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Hearing continued for accused killers ordered kept apart

by Eric Firpo Sep 24, 2009 | 1125 views |

A judge today suspended in mid-testimony until Oct. 19 a hearing about whether to keep separate in jail and in court two married men accused of killing a Tracy woman.

Lt. Kimberly Moule of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office was explaining how it is those in charge of the county jail decide which prisoners should be kept from the general population when Judge Bernard Garber cut the hearing short. He said he'd allotted only an hour for the hearing, which started about 20 minutes late, and stopped it prematurely because he had to preside over the picking of a jury in another case.

At issue is how defendants Jorge Morgan, 24, and Robert Anthony Morgan, 39, are being handled by county jailers, who have ordered the men kept apart from each other and from some of the other inmates, who include relatives of the woman they are accused of killing Aug. 6, Cynthia Ramos, 58.

The defendants have complained that their defense is being impeded because they are unable to talk to each other, either at the jail, in the bus on the way to court hearings, or in the court holding cells, where they have no contact with each other.

So they've asked the judge to let them ride the bus together and stay in the same cell in court, and Garber has asked the county to justify its decision that the pair should be kept apart.

Moule had been on the stand for about 20 minutes and was being cross-examined by Robert Morgan's attorney Charles Slote when the hearing was postponed.

Moule said jailers take in account several factors before deciding how to house an inmate, and decisions are made to best keep inmates safe. The Morgans were classified as gang drop-outs, and they were in rival gangs, Moule said, so other inmates may want to hurt them for that reason.

That plus their criminal history, their mental state at the time of booking, the publicity of the case to make it known to other inmates, and other factors go into how the two defendants are housed. They are in separate buildings at the jail, and spend most of the time in a cell by themselves, she said.

Robert Morgan at a hearing earlier this week told the court that other inmates have spit in their food, and Jorge Morgan was spit on once getting off a bus. Morgan also the two were "legally married."

The defendants are accused of killing Ramos in her Tracy home on MacArthur Drive. They pleaded not guilty to charges of burglary, robbery and murder. Because they were convicted of at least two prior serious felonies, this case could earn them life in prison if convicted.

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More than a dozen relatives and friends of the victim attended the Morgans' court hearing, wearing purple ribbons pinned to their shirts.

The hearing will continue at 9 a.m. Oct. 19.

Read more: Tracy Press - Hearing continued for accused killers ordered kept apart

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« vicster0103 wrote on Friday, Sep 25 at 02:06 PM »

Hey Coolio, First of all, learn to spell "know" it's "NO"! Secondly, alibi? Let's see, both of them were seen coming out of the mobile home right before she was found! Coincidence? I don't think so! Why do you think they are in custody standing trial for murder amongst other charges? DUHHH!!!!!! What alibi do you have for him, that you were in a threesome with them? Try it!!! But I honestly don't think it'll work! OMG! Justice will prevail Cindy! We love you! Rest in peace!

« deblaw wrote on Friday, Sep 25 at 08:39 AM »

Concernedneghbor..

Yes, you could get your medical issued taken care at the cost of the taxpayers..

« ConcernedNeighbor wrote on Thursday, Sep 24 at 08:17 PM »

Oh darn! Now they are twice as expensive!

Thought they would attempt to save CA taxpayers; money at the two for one price!

CN

Facing a medical bill of broken thigh, bike mishap, darn, darn, darn!!!

If I commit a crime, would they pay for it?

« Tinfoil wrote on Thursday, Sep 24 at 03:36 PM »

Well, there ya go. The judge has said let those buttes heal. There'll be no more nookie for them.

« coolio wrote on Thursday, Sep 24 at 03:33 PM »

How come know one is asking questions like, did Robert Morgan, have an "alibi,"? What DNA proof do the investigators have?

He has not been proven "Guilty," in the "court of Law," yet.