

LANGFORD HAD EARLIER MURDER RAPS POLICE SAY THEY'LL TRY TO ADD ONE TO CASE AGAINST MAN CHARGED IN COP KILLING

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James Langford, the man who authorities say masterminded a Dec. 5 kidnapping and extortion scheme that left a Detroit police officer dead, has spent the last six years of his life ducking and dodging the law.

But Langford, who could face life in prison if convicted of killing officer Shawn Bandy, could be recharged in a killing he was cleared of earlier this year, Detroit police say.

On Wednesday, Langford, 24, and **Montez Moore**, 26, were arraigned on murder charges in Bandy's death. Bandy died the day after the shooting. Officer Lloyd Todd remains in critical condition. Police say **Moore** fired the assault rifle on the officers and Langford is the ringleader.

Langford, who goes by the street name Lank, has been arrested at least five times since 1992 and twice was charged with first-degree murder. He has been convicted twice for carrying a concealed weapon, though was not sent to prison. He currently is on probation for that offense.

In a murder case earlier this year, charges against Langford, the son of former Detroit Police Officer Charlotte Stewart, were dismissed after a witness failed to appear at the trial, police said. He also was acquitted in a 1992 murder case because the same witness, Kelli Crockett, disappeared.

Police say that this time Crockett, who they say transported Langford and four others charged with kidnapping and murder in the case, will be held in custody on a contempt warrant until the trial to make sure she can testify.

"These men acted deliberately and without conscience," said Inspector William Rice, commander of the Detroit Police homicide section. "While there are no assurances of a conviction, you can believe that the best possible case will be presented."

While armed and barricaded in a home in Erie, Pa., last week, Langford spoke by phone to Rice before the inspector and Police Chief Benny Napoleon flew out to the scene. Rice says that Langford admitted organizing the kidnapping of a woman and her 12-year-old son to extort cash from the woman's boyfriend. Langford also said **Moore** fired the rifle at police officers, Rice said.

In March, police arrested Langford in an armed robbery and homicide in the 12300 block of Kilbourne in Detroit that ended with the death of Dwayne Traylor, 30.

Prosecutors alleged at the time that Langford and Corey Collins, 25, kicked in the back door of the home on March 17 and demanded money and anything else they could carry.

Police alleged Langford tried to sell items that belonged to Traylor, such as monogrammed rings and a Rolex watch. Police say they plan to revisit the Traylor case and will try to have murder charges against Langford reinstated. Traylor's hands were tied behind his back and he was shot in the head and stomach. The warrant request said Crockett was prepared to testify that Langford gave her a gun and a bullet-proof vest the night the slaying occurred.

Prosecutors also plan to use the 1992 case to show Langford's violent history. Though Langford was acquitted, police believe he shot Paul LaMothe, 22, and Richard Mailloux, 21, during a botched robbery, said Rice.

George Bigelow, a psychiatry professor at Johns Hopkins University, said though Langford is the son of a law enforcement official, he may have fallen prey to peer pressure.

"People certainly learn lots of things from their family and their upbringing, but they also learn a lot from their friends and peers," Bigelow said. "That peer group may be just as important or more important than family."

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Caption: Photo

MontezMoore

James Langford

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