

# Witness to shooting of security guard Jemel Roberson: Officer opened fire 'not even 5 seconds' after warning

Walberg, Matthew . TCA Regional News ; Chicago [Chicago]15 Nov 2018.

[ProQuest document link](#)

---

## FULL TEXT

Nov. 15--Jemel Roberson was wearing a cap and sweatshirt that had the word "Security" on them when he was fatally shot by a Midlothian police officer while Roberson was trying to subdue a suspect early Sunday at a Robbins bar, a man who said he was working with him at the bar told the Tribune.

Dorian Myrickes, 43, who said he was injured during the chaotic early-morning incident at the bar, also said that the Midlothian officer did warn Roberson to drop his gun but fired at him within "not even five seconds" of the warning. Authorities investigating the shooting declined to address Myrickes' accounts of the shooting or confirm that he was present.

But Myrickes, who spoke Thursday morning from a suburban hospital bed, said another officer at the scene rebuked the Midlothian cop after Roberson's shooting.

"One cop ... he said, 'Man, you didn't have to do that, you didn't have to do that. We know these guys. We told you they're security,'" said Myrickes, who said he was close to passing out from his injury when he heard that statement.

Myrickes also said Roberson initially sought assistance from the Midlothian officer to help him subdue a suspect from an earlier shooting that had brought several police officers to the scene.

Myrickes' description of what Roberson was wearing differs from details from an Illinois State Police preliminary investigation that said Roberson was wearing "plain black clothing with no markings readily identifying him as a Security Guard."

Myrickes' account also differs in one aspect from what he earlier told The Associated Press. The AP reported that Myrickes said he never heard the officer tell Roberson to drop his gun. In a later interview with the Tribune, Myrickes said he did hear the officer command Roberson to drop his weapon before shooting him seconds later. Myrickes could not be reached again later to clarify the discrepancy.

State police, citing witness statements, said Wednesday that Roberson was told "multiple" times to drop his gun. Myrickes' account adds fuel to the controversy that has arisen over the shooting of Roberson, who is black, by the Midlothian officer, who is white and has since been placed on leave. The shooting took place while the officer and others responded to a "shots fired" call at Manny's Blue Room Lounge on Claire Boulevard in Robbins.

In his interview with the Tribune, Myrickes said he and Roberson were part of the six-person security team working at Manny's on Saturday night and into Sunday morning. Myrickes said he and Roberson were initially working unarmed as the inside crew but that he believes Roberson either had a suspect's gun when he was shot by police or had at some point retrieved his own weapon from vehicle parked outside.

Myrickes said a fight broke out between two groups of men and that he and Roberson were trying to defuse the situation.

"So we got, like, four people out the front door, and we were trying to get eight people out the side door," Myrickes said from his hospital room. "They were becoming very aggressive and started threatening our lives. We get them out the door, we tell them we're going to make sure they get their people out safely, that we didn't mean no harm,

we just got to break up the altercation.

"Next thing you know, one of the guys pulled a gun out and started shooting," Myrickes said, adding that security guards working outside the club make sure male patrons get "patted down pretty good" before entering the bar. He said he believed the shooter either stashed a gun outside or someone outside passed it to him.

Myrickes said he and Roberson were near the doorway but still inside when the shooting started. But before they could shut the door, he said, a second person started shooting.

"By this time, I didn't even realize I was hit. I stumbled and I fell," he said, adding that a young woman told him to get up or he was going to die.

Myrickes said he could hear someone in the group of men that had started shooting yelling, "Go get the blitz," which meant they wanted to get a bigger weapon.

"Everyone started panicking, running in different directions," he said. "I stumbled out the front door. ... That's when I ran into the (Midlothian) police officer (who) had the AR-15, and he pointed it straight at my head, he said, 'Put your hands up.'"

Myrickes said he told the officer he was a security guard and not to shoot him.

"He comes over, puts the flashlight in my face and said, 'You've been hit,'" Myrickes said. "He pulled my sweatshirt back and told me I was hit with a gun. He was so aggressive, and I said, 'Let me go back in the club and warn them that a cop's coming in with a gun.'"

