

Road rage case goes to court

Tuesday, 11 December 2007

Two men involved in a road rage shooting incident at Foley Boulevard and 99th Avenue N.W., Coon Rapids, June 7 will make appearances in Anoka County District Court next week.

Martin Treptow, 35, Coon Rapids, is scheduled in court Wednesday, Dec. 19, 1:30 p.m., while Landon Beard, 27, Coon Rapids, is due in court Thursday, Dec. 20, also at 1:30 p.m., according to prosecutor Paul Young, assistant Anoka County attorney.

by Peter Bodley

Managing editor

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Young took the case to a Anoka County grand jury this week.

“The grand jury has completed its work and all its deliberations have been sealed by the district court,” Young said Tuesday.

According to a statement by Coon Rapids Deputy Police Chief Tim Snell in June, the incident appeared to be a road-and-driving altercation. It began on Woodcrest Drive and continued when both drivers turned eastbound on to 99th Avenue.

Before the intersection with 99th and Foley Boulevard by the entrance to the Foley Plaza retail center and Showplace 16 on 99th, the two vehicles pulled alongside each other, Snell said.

Words were exchanged between the occupants of the cars, he said.

Beard, a plainclothes investigator with the Robbinsdale Police Department, got out of his unmarked car, and was shot by Treptow, the driver of the other car, through its passenger window, Snell said.

Beard was armed, but he did not fire his gun, which was found on the ground beside him, according to the Coon Rapids Police report.

The car from which the shots were fired left the scene, but Treptow called 911 from the Holiday Stationstore at 101st Avenue and Foley Boulevard to report that he had been involved a shooting.

That's where police found him. A handgun was recovered

Beard was treated at Hennepin County Medical Center for bullet wounds in both legs. His arm was also grazed by a bullet.

The incident was not connected with the officer's investigation, Snell said.

According to Snell, Treptow had a permit for the gun and no criminal record in Anoka County, Snell said.

Both men gave police different accounts of what happened, he said.

According to Marc Berris, Treptow's attorney, Treptow, his wife and two children were out driving when they were the victims of some aggressive driving conduct.

Treptow did sound his horn at the other driver, who pulled over to the shoulder of the road, allowed Treptow to pass and then pulled out and followed Treptow, Berris alleged.

Then the other driver pulled alongside Treptow's car, words were exchanged and the other man drew a gun and pointed it at Treptow's wife, who was in the front passenger seat, shouting profanities as he did so, according to Berris.

Treptow took out the gun and fired in the direction of the man before driving off and calling 911 right away to inform police that he had been involved in a shooting incident, Berris said.

"Mr. Treptow did not know if the man had been hit or that he was a police officer," he said.

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