



Reodica officer protecting partner: Lawyer

Account of shooting doesn't 'make sense' Testimony about death of Jeffrey Reodica

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A Toronto police officer was accused by a lawyer yesterday of fabricating a story to protect his partner, who fatally shot Jeffrey Reodica.

During cross-examination, Kiké Roach, representing the Community Alliance for Social Justice, "suggested" parts of Det. Const. Allen Love's testimony were "not plausible," "not logical" and did not "make sense."

Love testified that on May 21, 2004, he and Det. Const. Dan Belanger struggled with Reodica on the ground in an attempt to handcuff the 17-year-old.

But the teen managed to break free and strike out at them with a knife, moments before being shot three times in the back by Belanger, he said.

Love, the first eyewitness to testify Reodica had a knife in his hand when shot, said he turned Reodica over to begin CPR and removed a knife that was still clenched inside his fist.

Roach argued it was impossible for the 5-foot-3 teen to have wriggled out from beneath two officers each weighing more than 200 pounds.

Instead, she suggested Love was not near Reodica at the time of the shooting and that only Belanger wrestled with the teen.

She also said it was unlikely Reodica would still have been holding a knife after collapsing to the ground.

Love pointed out that simply because Reodica was much smaller than the officers does not mean he wouldn't have had the strength to push himself up from beneath them.

He also told the five-person jury that he could not explain why Reodica was still gripping a knife in his left hand, but was adamant that "he still had a knife."

Outside the courthouse, Roach told reporters, "(Love's) story doesn't make sense. ... It doesn't fit with any of the testimony we've heard so far."

When asked if she thought Love was trying to protect his partner, she said, "We know there's a code of conduct amongst police officers and they tend to support each other."

Reodica was shot after police responded to a call about a fight between two groups of teens — one white, the other mostly Filipino — near Lawrence Ave. E. and Bellamy Rd.

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