"He (runs) past me so fast -- I made it back into the club -- and he jumps up on the bar, points the gun at the bartender, shouting, 'Get on the ground!'"

Myrickes said there were other police officers already in the bar at that point but that none were helping Roberson with the suspect from the earlier shooting, whom he was holding at gunpoint facedown on the ground just outside the side door.

"He was yelling (to Roberson to) drop the gun," Myrickes said. "Jemel said, 'I'm security. You need to handcuff this guy, get (him) under control.' We don't want the guy to flip over and take the gun from Jemel."

Myrickes said that from the time the officer ordered Roberson to drop the gun to the time the officer fired the first shot was "not even five seconds."

"The first shot goes in (Roberson's) leg," Myrickes said. "(The officer) waves the gun across the bar, everybody's like, 'Whoa, whoa,' and then (the officer) shoots (Roberson) again. I saw Jemel get hit a second time in the side."

Myrickes said he then began to pass out but heard another cop in the bar rebuke the officer who shot Roberson.

"One cop, black cop with glasses, he said, 'Man, you didn't have to do that, you didn't have to do that. We know these guys. We told you they're security.'"

Myrickes said he didn't recognize the officer who opened fire or the officer that gave the reprimand.

said there were maybe four or five other police officers in the bar at the time Roberson was shot.

Official sources have not addressed many aspects of Myrickes' account, including how many officers were on the scene, whether the officer who shot Roberson used an AR-15 or whether another officer admonished the Midlothian cop for shooting Roberson.

The Cook County medical examiner's office has confirmed that Roberson died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Myrickes said he believed the man Roberson was subduing was one of the men who opened fire on them, but he did not know whether the gun Roberson was holding was his own or one he had taken away from the shooter.

"Jemel and I weren't armed that night," he said. "Jemel leaves his bulletproof vest and gun in the car. ... Jemel may have had time to go get his gun out of his car when the fight started brewing. He did everything right. He didn't deserve to get shot."

Myrickes said he and Roberson had been working together at the club for a while.

"He was a gentle giant," Myrickes said. "He would always say 'sir' or 'ma'am.' Even if he was kicking someone out, he would always say, 'Hey, go home and sober up and come back and party with us the next day.' He was never disrespectful."

Myrickes said he was shot twice in the shoulder and that one of his lungs is collapsed. He said doctors are

contemplating surgery to repair the lung.

His choked up with emotion when he recalled hearing that Roberson was dead.

"My brother came to the (hospital) room Monday and told me," he said. "I was hurt, man. The guy was 26. This guy was trying to do everything the right way."

mwalberg@chicagotribune.com

CREDIT: By Matthew Walberg

## DETAILS

<b>Subject:</b>	Bars; Police; Shootings; Criminal investigations; Guards
<b>Location:</b>	Cook County Illinois Illinois
<b>Company / organization:</b>	Name: State Police-Illinois; NAICS: 922120
<b>Publication title:</b>	TCA Regional News; Chicago
<b>Publication year:</b>	2018
<b>Publication date:</b>	Nov 15, 2018
<b>Publisher:</b>	Tribune Content Agency LLC
<b>Place of publication:</b>	Chicago
<b>Country of publication:</b>	United States, Chicago
<b>Publication subject:</b>	Business And Economics
<b>Source type:</b>	Wire Feeds
<b>Language of publication:</b>	English
<b>Document type:</b>	News
<b>ProQuest document ID:</b>	2133572287
<b>Document URL:</b>	<a href="https://search.proquest.com/docview/2133572287?accountid=14026">https://search.proquest.com/docview/2133572287?accountid=14026</a>
<b>Copyright:</b>	(c)2018 the Chicago Tribune Visit the Chicago Tribune at <a href="http://www.chicagotribune.com">www.chicagotribune.com</a> Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.
<b>Last updated:</b>	2018-11-15
<b>Database:</b>	Global Newsstream

## LINKS

[Check SFX for Availability](#)

---

Database copyright © 2019 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Contact ProQuest](#)