

Two men plead guilty in drug case

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Two men pleaded guilty Monday in a major drug conspiracy case.

Dinnis Sifford, 29, of Oak Park, and Verdell Murrie, 33, of Detroit, reached agreements in U.S. District Court and admitted to conspiracy to distribute more than 250 grams of cocaine.

Under the agreements, Sifford faces no more than 2 1/2 years in prison; Murrie, who is currently serving a 10-year sentence on a prior drug offense, faces no more than an additional two years in prison.

The agreements must be approved by U.S. District Judge Gerald E. Rosen, who has set sentencing for Sept. 22.

Jury selection began Monday for the trial of the lead defendant, **Thelmon Stuckey III**, who is charged with murder to silence a witness, conspiracy to distribute cocaine, money laundering and witness tampering.

Stuckey of Detroit faces trial in the 1996 death of former Detroit Police Officer Ricardo Darbins, who had been indicted and charged with cocaine trafficking.

Stuckey released a rap album titled the "Motor City Compilation." It featured a song that warns rivals will be "stuck in T Stuck's trunk."

Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Michael Buckley said in a court filing that the lyrics are "relevant because they describe disposal of dead bodies in the fashion that homicide victim Ricardo Darbins' body was disposed of in August 1996." He added that such lyrics were produced "presumably to deter other potential witnesses against **Stuckey**."

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