

GIRL OFFERED MONEY TO SAVE FAMILY, COP TESTIFIES

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Six-year-old Melissa Pesce offered her killer \$7 of her own money if he would let her family go, a Livonia police lieutenant said a suspect told him after being arrested in connection with the killings.

Dennis Lincoln told police he did not shoot anyone, but admitted his role in robbing the girl's father, a Livonia jeweler, Lt. Ben McDermott testified Wednesday.

McDermott supervised the investigation into the Dec. 21 killing of five members of the Pesce family. He said Lincoln, after his arrest, detailed plans to stalk and rob a jeweler.

Lincoln, 27, of Flint was arrested Dec. 24, McDermott said. Lincoln initially offered an alibi, but it was disproved, he said.

Lincoln eventually told police that he and codefendant **John Wolfenbarger**, 31, of Detroit methodically planned to rob a jeweler and set their sights on Marco Pesce after squashing a plot to rob a Dearborn jeweler.

McDermott's testimony came on the 10th day of the trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The men are each charged with five counts of first-degree murder in shootings of the 38-year-old Livonia jeweler; his son, Carlo, 12; his two daughters, Sabrina, 9, and Melissa, 6, and Marco Pesce's mother, Maria Vergati, 68.

Two juries, one for each defendant, will deliberate separately. **Wolfenbarger**'s trial will be delayed until later this week or next.

McDermott testified Wednesday that on Dec. 21, Lincoln and **Wolfenbarger** shopped for a gift-wrapped teddy bear, to disguise **Wolfenbarger** as a deliveryman to gain entry into the Pesce home.

According to McDermott's testimony, Lincoln told police he dropped off **Wolfenbarger** at the Pesce home and watched him enter the garage that Vergati opened. Lincoln said he returned to Marco Pesce's jewelry store and waited for **Wolfenbarger**'s call, McDermott said.

While being questioned, Lincoln at first would not implicate **Wolfenbarger** because he was fearful, McDermott said.

Lincoln's attorney, Cornelius Pitts, hammered away at McDermott during cross examination, questioning the number of times Lincoln was interrogated.

"You wanted a confession, didn't you?" Pitts repeatedly asked.

McDermott testified that Lincoln told police that **Wolfenbarger** admitted lining up the children. He said Melissa, the youngest, pleaded with **Wolfenbarger** , telling him she had \$7 and she would give it to him if he let them go.

Testimony is to continue today.

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