

## **DETROIT COPS TELL STORY OF FATAL NIGHT - WITNESS HEARD SHOTS, SAW SUSPECT WITH RIFLE**

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The last memory **Detroit** Police Officer Carl Mack has **of** Officer Neil Wells is carrying his bloody body from a patrol car into Grace Hospital in the hopes **of** getting help for his partner.

"I carried him into the hospital and put him on a bed," Mack testified in Wayne County Circuit Court on Wednesday. "He was not moving."

Lamont Smith, 22, **of Detroit** , is on trial charged with first-degree murder, premeditated murder and committing a felony with a firearm, in connection with Wells' death. Police and prosecutors say Smith pulled the trigger **of** the assault rifle that killed Wells. If convicted, Smith faces life in prison with no chance **of** parole. During the second day **of** testimony, two **of** the three 12th (Palmer Park) Precinct special operations officers who were with Wells testified. Wells was shot near an abandoned apartment building on the city's northwest side April 4.

The four undercover officers were traveling in one unmarked car in the area **of** Cherrylawn and Ellsworth near Fenkell when they heard gunshots coming from the building. They were investigating the shots when Wells was hit.

Mack and Officer Alvin Cherry went to one end **of** the building, while Wells and Officer Michael Jackson covered the other. Cherry said he heard Jackson yell "Police! Police!" Seconds later, Cherry said, he heard someone running through the building; then he heard three or four rapid gunshots.

"Officer Jackson comes from around the alley and yells to us 'Neil's been shot!' " Cherry said. "Mack is running ahead to get the squad car."

Cherry said he then heard a noise coming from the west side **of** the building and saw Smith climbing out **of** a basement window with an assault rifle. Cherry said Smith left the weapon, jumped a fence and started running through nearby yards. Cherry said he caught Smith about two houses from the apartment building. "We had a brief struggle -- he didn't want to get handcuffed so we had to struggle."

Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Michael Cox asked Cherry if he and Smith were wrestling and punching at each other. "Yeah, something like that," Cherry responded.

During testimony, an evidence technician showed jurors crime scene photos **of** where Wells was gunned down. All that was left in the alley were his wire-rimmed glasses, **Detroit** Police baseball hat, a blood stain and a shell casing from the semi-automatic assault rifle used to kill him.

The trial continues today in front of Wayne County Circuit Judge Thomas Jackson.

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