

DETAILS OF DETROIT COPS' DEATHS EMERGE

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Detroit Police Officers Jennifer Fettig and Matthew Bowens pulled alongside **Eric Marshall's** truck in what would be the last traffic stop they would ever make.

Fettig would die in the passenger seat of the squad car after suffering five gunshots. And Bowens, who was shot eight times, would die face down about 20 yards from the rear of the vehicle.

New details of their deaths came out Wednesday in downtown Detroit's 36th District Court during a preliminary examination filled with conflicting testimony and statements. In the end, Judge Izetta Bright ruled that there was enough probable cause to bind Marshall over for trial in circuit court.

Police and prosecutors say Marshall, 23, of Detroit gunned down Fettig, 26, and Bowens, 21, during a Feb. 16 traffic stop in southwest Detroit. While police executives have maintained that Fettig and Bowens pulled up behind Marshall's truck, two witnesses testified that the squad car was positioned next to the truck and parked in the middle of the street -- a violation of department policy.

Tamara Reed, an admitted prostitute, testified Wednesday that she watched the shooting unfold moments after Marshall propositioned her for sex. She cried and trembled when asked to point to the man who killed Fettig and Bowens.

"Don't cry . . . ," Marshall, 23, told her before his defense attorney slapped a hand over his mouth. At the same time, a Detroit police officer guarding the courtroom told Marshall to shut his mouth.

Reed, after wiping tears and sipping water, pointed a shaky finger toward Marshall.

Reed, 18, who has been in police custody for nearly a week because she is the prosecution's key witness and is considered transient, testified that she talked to Marshall while he was sitting inside his truck on Gilbert near Michigan Avenue. She said he showed her some money and wanted to go to a hotel room with her, but she didn't have a good feeling about him.

"He really wasn't my type, so I had to turn him down," said Reed, who goes by the street name Platinum. "He didn't look like a person I would go out with. I just figured all money isn't good money."

She said she saw a police car pull into an alley, and then circle around onto Gilbert. Reed said she slammed Marshall's door, ran and hid behind a parked car.

Reed said the officers pulled their car up to the side of Marshall's truck. Bowens got out of the passenger's side, she said, approached Marshall's vehicle and got his license. Reed said Bowens then returned to the passenger side of the squad car.

Reed said she started walking toward Michigan, but then turned around because she heard gunshots.

"I see him standing outside the police car shooting inside the car," she said.

Reed, who has admitted to using aliases when picked up by police, said Marshall was firing into the passenger side of the officers' vehicle. She said there was a pause in the gunshots, and then they started again.

Nicole Davy testified that she was traveling on Gilbert in a car with her children and their father when a police cruiser parked in the middle of the street forced them to stop. She said she saw a man standing next to the car pull out a gun and fire into the driver's side of the vehicle.

She testified that the man ran off, but then returned and began shooting when the male officer either rolled out or fell out of the car and ran around to the passenger side.

Fourth (Fort-Green) Precinct Sgt. Erik Eide testified that he arrived on the scene 2 minutes after a radio call that an officer had been shot. He said he found Fettig in the passenger seat and Bowens outside the vehicle. Both had been shot multiple times and in the head. He said Marshall's license was on the front seat of the squad car.

But Marshall's alleged confession is what evoked the most emotion from the victims' family members in the packed courtroom Wednesday.

Derryck Thomas, a Detroit homicide investigator, read Marshall's statement. Thomas testified that he wrote out the statement as Marshall told it to him on the day of the shooting.

In the statement, Marshall said he had just left a friend's house, where he had smoked marijuana and drank beer, and was heading to a gas station on Michigan when Fettig and Bowens stopped him.

"I was thinking to myself, 'I didn't give them no reason to stop me,' " Thomas read.

Marshall reportedly told Thomas that when Bowens returned with his license, he started talking rudely to Marshall and put his elbow in Marshall's back. Marshall then reportedly told Thomas that he had a gun in his waistband and began shooting because of Bowens' actions. Marshall said Fettig was outside of the car and began shooting back.

"I blacked out; my adrenaline started pumping," Thomas read. "After all the shooting was over, I blacked out. My mind was just black."

After Thomas interrogated him, Marshall was allowed to write corrections or additions to the statement, Thomas testified.

Marshall wrote: "I am truly sorry. . . . I am so sorry with all my heart," Thomas read. "I love the families, even if they don't love me. . . . I am in so much pain. Forgive me, please. . . . I am so, so, so sorry. God, I am sorry, but sorry won't bring them back."

Marshall's attorney, Kerry Jackson, said police coerced Marshall into making the statement.

"They took advantage of him," Jackson said. "He does not have the capacity to say those things in that statement. He's illiterate."

Jackson, who acknowledged that it was Marshall's truck involved in the incident, maintains that there is another shooter who will not come forward.

"He was there," Jackson said referring to Marshall. "He was not the one who did the shooting."

Marshall is scheduled to be arraigned in Wayne County Circuit Court on July 21. He is charged with two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of felony murder and a count of felony use of a firearm. If convicted, he faces a sentence of mandatory life in prison with no chance of parole.

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Caption: Photo MANDI WRIGHT/Detroit Free Press

Suspect **Eric Marshall**'s attorney Kerry Jackson covered his client's mouth Wednesday to stop him from talking during testimony. Marshall is accused of killing two officers during a traffic stop in February. Prosecuting attorney Elizabeth Walker is at right. James Bowens, left, and Jason Bowens leave court Wednesday after the hearing for **Eric Marshall**, who allegedly killed their brother.

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