

New witness in dancer 's death

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Imprisoned drug kingpin linked to Greene through Detroit strip club owner, family says.

By Paul EganThe Detroit News

DETROIT — Imprisoned drug kingpin Milton "Butch" Jones might be able to shed light on the killing of exotic **dancer** Tamara "Strawberry" Greene because they're linked through former state legislator and strip club owner Keith Stallworth, a lawyer for Greene's family said Monday.

That's why Jones, 53, now serving a federal prison sentence at Milan, was added Friday as a possible **witness in** a federal lawsuit brought by Greene's family against the city of Detroit, former Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, and several top city and police officials, said Robert Zawideh, one of the attorneys representing Greene's family.

Greene, linked to a long-rumored but never substantiated party at the mayor's Manoogian Mansion **in** fall 2002, was shot to **death in** Detroit on April 30, 2003. Her family's lawsuit alleges top police and city officials obstructed the investigation of her still unsolved killing for political reasons. Kilpatrick and the other defendants deny the allegations. The case could go to trial this year.

Stallworth, who **in** 2003 pleaded guilty to a felony financial transaction, was indicted along with Jones **in** 2001 and accused of using his Detroit strip joint, Tiger's Lounge, to launder money for the Young Boys Inc. heroin-dealing gang that Jones founded. Stallworth, a friend and former Democratic state House colleague of Kilpatrick, also is on the Greene **witness** list.

He could not be reached for comment Monday.

Lawyer Dennis Mitchenor counted Stallworth, Tiger's Lounge and Greene among his clients.

"Tammy did not work (at Tiger's Lounge) as one of our regular **dancers** , but I know that she did parties for mostly high-ender guys," Mitchenor said. "She knew Mr. Stallworth very well." Mitchenor said he believes Greene also would have known Kilpatrick, though he can't recall seeing them together or Greene ever discussing Kilpatrick.

Greene, 27, was part of a scene of high rollers and private parties that included Stallworth and other well-known Detroit-area figures, Mitchenor said.

Mitchenor of Grosse Pointe Farms said calling Jones as a **witness in** the Greene lawsuit seems like a stretch. Jones already was behind bars when Greene was killed, Mitchenor said.

Harold Gurewitz, the Detroit attorney representing Jones, agreed. He said Jones has been behind bars since 2001 — two years before Greene was killed. "I don't know what the purpose is" of naming Jones as a potential **witness**, Gurewitz said. "It just doesn't seem obvious to me."

Another defendant **in** the Jones case now serving a federal prison sentence, Raymond Canty, 37, spent a lot of time at Tiger's Lounge and might be **in** a better position to offer relevant evidence than Jones, Mitchenor said. Even then, any connection would be "tenuous," he said.

Mitchenor said when he first learned of Greene's killing, he believed the friend who was with her **in** the vehicle, Eric Mitchell, had been targeted by drug dealers and Greene was killed because she was with him.

Now, he believes Greene herself may have been the target.

"It wasn't completely implausible to me that she might have danced at the mansion," he said. "That's the kind of thing that certainly would be **in** her league and those are the kind of folks she was familiar with."

If, as alleged, Greene was assaulted at the party, it's possible she could have asked for money to keep quiet because she was trying to get out of exotic dancing and open a lingerie store, Mitchenor said.

U.S. magistrate judges have been poring through hundreds of thousands of text messages sent by Kilpatrick and others on city-issued SkyTel pagers to determine if any of the text messages could be relevant to the Greene lawsuit.

"I would be absolutely astounded if the mayor was dumb enough to have something done to that girl," Mitchenor said. "But I wouldn't put it past people who were **in** their circle. There are people who want to do things for you to show their loyalty that you don't authorize."

"I hope they find out who did it," Mitchenor said.

Greene was beautiful and "a real hustler," he said. "She was first-class and did not deserve that at all."

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