams was her soul mate.

Williams, born on Sept. 22, 1981 to Larry Williams and Lycrezia Reynolds, was one of of six siblings raised in Montgomery, Ala. A young Williams can be seen in his father’s Facebook photos at church events and smiling while holding sports trophies. His father served a long career in the Navy and Julius followed in those footsteps by enlisting in the Army. After basic training, he was transferred to Fort Lewis, now called Joint Base Lewis McChord, in 2005.

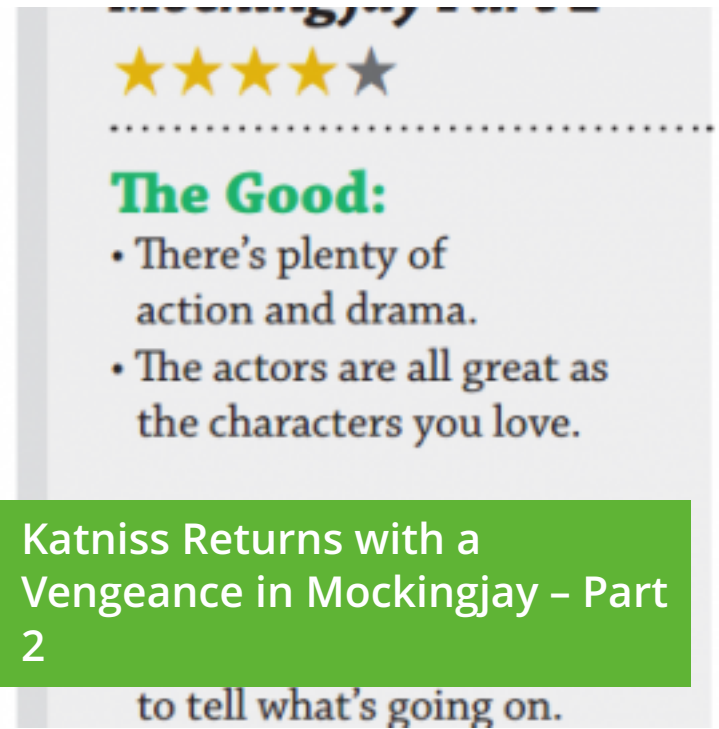
He and his new wife lived together in the Waverly Farms apartments in South Tacoma. Julius became friends with neighbor Dontrell Bobo, a member of Tacoma’s Hoover Crip gang, who in turn introduced him to Carter. Williams and Carter quickly bonded and began spending almost every night hanging out at Carter’s house together, Carter said.


Carter and Williams were so close that Lisa Hubley, Carter’s sister, remembers that Williams “would hang out at our grandma’s house even when Baby Irvin wasn’t there with him.”


Bobo, Carter and another friend with gang affiliations, Andre Mitchell, praised Williams as a funny guy who made friends quickly in the Hilltop. But court and military records show he was also in a time of turmoil.


Julius and Jessica began getting into fights that turned physical. In a protection order filed two weeks before Julius was killed, Jessica Williams wrote that he “has pushed me, grabbed me by the neck, thrown me around, slapped me in the back of my head, tried to physically remove me from

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ur apartment on many occasions.” She also said he “called me and asked to see me and I said no and he said that I would regret it. He says he knows where I live and that he knows everything I do.”

Bobo, the gang member neighbor who became a friend, told the UWT Justice Project that Williams “was a good person before he started hanging out with my people. It just wasn’t him.”

Carter said he saw Williams become “fascinated” with the gang scene.

Bobo and others said that fascination led Williams to illegal activity. Bobo told the UWT Justice Project that Julius was performing “street licks”—or robberies at gunpoint—while he was AWOL to support himself. Jessica Williams also told investigators the same information, but those statements were not presented at trial.

Bobo also told reporters that Williams tried to sell him a .357 magnum. Mitchell said Williams had a Tec-9 semiautomatic handgun, and Jessica also said he showed her a Tec-9 while they were together, but she told him he couldn’t bring it inside their home. Prosecutors argued at trial that the Tec-9 came from Carter, but none of the sources who spoke to the UWT Justice Project said that.

Friends heard Williams say he had belonged in a gang but many, including Mitchell, a friend and member of the Lakewood Hustler Crips gang, did not believe him. “Julius Williams was never no gang member,” Mitchell said. “He didn’t deserve what happened to him.”

The UWT Justice Project attempted to contact Williams’ parents and siblings, but none of the family agreed to be interviewed for this story.

To read part one of the Justice Project investigation into the case click [HERE](#)



(Right)

Julius Williams as shown in his Myspace profile photo. Williams’ father declined to allow UWT Justice Project reporters to use family photos.

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