

## **PARTICIPANT DETAILS MOMENTS BEFORE COP WAS SHOT DEAD**

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The five men in the van, hearing sirens and seeing flashing lights, started to panic, knowing they were being followed by police as they drove on the city's east side. There was a lot of movement and shouting among them in the van and finally someone yelled, "Bang at 'em!"

They argued about who should shoot at the police officers. One of the men refused, saying, "No, you shoot 'em." Another was yelled at and was told to fire. And so he unleashed a hail of gunshots that caused the sirens to fade and the blue and red lights to disappear.

That is the story told by 18-year-old Eugene Childrey about the slaying of Detroit Police Officer Shawn Bandy on Dec. 5. Childrey waived his preliminary exam and negotiated a deal in exchange for his testimony against the four other van occupants accused of killing Bandy and injuring Officer Lloyd Todd with an AK47, shooting both in the face. Todd lost an eye and remains hospitalized in good condition.

The officers were pursuing the van, which they believed was connected to the kidnapping of a Detroit woman and her 12-year-old son.

The testimony came Monday in a preliminary examination of James Langford, 24; **Montez Moore**, 26; Thomas Culbreth, 20, and D'Andre Coffee, 25, on charges of first-degree murder, kidnapping, extortion and attempted murder. Judge Deborah Langston of 36th District Court in Detroit will decide whether there's enough evidence to bind the four over for trial.

Before a filled courtroom, Childrey testified he started his day with Culbreth, playing video games on a Sony PlayStation, and ended with some of the five men ditching bullet-proof vests and guns. In between, the group bought walkie-talkies from Radio Shack, kidnapped a woman and a child, robbed her at gunpoint and collected ransom, Childrey said. **Moore** then shot at officers, and they all split the ransom.

"It just strikes them as a big joke," said Susan Bandy, Bandy's mother, who sat tearfully through the first day of the hearing. "To see the looks on their faces and know they seem to view what they did to my son as simple as when they were playing a video game is hard to swallow.

"All I can think of is that nothing will bring him back," she said. "I guess the anger will come, but I feel this great need to know everything that happened that night."

Officer Jeffrey Bonner, Bandy's partner the night of the shooting, testified that he and Bandy thought the men in the van were going to get out and run, because they were driving slowly and tapping the brakes.

"I said, 'They're going to bail, they're going to bail. Get ready.' And Shawn said, 'I'm on it,' " Bonner said. Bandy was ready to jump out of the car.

Instead, when Bandy and Bonner were about 20 feet behind the van, Bonner saw a flash of light coming from the vehicle. Bandy, who had been talking into the police radio, stopped talking.

Bonner said he drove toward the curb and jumped on top of his partner to cover his body. He called for help and then tried to clear Bandy's air passages. Bonner said he did not realize he had also been injured.

"For a brief moment, I was not actually sure it was gunfire," Bonner said. "I realized Shawn was talking a second ago and now he's not talking. I didn't know how bad it was, but I knew that he was still coughing and breathing and I had to do something."

The preliminary exam continues today.

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Caption: Photo

Shawn Bandy was ambushed from a van.

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