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STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF TRACY McALPINE

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2008

I, TRACY McALPINE, declare that this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence at the Inquiry, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

1. The Inquiry has disclosed a number of documents to me. Where I make specific reference to a document in my statement I have given the number of the relevant page.
2. I made a statement [Page 9616 – 9617] to the police dated 14 May 1997 in connection with the Robert Hamill incident. I confirm that statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. In April 1997, I was 23 years old. I had been living in Portadown for about four or five years.
3. In April 1997, I was good friends with Tracey Clarke, although I would say she was more my sister's friend than mine. My sister is Pauline Newell and she now lives in England. Pauline moved there around September 2002. After the events of 26/27 April 1997, I remained friends with Tracey Clarke for around one or two years. I do not see her now as she does not live anywhere near me.
4. On Saturday, 26 April 1997, I went to the Coach Inn in Banbridge with my sister Pauline and Kelly Lavery. I did not go to the Coach Inn every weekend, it depended on whether I could get a babysitter. I do recall seeing Tracey Clark, P46 'Fonzy' (I don't know his proper name), Christopher Henderson, Andrew Osborne, Judith Holland, Vicky Clayton and her friend Jennifer, and Ian Carville at the Coach. I am aware that I did not mention Ian Carville in my 1997 statement. I had quite a bit to drink that night and would describe myself as very drunk by the time I left.

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5. I got the bus back to town at round 01:15 after the Coach closed. The bus dropped us off at Z-Cabs which is on Bridge Street near where it joins High Street. The length of the journey to town would vary, depending on how many stops the bus driver was asked to make. There were no regular drop-off points so the driver would stop when requested. Looking at the statement [**Page 9616**] I can confirm the bus arrived at Z-Cabs at around 01:35-40.

6. After I got off the bus, I started walking up High Street towards my home with Kelly Lavery and my sister Pauline. Pauline wanted something to eat so she stopped at Boss Hoggs. I did not notice anything unusual as I walked through the junction of Thomas Street and High Street. It is likely that there would have been people walking down Thomas Street towards town at the time. I often saw people walking down Thomas Street on their way home from a night out, but I would not have assumed they were Catholic simply because St Patrick's Hall was up that way or because they were coming from that side of town. There were other pubs and bars up that way too.

7. When Kelly and I reached St Mark's Church, we stopped to wait for Pauline who was not too far behind us as we had walked slowly up the street. When we stopped at the Church, I could see Pauline coming up the street so she was quite close. I do not recall seeing a police Land Rover anywhere in the area and did not recognise anyone else as I walked up High Street.

8. It has been put to me that Pauline told the police in her statement [**Page 9128 – 9130**] that, as she walked up the High Street, she saw a police Land Rover parked at the top of Woodhouse Street. She also said she saw Dean Forbes and Stacey Bridgett talking to the police inside the car. I do not know anything about that and did not see Dean or Stacey as I walked up towards the Church. I understand Pauline also told police she heard bickering from the other side of the street from the police Land Rover. I did not hear any bickering and do not recall if Pauline mentioned what she had seen when she caught up with us at the Church. I cannot explain why Pauline noticed these things as she walked up the street when she was not very far behind Kelly and I, and I did not. It may have

been that I had more to drink than Pauline and was involved in talking to Kelly at the time.

9. It has also been put to me that another witness said they saw me walking up High Street with Pauline, Kelly, Tracey Clarke, Shelly Liggett and a fellow called Jason. I recall only being with Kelly and Pauline. I do not know where Tracey Clarke was when I was walking up the street, but I do know she was not with me. It is possible that she may have been in a group of people somewhere nearby, but that does not mean I was them.
10. I have been asked whether I was among a group of people who ran back towards the centre of town when the fight broke out. I was not part of this group and did not notice any fighting or arguing in the town centre at all that night.
11. After Pauline joined Kelly and me at the Church, we walked home to my house. Kelly and I went straight up the stairs to bed. Kelly was a good friend of mine at the time and would often stay the night. I was the worse for drink and just wanted to go to bed. I cannot remember if Kelly came to bed with me or went into the spare room.
12. At around 05:00 I got up because I was feeling unwell and went downstairs to go to the Esso garage with Kelly which is on the Armagh Road heading away from town. When I went downstairs I found a number of people in the living room. I was only there for a few minutes before Kelly and I left for the garage. I do not recall talking to anyone but I would have passed myself with them.
13. I was surprised to see people in the living room as I had not invited anyone back to my house that night. I'm not sure, but Pauline may have let them in. I recall seeing P46, Chris Henderson, Ian Carville, Stephen Bloomer and 'Fonzy' in the living room.
14. I do not know whether Marc Hobson or Jason Woods, with whom I was friends at the time, were there. I think Tracey Clarke may have been there but I cannot

think why I did not include her name in my police statement [Pages 9616 – 9617]. I do not recall hearing anyone talk about a fight having taken place earlier in town.

15. I would not describe the gathering as a 'party' as such; it was just people sitting there. In the past I have had a few people around just to have a bit of chat on a Saturday night, but that was only on the odd occasion. I am not sure why everyone came to my house that night. I had not invited anyone back. It may have been that, because I had people around in the past and had been out that night at the Coach Inn, people thought there was something going on.
16. When I returned from the garage I went straight up stairs without going back in to the living room. My house was set out in such a way that I did not have to walk through the living room to go upstairs. I think Kelly went in to the living room when we got home.
17. I recall Dean Forbes arrived at my house later on, but I cannot recall whether he arrived alone or what time that was. I must have seen him arrive. At the time, I was good friends with Dean. He lived a few doors down from my mother's house which was not far from my own house.
18. I do not recall if Allister Hanvey was at my house that night. I knew Allister as Tracey Clarke's boyfriend, but did not really hang about with him. I don't know if he was at the Coach that night or not.
19. It has been put to me that a person who was at my house that night said there was a good crowd and that everyone was talking about the fight that had happened in town. I did not hear this conversation and was not aware until later on Sunday night that there had been a fight when I heard about it on the news.
20. Although I knew several of the people who were later charged with the death of Robert Hamill, I have never discussed the fight with them

21. I have been asked about whether I knew, in April 1997, the junction of Thomas, Market and Woodhouse Streets to be a flashpoint for trouble between Protestant and Catholics. I did know this junction to be a location where fights would take place, but that was mainly during the 1980s. I do not recall the details of any particular fights that I saw, but they were fairly serious and often involved people who had been out drinking.

22. I have also been asked whether, in April 1997, there would normally be a police presence on Market/High Street on a Saturday night. Sometimes police were there and, other times, they were not. When police were present, there would normally be one or two police Land Rovers.

23. I do recall being present at the scene of a fight that took place some time in the 1980s. On that occasion the police intervened to break up the fight. I have never heard of police not stepping in to break up a fight.

SIGNED: TM Alpine

TRACY McALPINE

DATED: 19 11 108

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