



Tamik Kirkland of Springfield definitely the man who shot him 11 times, Darryl King tells court

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By **Buffy Spencer, The Republican**



The Republican | Mark Murray

Tamik Kirkland, of Springfield, is seen during an appearance last year in Hampden Superior Court.

SPRINGFIELD – Darryl King sat in the witness box Monday and repeatedly asserted it was **Tamik Kirkland** who shot him 11 times in a barber shop April 30, 2011.

King said when Kirkland, 26, of Springfield, pointed a gun at him, "I told him don't shoot me, young man."

"He was looking straight in my eyes...He took another gun out and just blasted me through the arm," King said.

Kirkland then shot him twice in the thigh, he said. "If I had turned toward him I wouldn't be here," King said.

He said Kirkland left Bill Brown's House of Beauty on State Street for a minute or so then came back in and shot him "three times in the butt."

Kirkland's defense lawyers tried to sway King from his identification of Kirkland, saying King didn't tell police from his hospital bed right after the shooting he knew the shooter was Kirkland.

King's testimony before **Hampden Superior Court** Judge Tina S. Page came during a motion - filed by Kirkland's defense lawyers - to suppress the photo identification of Kirkland made by King.

Although King was shot 11 times, it was Sheldon Innocent, the man whose hair King was cutting, who was shot dead.

Police have said Innocent was a person in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Kirkland had escaped from prison April 25, 2011, after learning his mother had been shot and injured in Springfield.

Kirkland was shot six times by police on April 30 as he opened fire on officers when he sprang from the trunk of a car where he was hiding, police said. His shots struck the protective vests of a state trooper and a city patrolman who were tracking him from the scene of the fatal shooting at the nearby barbershop.

In addition to the murder count, Kirkland faces three counts each of home invasion and armed assault with intent to murder, two counts each of assault and battery by means of the dangerous weapon, illegal firearms possession as a second offender and illegal possession of a loaded firearm and single counts of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury, illegal possession of a large-capacity firearm and possession of a large capacity feeding device.

Defense lawyer Nikolas Andreopoulos pointed to a statement King gave police in the hospital and said, "Where does it say you immediately recognized the person who shot you?"

King contended he told police who shot him.

King said he picked Kirkland's photo out of a selection of pictures shown to him by police. He said he told police he was sure it was a picture of the shooter.

He said he believed "the kid came in and shot me because his mother had gotten shot last week."

Police have said Darryl King, like Innocent, was an innocent victim.

King, under questioning from Hampden District Attorney Mark G. Mastroianni, said he knew Kirkland from the neighborhood as he was a similar age to his own son, Donte King.

The hearing on the motion to suppress continues Tuesday although Darryl King's testimony has ended.

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