

## SUSPECT IN COP DEATHS ORDERED TO STAND TRIAL

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**Eric Marshall**, the man accused of fatally shooting two Detroit police officers, was found mentally competent Thursday to stand trial on first-degree murder charges.

As 36th District Judge Jeanette O'Banner-Owens made her ruling, Marshall, 23, of Detroit lashed out, had to be restrained and was escorted out of the courtroom.

It was his second outburst.

The first came as court proceedings were beginning, and Detroit police officers forced Marshall to place his hands on top of the defense table and push his legs under it. He responded by pounding his fist on the table and pushing his chair back against the officers' bodies.

O'Banner-Owens warned Marshall to behave or that the competency hearing would continue without him. He sat through the hearing in Detroit, mostly with his head down, but when the judge found him competent to stand trial, he stood up and flailed his arms.

"Just go on and take me to the back right now," he yelled. "Yeah, handcuff me now."

Marshall, using an expletive, told the police officers to go ahead and break his arm as they were handcuffing him. About 13 police officers and court security guards stood around Marshall and in the courtroom.

Marshall is charged with two counts of first-degree murder in connection with the Feb. 16 shooting deaths of Detroit Police Officers Jennifer Fettig, 26, and Matthew Bowens, 21, during a traffic stop in southwest Detroit. Marshall pleaded not guilty to the charges in February.

His attorney, Kerry Jackson, argued that Marshall has exhibited mental health problems and needs help, not jail time.

Dr. Richard Rickman, a psychologist at the Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ypsilanti, testified that he evaluated Marshall for nearly three hours and that Marshall was cooperative.

Though Marshall had lain on the floor in the fetal position for most of the interview, he was polite and answered questions, Rickman said. Marshall told Rickman he could remember few details about the night Fettig and Bowens were shot.

Still, Rickman said he believed Marshall was mentally competent.

"Mr. Marshall's behavior was voluntary," he said. "He chose, in my opinion, to do the things he did at the evaluation."

Marshall's preliminary exam is scheduled for July 13. If convicted of first-degree murder, he would face mandatory life in prison with no chance of parole.

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Caption: Photo J. KYLE KEENER/Detroit Free Press

A judge ruled Thursday that **Eric Marshall**, 23, shown at his arraignment in February, is mentally competent to stand trial on first-degree murder charges in two Detroit officers' deaths. Matthew Bowens Jennifer Fettig

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