

Statement of Joseph Carlton Meek

The first thing I'd like to say is I'm sorry from the bottom of my heart. I'm sorry that this has all happened to such beautiful families. I wish I would have taken Dylann more seriously. I truly in my heart didn't take him seriously and I wish I would have. If anything like this were ever to happen again then I would report it to the law enforcement as soon as possible. The night I heard the things Dylann was saying I didn't pay much attention to it because we were both drinking and high on drugs. I didn't believe he could do something so awful and cruel.

When I saw everything on the news that matched what he told me, I was terrified and scared for my life and I shut down completely. Again, I really wish I would have called the cops and taken him seriously so that maybe this would not have happened. I am really, really sorry that a lot of beautiful lives were taken in such a way that it was.

I pray every day for yall's families because it sits very heavy on my heart every day that I didn't call sooner than I did.

Since I've been out of jail I got a job around two weeks later. I lost that job because it was seasonal. I then got another job a week or so later. I've had this job since December 26, 2015 to date. I then held a second part-time job for six months or so as well. I've been going to church when my job allows me to.

Aside of work and church I enjoy spending time with my family. I love my family so much and I wish I could be with them every day.

If I was to not return to my family today and have to leave them, then I would feel hopeless. I wouldn't have a job anymore that I've had for the longest in my life. I don't know if I will make it out of prison alive and that scares me.

I feel like I'm on the best track that I have ever been on. If this had not happened to me, I may never have found it. I have learned a lot from what happened. If I was allowed to serve my sentence outside of jail, I would be very grateful. I'd continue to do what's right to support my family and help my community as well. I would like to be a volunteer firefighter, if I had the chance and time to.

Before this happened, my lifelong dream was to serve in the military. Now, I don't think that I will be eligible for the military, so I would like to give back to my community in other ways. I would like to mentor young kids and try to keep them from getting in trouble or making bad decisions. I would like to tell people that if someone is talking about doing something to harm people, take them seriously and call the police. Do whatever it takes to make sure that person is stopped and gets help.

I would just like to again say that I am sorry to the families of all of the victims and to the survivors of the shootings. I also apologize to the FBI and to the prosecutors for not being

truthful to them when I was first interviewed. I was very scared and made bad decisions at that time.

I would also like to say I am sorry to my family. They have been threatened since this happened and I feel terrible that they could be in danger because of me.

I would like to thank Mr. Bunch for his guidance while I have been on bond.

I would like to thank my grandparents for allowing me to stay with them over the last sixteen months and for helping me and supporting me during this time. They have been the biggest help in getting my life turned around.

Your honor, thank you for giving me the chance to say I am sorry.