

Suspect in beating faces assault charges, too, Detroit cop says

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A Detroit police sergeant testified Thursday that a man accused in the August bludgeoning death of a man at Arturo's Jazz Theater and Restaurant in Southfield also is facing assault charges in a Detroit shooting that injured three people.

Detroit Sgt. Todd Eby said in Southfield's 46th District Court that Eiland Johnson is facing assault with intent to murder charges in the shooting at Cheetah's in Detroit in July.

Eby testified during the preliminary exam for Johnson and two others accused in the Arturo's case.

Johnson, 38, Darnell Cooley, 34, and Deandre Woolfolk, 20, are charged with second-degree murder, assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and assault with a dangerous weapon in the Aug. 9 death of Robert Alexander, 33.

The exam is to continue Feb. 1.

A main witness in the Arturo's case, Anthony Alls, 35 -- who Southfield police have said was Alexander's brother -- was gunned down in Detroit on Aug. 27.

Eby testified that Johnson, Cooley and Woolfolk are members of the *Black Mafia Family*, a drug trade organization. Eby said he has been involved with investigating the group for about a year.

But, under questioning by Cooley's attorney Steve Fishman, Eby said he has no information suggesting that the group is the same multistate *Black Mafia Family* that distributed cocaine throughout the United States from 1990 to 2005.

Eby said the local organization may be copycats. Still, police regard the group as dangerous. One officer discouraged witnesses to the Cheetah's shooting from testifying against members of the organization because "witnesses are commonly paid off or killed," Eby testified.

He said that Detroit officer is under investigation for his actions.

Contact GINA DAMRON: 586-826-7269

or gdamron@freepress.com