

Triggerman says he was paid to kill bookkeeper - He admits slaying so he can make peace with God, shooter claims at preliminary hearing.

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GROSSE POINTE PARK -- Andre Lamar Williams testified Tuesday that after seven days behind bars in the Grosse Pointe jail last fall, without prompting from anyone but God, **he** decided **to** make peace with the Lord and confessed **to** gunning down **bookkeeper** Barbara Ann Iske for \$3,300.

"I wanted my heart clear and clean **to** face my Lord," **he** testified in the final day of a preliminary examination for Joseph Michael Marasco and co-defendant Derrick Anthony Thompson. Prosecutors charge that Marasco hired Thompson **to** carry out the murder, and that Thompson in turn outsourced the job **to** Williams.

Judge Russell Ethridge ordered the pair **to** stand trial on charges of first-degree murder, felony murder, conspiracy and felony firearm charges in Iske's death. The murder charges carry penalties of life in prison without parole.

Iske of Sterling Heights **was** shot twice June 14 as she stepped out of her station wagon in the driveway of Marasco's mother's home, where she worked as a **bookkeeper**.

Williams, 36, who faced similar charges, earlier pleaded guilty **to** second-degree murder. His testimony earned him a 20-30 year cap on his sentence.

The three men are convicted felons and Marasco, 51, is an admitted heroin addict.

Philip J. Thomas, one of Marasco's lawyers, and Antonio D. Tuddles, representing Thompson, hammered away at conflicts between Williams' testimony and statements **he** made **to** police, as well as a conflict with the testimony of an eyewitness.

Williams told police **he** and Thompson cased the hit June 7, driving by the house. On Tuesday, **he** testified they sat in Thompson's car for 35-45 minutes near the driveway at 21 Dodge Place without arousing suspicion.

Williams testified Thompson called "Joe" on his cell phone and minutes later rendezvoused with another car that pulled up behind.

Williams testified **he** remained in the passenger seat of Thompson's car, trying not **to** be seen. **He** testified **he** couldn't see the driver of the car "clearly" as **he** looked through Thompson car's rear view mirror and outside mirror. **He** said at that point **he** "peeked" over his shoulder at the driver for a better look.

In his confession, **he** told police **he was** not sure that driver **was** Marasco when shown Marasco's picture. Tuesday, **he** testified **he** did not identify Marasco until **he was** shown two other pictures

by police.

Williams said in his confession that when **he** killed Iske with two shots **to** the head with a gun Thompson gave him, Thompson remained in the car. Williams said Tuesday **he** lost sight of Thompson after **he** left the car **to kill** Iske.

Caption: Defense attorney Michael Rataj, defendant Joseph Michael Marasco and defense attorney Phil Thomas listen **to** testimony during the preliminary exam for Marasco and Derrick Thompson in Grosse Pointe Municipal Court. Barbara Ann Iske **was** gunned down in the driveway of Marasco's mother's home. Michelle Mannino, Mary Beth Latowski and Karen Hibner, all nieces of **bookkeeper** Barbara Ann Iske, listen as Judge Russell Ethridge binds the defendants over for trial.

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