

OFFICER SLAIN AT DRAG RACE DREW GUN FIRST, JURY TOLD

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Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

Detroit Police Officer Gary Greer -- killed with two other men in a shoot-out at an illegal drag race on a service drive to the Chrysler Freeway -- was the first person to pull a gun in an argument over a car blocking the starting line, a Recorder's Court jury was told Tuesday.

Testifying before Judge Geraldine Bledsoe Ford, Joseph Grove said Greer drew his gun when the driver of a Monte Carlo sneered at Greer's police badge and order to move his car so a Mustang GT and a Camaro IROC Z28 could race.

The driver, Grove testified, looked at the badge and said " 'What the f--- does that mean?' And then the police officer, he pulled out his gun and stuck it in his face."

The Monte Carlo driver had refused at least two requests to move his car before Greer showed his badge and identified himself as a police officer, Grove testified.

THE TESTIMONY came during the trial of **Johnny Ray Murray**, 25, who is charged with second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of Greer, 36, during the early morning of June 7 at the service drive and Holbrook. Two other men, **Murray**'s companions Derrick Pendleton and Keith Leatherwood, were killed in the shoot-out.

Police reports and testimony indicate that Greer, who was off duty, killed Pendleton and Leatherwood and then was shot fatally by **Murray**, who grabbed a gun from one of his fallen companions.

Greer was hit, fell backwards, and was then shot several more times as he lay on the pavement, witnesses said.

Under questioning by defense lawyer W. Otis Culpepper, Grove said Greer was a familiar figure at the illegal but widespread street races around Detroit.

THE OFFICER, witnesses said, was among an estimated 200 people who lined the service drive to cheer and bet on the illegal races.

Grove also said that Greer did not intervene when a racing motorcycle ran riderless into a crowd of spectators nor when bets were being placed on the proposed Mustang-Camaro matchup.

When Greer pulled his gun, testified Grove, another man ran from the crowd while drawing a gun. Grove said he starting running away when he saw Greer half turn and begin struggling with the second man.

Grove testified he heard two series of gunshots -- about three shots then a pause followed by five or six shots -- while running from the scene.

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