

# Security increased for court appearances in murder case

By RYAN SMITH  
News Tribune

Security was tight in the Cole County Courthouse on Monday afternoon as two of the six suspects charged in last month's robbery and murder of Christopher Deloach made court appearances.

Eddie Gordon IV, 22, and Mychal Sangster, 21, were bound over to circuit court following a preliminary hearing conducted by Associate Circuit Judge Thomas Sodergren.

Six law enforcement officials stood behind the two men during the hearing. Both men are charged with second-degree felony murder, felonious restraint and armed criminal action.

Sangster also faces a first-degree robbery charge, while Gordon was charged with second-degree robbery.

The men are accused in the killing of Deloach, 24, who was pronounced dead in his home at 1002 Buena Vista, shortly after 1 a.m. July 10.

Because of safety concerns, the case was moved from Sodergren's main-floor courtroom to an upstairs courtroom. In addition, more than two dozen people

attending the hearing were scanned with metal detectors. Extra sheriff's deputies also were deployed for security purposes.

Inside the courtroom, Sodergren heard testimony from Jefferson City Police Detectives Carla Kilgore and Mark Edwards regarding interviews with the suspects and observations of the crime scene.

Kilgore testified that Sangster said the incident "wasn't supposed to go down this way," and that the robbery was supposed to be a joke.

The three men and three juveniles reportedly involved in the case allegedly dressed in dark clothing and masks, then forced their way into the home sometime after midnight July 10. Two of the juveniles, brothers Tarance and Jurmain McDonald, reportedly acted as look-outs outside the house.

Present in the home were Deloach, four other adults and two children who were asleep in one of the back bedrooms.

The adults were held at gunpoint with a semi-automatic, 9mm rifle, told to sit in the living room, stare at the TV and not to look at the robbers. They also were told to

take out their cellphones and money and hold them above their heads while someone collected the items.

Sangster at first confessed that he shot Deloach and a second victim, Victoria Hughes, Kilgore testified. But during a second interview, Kilgore said Sangster changed his story and said he was in a bedroom in the house when he heard a gunshot.

He then ran out to see Deloach fall to the floor and then allegedly tried to take the gun from Gordon, at the same time that Hughes also attempted to grab the weapon.

During the struggle, Sangster said he unintentionally shot Hughes in back.

Gordon's attorney, Cyril Hendrix, objected several times during Kilgore's testimony and later told Sodergren: "You have allowed hearsay testimony here against my client."

He added: "There are no facts to show he participated in any kind of robbery."

Prosecutor Bill Tackett responded that there was clearly a conspiracy between Sangster and Gordon.

Sodergren ruled that there was probable cause to believe felonies occurred, and that both Sangster and Gordon should be bound over to the circuit court for a trial.

Both will be arraigned in Division II on Aug. 22 at 9 a.m. by Judge Richard G. Callahan.

The third adult suspect scheduled to appear Monday, Adam Turner, had his preliminary hearing continued until Aug. 29.

*rsmith@newstribune.com*