



Edward Hopkins, who is accused of killing two Detroit men at his mother's Farmington Hills home May 31, watches his attorney, Tom

McGinnis of Birmingham during a preliminary examination in 47th District Court Friday.

Oakland County assistant prosecutor Genevieve Mazur shows Mikel Hopkins a statement he made to Farmington Hills in early June, just days after his brother, Edward, is accused of having shot to death two Detroit men.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Judge orders families apart at slaying exam

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"THIS IS BULL," shouted a woman, a member of one of the victims' families.

Carter's father, Maurice Carter, shouted as he was ushered out, "This is racist, your honor. You know this is wrong. This is racist."

After the court was cleared, Harris said the families were removed because "representations had been made to the court that threats were received by the defendant's family by members of the decedents' family."

McGinnis quickly added, "We don't know who the threats came from."

Mazur called the Hills police department for more uniformed officers to control the families. But De-Grande returned to the courtroom and said the families had been separated in different areas of the courthouse and two uniformed officers and court officer Mitchell were on hand.

Hopkins' brother, Mikel, was the only witness who testified Friday before the examination was recessed. The exam will continue at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13.

Edward Hopkins, who was found competent to stand trial at an earlier hearing, remains in the Oakland County Jail without bond. He stood mute on the charges at his arraignment in early June. A not-guilty plea was entered on his behalf. If convicted of first-degree murder, he faces life in prison without chance for parole.

MIKEL HOPKINS testified that he saw "Terrie" Carter and "Rico" Preston beat up his brother at a Detroit crack house about a week before the shootings because the Hopkins brothers owed the two a \$150 crack cocaine debt.

He also testified that he saw his brother shoot both men when they showed up at the Hopkins' family house on Inkster Road May 31 demanding repayment of the debt.

The beating, Mikel Hopkins testified, occurred after Edward Hopkins put his car up for collateral on the debt and the two Detroit men found out there was a lien on the car's title.

"Terrie hit him across the head (with a large metal flashlight) and knocked him out and kept beating him," Hopkins said. Preston was the first to hit Hopkins in the upper leg with a bat, he said.

On May 31, the day Edward Hopkins was released from Botsford General Hospital, Mikel Hopkins said he received a call from his girlfriend to warn the family that Carter and Preston had been to her house and threatened to harm her unless she told them where to find the Hopkins brothers.

Mikel Hopkins testified that his brother had shown him a pump shotgun before he received the call. "He said he was scared for my ma, his whole family's life," Hopkins said.

He also testified that Edward Hopkins said he was afraid of Carter and Preston and that he was unable to fight them.

WHEN CARTER and Preston showed up at the Inkster Road house, Mikel Hopkins was sitting on a chair in

'They started coming towards me like they were going to get me. Eddie shot them. He said, "You're beating nobody no more."'

— Mikel Hopkins

front of the house. "I said, 'Come on up. I've got your money.' They didn't wait. They came in," he said.

He testified that Carter and Preston became angry when he told them he had just \$109 of his paycheck to give them. "They wanted more money or they were going to kill," Hopkins said.

When the two men began to approach Mikel Hopkins, Edward Hopkins came out of the back bedroom, where he had been sleeping — unaware of the warning phone call from Mikel's girlfriend — with a pump shotgun.

"They started coming towards me like they were going to get me," Hopkins said, adding he saw his brother walking into the living room. "Eddie shot them. He said, 'You're beating nobody no more,'" Hopkins said.

Hopkins shot Carter first in the stomach. As he fell to the floor, "he mumbled, 'You didn't have to do that,'" Mikel Hopkins testified.

As Carter was shot, Mikel Hopkins said, he saw Preston reach down to his pant leg, and, as the shot was heard, turn around and run for the front door of the house. Edward Hopkins fired a second shot, Mikel Hopkins testified.

"It looked like it hit (Preston) in the back," he added.

Assistant prosecutor Mazur asked Mikel Hopkins what he said after Carter was shot. "Yeah, I told him he got what he deserved."

MIKEL HOPKINS also testified that at no time did he see Carter or Preston with a weapon.

Edward Hopkins followed Preston out the front door and through an alley between the Towne Square Pub and an electric company on Inkster at Eight Mile.

A third shot was fired, but Mikel Hopkins, who followed his brother, did not say whether the shot hit Preston.

"Eddie didn't have that good of an aim. He'd just gotten out of hospital. He was a zombie," Hopkins testified.

Farmington Hills police, at the time of the killings, said Preston was found by a Dumpster behind a Perry Drug Store on Eight Mile in Livonia.

A fourth shot, Hopkins said, was fired and hit a nearby building. Hopkins also testified that he "grabbed Eddie and said, 'You got to call police.'"

Meanwhile, Carter had crawled out of the house. "Eddie put the gun by his head. I thought Eddie was going to shoot him, but he nudged him," Hopkins said.

Edward Hopkins then called 911. Mikel Hopkins said his brother had said he should call his mother. "He then realized we were at my mom's house," Hopkins said.

As an unmarked Livonia police car pulled up, Mikel Hopkins testified, his brother "put his hand up and said, 'I'm the one that shot him.'"

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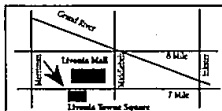
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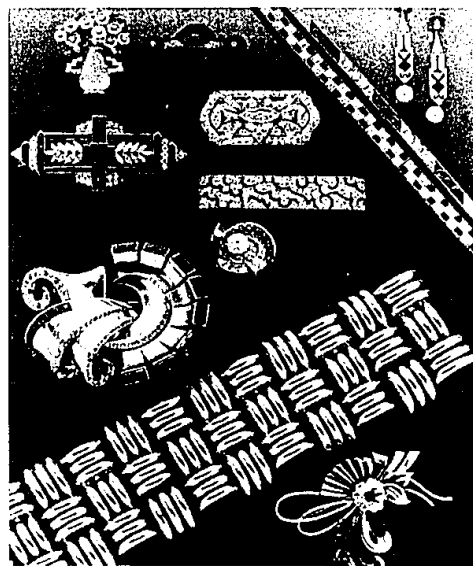
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