

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



JAMIE L. MOSSER
State's Attorney

Kane County Judicial Center
37W777 Route 38 Suite 300
St. Charles, Illinois 60175

General Offices: (630) 232-3500
Contact:
Christopher Nelson (630) 232-3500

**FORMER AURORA MAN INDICTED ON MURDER CHARGES
IN 2003 HOMICIDE OF TYESHA BELL
CASE REVIVED IN 2020 WHEN REMAINS FOUND IN MONTGOMERY**

Re: *Prince L. Cunningham: Age 49 (d.o.b. 11-11-1972), of the 500 block of Powers Court, Yorkville, Illinois. Case No. 2022CF1067.*

June 15, 2022

Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser and Aurora Chief of Police Keith Cross announce that a Kane County grand jury has indicted Prince L. Cunningham for 2 counts of first-degree murder in the May 2003 shooting death of 22-year-old Tyesha Bell of Aurora.

SA Mosser and Chief Cross allege that, during the early morning hours of May 9, 2003, Bell left her Aurora apartment to meet Prince Cunningham. Bell lived in the apartment with her sister and almost 2-year-old daughter. The child was not at home that evening. Bell left behind her ID and a burning candle. Bell never returned to the apartment and was not seen or heard from again. Cunningham was in a dating relationship with Bell and was the father of her daughter.

In December 2020, a surveyor found a skull on property being developed in the Village of Montgomery. Additional remains were found during the subsequent investigation. Forensic analysis determined that the skull was that of a young female and that the skull had been there for 10-15 years. An autopsy determined the remains belonged to Tyesha Bell, and that she died of a gunshot wound to the back of her head.

After the indictment, Judge Clint Hull signed a warrant for Cunningham's arrest and set his bail at \$5 million with 10 percent (\$500,000) to apply for bond. The U.S. Marshals Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force took Cunningham into custody after the indictment was returned and the warrant was signed.

Cunningham appeared today in Kane County bond court. Judge William Parkhurst set his next court appearance for 9 a.m. on June 24, 2022 in Courtroom 319 at the Kane County Judicial Center.

The case remains under investigation. Anyone with information should call (630) 256-5500 or email tips@aurora.il.us.

SA Mosser said: “This has been a long and painful 19 years for Tyesha Bell’s family and friends, not knowing what happened to her, and then learning she had been killed. Although the outcome of finding Tyesha’s body is not what we had hoped for, we are grateful that we can charge Mr. Cunningham for his criminal actions and bring him to justice. My thanks to Sgt. Jim Coursey, detectives Jeff Koenings and John Munn, and the officers at the Aurora Police Department for their hard work and perseverance on this case. My thanks also to the person who discovered the remains and reported it to the police, the Montgomery Police Department, and the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force for helping to find Tyesha’s remains. My further thanks to the U.S. Marshals Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force for assisting in the arrest of the defendant, which included surveilling him to make sure he did not flee.”

Chief Cross said: “For more than 19 years, our detectives have worked hard to investigate every lead, look into every tip, uncover new evidence, and build a case to bring justice to Tyesha Bell’s family. I want to thank the community, retired Sgt. Jim Coursey, Det. John Munn and Det. Jeff Koenings for their hard work and diligence on this case to bring closure to the Bell family.”

The charges against Cunningham are not proof of guilt. Cunningham is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the state’s burden to prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.