

COP KILLER SMILES AS JURY SENDS HIM TO JAIL FOR LIFE DETROIT MAN WHO BEAT PREVIOUS MURDER TRIALS IS CONVICTED THIS TIME

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The man whom police and prosecutors called the mastermind behind a 1998 kidnapping and extortion scheme that left a Detroit police officer dead will spend the rest of his life in prison.

James Langford, 26, of Detroit was convicted Tuesday of killing Officer Shawn Bandy on Dec. 5, 1998. It was the second time he had been tried in Bandy's death. A mistrial was declared last year after jurors remained deadlocked.

Langford has dodged prison in the past, having beaten two other first-degree-murder charges. In one case, the charge was dismissed; in the other, he was acquitted.

When the jury's verdict was read Tuesday in Wayne County Circuit Court, Langford just smiled.

"It looks like his Teflon wore off this time," said Kevin Simowski, chief homicide prosecutor for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Langford was convicted of first-degree murder, assault with intent to murder, kidnapping, extortion and robbery. First-degree murder carries a mandatory penalty of life in prison without possibility of parole. He is to be formally sentenced in February.

Police said Langford and four friends plotted to kidnap someone for ransom. They said the five kidnapped a woman and her 12-year-old son to get ransom money from the woman's boyfriend. Their plan backfired when the boyfriend called police and officers spotted the van used in the kidnapping on Detroit's east side.

Officer Bandy, 25, was following the van when bullets came blazing from an assault rifle through the vehicle's back window on a dark east-side street. He was shot in the face. Another officer, Lloyd Todd, was seriously wounded.

"I'm happy that finally this long struggle to obtain justice has been realized," Simowski said. "This is a testament to the bravery of the Detroit police officers who put their lives on the line every day for the citizens of Detroit."

Simowski, along with assistant prosecutors Thomas Furtaw and Maurice Morton, worked for nearly three years to convict Langford and others. Detroiters D'Andre Coffee, Thomas Culbreth and **Montez Moore** were convicted of first-degree murder last year in Bandy's death and are serving life sentences.

A fifth man, Eugene Childrey, who police say was present the night of the shooting, testified against the others in exchange for being allowed to plead guilty to robbery and kidnapping.

Susan Bandy has now sat through three trials. Three times she has had to listen to her son's last words as he called for help over the police radio. Finally, she said, justice has been served.

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