

Trial testimony: Brooks transferred to Marcy after attacks by fellow inmates

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Robert Brooks' transfer to Marcy Correction Facility from Mohawk Correctional was due to being attacked multiple times by fellow incarcerated individuals, according to witness testimony during the trial on Oct. 9.

Brooks, of Greece, an inmate transferred to Marcy Corrections Facility on Dec. 9, was brutally beaten with his hands cuffed behind his back by corrections officers while in custody. He died as a result of his injuries on Dec. 10.

An autopsy was conducted by the Onondaga County Medical Examiner's Office and, in February, Brooks' death was ruled a homicide.

Three corrections officers are currently on trial, David Kingsley, Mathew Galliher and Nicholas Kieffer. All three are facing second-degree murder charges.

Attack by incarcerated individual

The third witness in the case, Pamela Jennings, a registered nurse at the Mohawk Correctional Primary Care Unit, testified that Brooks had been attacked by a fellow incarcerated individual and that he was brought to the Primary Care Unit for treatment.

'He told me he was hit with a fist and that there might have been a lock inside the fist,' Jennings said. 'He had bruising and swelling around the right side of his face. And the sclera of his eye was very red.'

Discussing the injuries Robert Brooks sustained on Dec. 7 at Mohawk Correctional Facility that prompted his transfer, Jennings said that Brooks needed to be seen by an outside emergency department.

'He expressed pain when he looked to the right and I was concerned that he had suffered a fracture to his orbit,' Jennings said.

When asked what happened when transferring Brooks to an outside emergency department, Jennings said security officers are required to travel with them and it took about an hour and a half for the security officers to assemble and referred to as a 'trip team.' During this time, Brooks said that his headache worsened and he felt nauseous.

The fourth witness in the case, Sgt. David Sayypau, a corrections officer at Mohawk Correctional Facility, was one of the corrections officers who was part of the trip team.

On the body-worn camera of Sayypau, after the altercation, Brooks was found with a combination lock in his pocket. As he was put into the van for transport and questioned about the lock, Brooks reportedly said that 'he needed it for the airport.'

Sayypau then questioned Brooks further about his 'trip to the airport' and Brooks said he had to get to

the airport for a trip to Puerto Rico at noon, according to testimony.

Brooks was brought to Wynn Hospital, where he was seen by the fifth witness, Andrea Maran.

Maran is an attending doctor at Wynn Hospital who was working on Dec. 7 when Brooks was brought in after being attacked.

'He was pleasant and respectful. He was awake and oriented,' Maran said. 'I noted he had a black eye on the right side of his face. He complained of some forearm pain and a headache.'

Maran said Brooks was given a head and chest computed tomography scan and an x-ray of the forearm. He was also given a neurological exam, looking for any brain bleeds or trauma.

'My neurological exam of Brooks was benign,' Maran said. 'It did not indicate any fractures, broken bones or brain bleeds.'

Maran's examination didn't show any definitive signs of a concussion, but he was given instructions to report to the corrections officers if his symptoms returned or worsened. He was discharged by Maran after being prescribed a stronger Advil and taken back to Mohawk Correctional Facility.

Another attack at Mohawk

Michael Peacock, an incarcerated individual at Mohawk Correctional Facility, said that on the night of Dec. 8, Brooks' condition worsened and threw up and was found lying in a puddle of his own vomit.

Peacock testified that a corrections officer sergeant, whom he could only identify as 'Mrs. A' saw Brooks lying on the ground and ordered Brooks to clean up his cubicle.

'They told him to get up, but he couldn't get up,' Peacock said.

After doing another round and finding Brooks was still lying on the ground, Peacock said Mrs. A got the attention of one of the incarcerated individuals, who Peacock claims was 6 feet 10 and 400 pounds, and directed him to Brooks's cubicle. He was joined by two other incarcerated individuals and Peacock said all three were part of a gang.

'I knew something was going to happen,' Peacock said. 'He said 'Didn't she tell you to clean that shit up?' and then started giving [Brooks] a countdown. After the countdown, they started hitting him.'

When questioned by the defense, Peacock said the beating happened because he 'didn't clean the vomit up after being told to by the sergeant.'

Brooks was forced to his feet and directed to the mop station, where he was forced to clean up his vomit.

Peacock said he'd find Brooks later in the bathroom and told Brooks that if he was going to get sick again, he should stay in the bathroom.

'They were waiting for him to throw up again,' Peacock said.

And Brooks did throw up again later the next day, Dec. 9, and was attacked again by the same three people, Peacock said.

Peacock said one of the incarcerated individuals had a black sock with a lock in it and hit Brooks with it.

'He tried to get away, he was crawling on his hands and knees and screaming,' Peacock said. 'He was screaming 'Please help me.' And then he was taken away by corrections officers.'

When asked, Peacock said he never saw Brooks alive after that and learned about Brooks's death on the news.