

HIGH-SECURITY HEARING ORDERS NAPIER TO TRIAL

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Author: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

Amid extraordinary courtroom security, alleged Young Boys Inc. enforcer Kurt (Kurt McGurk) **Napier** was ordered Thursday **to stand trial** in Recorder's Court on charges of murdering a fellow gang member and trying **to kill** a Detroit police officer.

Detroit District Judge Leon Jenkins, who has been under police guard since Wednesday night when he received a death threat in connection with the case, ordered **Napier to stand trial** on a charge of first-degree murder for the May 12 fatal shooting of Joseph (Wamp) Brown near Concord and Benson.

Napier, 19, also was ordered **to stand trial** on a charge of assault with intent **to murder** for a Sept. 8 shoot-out with Detroit police Sgt. Wilbert Hyman near Richton and Dexter.

Defense attorney W. Otis Culpepper sought **to have the hearings** waived, but Assistant Prosecutor Douglas Baker insisted they be held **to get the testimony of witnesses on record**.

Napier, who is being held in lieu of \$2 million cash bond, also faces **trial** on another assault charge for the May 12 wounding of Gregory Kendricks near Beaubein and Erskin.

If convicted, **Napier** faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison without parole on the murder charge, and as much as life on each of the assault charges.

THE **HEARINGS** were moved **to** a windowless basement courtroom in the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice from Jenkin's second-floor courtroom because of the threat against the judge and other security concerns. The second-floor courtroom has large plate-glass windows facing St. Antoine Street. A murder defendant crashed through a window from that courtroom earlier this year in a failed attempt at suicide or escape.

The public, except for reporters and **Napier**'s younger brother, was ordered from the basement courtroom, which was then locked and guarded by as many as 12 court security officers and Detroit police officers.

In an interview, Jenkins said he was telephoned at home Wednesday night by a young man who told him: "If you bind over Kurt McGurk, you're a dead man."

While **Napier** was being sought, Detroit police Homicide Inspector Gilbert Hill received at least two death threats. The written threats bore **Napier**'s name but doubts were raised about their authenticity.

As Jenkins heard testimony linking **Napier to Brown's slaying**, the prosecution's key witness against Maurice (Mohawk) Gibbs, **Napier**'s alleged partner in the killing, backed down from his identification of Gibbs.

The witness, Ricky Banks, who said he was offered \$1,000 **to** help clear Gibbs, had testified Wednesday before Recorder's Court Judge George Crockett that he was "quite sure" he saw Gibbs driving away from the shooting.

HOWEVER, under cross-examination in a separate **hearing** Thursday by defense attorney Daniel Blank, Banks said he based the identification on a glimpse of a man's profile and complexion from a block away. "Now I'm thinking it's him," Banks said.

In the **Napier hearing** , Detroit police Officer Frank Shannon testified that he comforted the fatally wounded Brown, who told him that "Kurt McGurk and Mohawk" shot him.

"He was spitting up blood, gasping and breathing hard. He kept saying he didn't want **to** die," Shannon said. "I asked him why he got shot and he couldn't respond."

The assault on the police officer came when officers from the major crimes mobile unit checked a report that **Napier** was at an arcade at Dexter and Richton, Hyman testified.

Hyman said he saw **Napier** in a car, which then turned down an alley. When **Napier** leapt from the car with a sawed-off shotgun, Hyman said, he pulled his gun and started chasing **Napier** , who wheeled and fired.

"He was running and when he turned -- Boom! I went for the deck," said Hyman, who was not injured.

Hyman said he exchanged shots with **Napier** before **Napier** escaped through backyards.

Caption: Drawing Color MOSES HARRIS

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