



In Kankakee, the former girlfriend of a man allegedly shot by Troy J. Davidson Jr. provided her testimony regarding the events of the November 2017 shooting. Davidson, aged 34, stands accused of shooting the 38-year-old victim on November 1, 2017. Prosecutors assert that the shooting was an attempt to silence the victim, preventing him from testifying in another shooting case earlier that year, in which he had also been the victim.

If Davidson is found guilty, he could face a mandatory sentence of 31 years to life. The trial is expected to continue throughout the week, with ongoing testimony.

In connection to this case, cousins Zevez Murrell and Brandon Murrell face charges of aggravated intimidation and intimidation. The victim and his girlfriend were near his car when Davidson allegedly emerged from another vehicle parked on the street and opened fire. The victim sustained multiple gunshot wounds, including 11 to his right leg, two or three to his right arm, and one to his genital area.

The girlfriend testified that she had a 9mm handgun with her on the night of the shooting, although she possessed a FOID card but not a concealed carry license. The FOID card allows for the possession of a concealed weapon.

Zevez Murrell was already in custody on charges related to a previous shooting incident that occurred on May 25, 2017, in the 100 block of North Rosewood Avenue. The November 1, 2017 shooting also transpired at the same North Rosewood location.

The victim had earlier testified that he owed money to Murrell for marijuana that Murrell had supplied to him.

In a separate case, Zevez Murrell had been found guilty of aggravated battery involving discharging a firearm and aggravated discharge of a firearm in the May 2017 shooting. His next court appearance for that case and the intimidation charge was scheduled for May 7.

During the trial, Assistant State's Attorney Erika Hamer inquired about how the woman had acquired the firearm. She explained that she bought it at a Kankakee pawn shop and obtained her FOID card in June following the May 2017 shooting, which occurred while she was in her apartment with her two children and her aunt.

It is alleged that Zevez Murrell orchestrated a scheme that involved his cousin distributing materials implying that the victim would testify against him. These materials, which included flyers featuring the victim's photo and the phrase "come see him squeal," were reportedly distributed in the community, with the courthouse visitation date set for November 3, 2017.

The woman recounted that she was seated on the passenger side of the victim's car when the shots were fired. She fired back in self-defense and realized that the victim had been wounded. She then assisted the victim into her apartment, where someone called 911.

She also mentioned that she had shot Davidson when he slid across the hood of the victim's car. Davidson, she stated, grabbed his chest, returned to his vehicle, and drove away. It was at this moment that she recognized Davidson, as she was acquainted with him through the victim.

During cross-examination by defense attorney Cierra N. Norris, the woman admitted to providing inaccurate information in her initial statement to the police. She affirmed that her second statement, given to investigators on November 3, 2017, was the truthful account. She explained that fear of retaliation and a desire to protect her children had motivated her initial falsehoods.

Norris pressed her on inconsistencies between her two statements to the police and her testimony during the trial.

In earlier testimony, an Olympia Fields police officer attested that he had responded to St. James Hospital (now Franciscan Health Olympia Fields) for a shooting victim identified as Davidson. Davidson claimed that his car had broken down at Torrance Avenue and Lincoln Highway, and as he was walking, he was shot.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant State's Attorney Erika Hamer and Assistant State's Attorney Daniel Reedy, while Davidson is represented by defense attorneys Cierra N. Norris and Bart Beals Norris. Judge Clark Erickson presides over the case.

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