

# LOCAL NEWS

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## McPherson suspects may belong to street gang

### S.F. police officers testify at preliminary hearing on slaying of senator's son

*Murder*  
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Police testified Thursday that the two men accused of murdering a state senator's son committed the killing as part of a street gang, but a defense attorney dismissed the claim as baseless.

**SAN FRANCISCO**

The officers were testifying in the preliminary hearing of two men charged with shooting 27-year-old Hunter McPherson in the chest during a botched robbery in the Potrero Hill neighborhood.

McPherson is the son of state Sen. Bruce McPherson, R-Santa Cruz, who is running for lieutenant governor and is a former Sentinel editor.

When the hearing wraps up, the judge will

determine whether there is enough evidence to proceed with a trial.

Officer Len Broberg testified that 22-year-old Dwayne Reed and 18-year-old Clifton Terrell are members of the 25th Street gang, which controls crack cocaine sales in Potrero Hill, and were acting on behalf of the gang when they shot McPherson. Police allege Reed drove the getaway car that night.

Little was said about the slaying Thursday, but if prosecutor Harry Dorfman can establish the two men were acting as 25th Street gang members, he can seek the



**MCPHERSON**  
Slain during botched robbery attempt

death penalty against them.

Broberg testified he has arrested Terrell selling drugs on 25th Street numerous times since Terrell was 13 years old. He offered the names of 22 men he said are 25th Street gang members, including Reed and Terrell. He said he reached the conclusion they are gang members because they all have committed crimes in that area, sell drugs in that area and hang out with each other.

Defense attorney Ira Barg attacked that theory as baseless. He said Broberg, according to his own testimony, based his opinion that Reed and Terrell are gang members on the fact they hung out with the other men on the list, while he based his opinion that the other men were gang members in part because they hung out with the two defendants.

The hearing got heated after Barg repeatedly asked for any police report proving the 25th

Street gang and the people he said were in it were intimidating people, selling drugs or had any contact with each other.

Broberg said he had no reports immediately available, and both sides began to argue. At one point, Barg joked that Dorfman was trying to run a "Star Chamber," with secret witnesses.

Testimony will continue through next week, Dorfman is expected to bring some suspected gang members to the stand as well as more officers to testify to the statements the two defendants allegedly made to police implicating themselves in the slaying.

Judge Kay Tsenin is expected to rule next month on whether those statements are admissible next month.

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