



Riverside County District Attorney

CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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JUDGE ORDERS MAN TO STAND TRIAL FOR MURDER OF RIVERSIDE POLICE OFFICER RYAN BONAMINIO

RIVERSIDE – A man charged with the murder last year of a Riverside police officer must stand trial, a Riverside County Superior Court judge ruled today, March 25, 2011.

Earl Ellis Green, DOB: 2-27-66, is charged with the Nov. 7, 2010, murder of Riverside police Officer Ryan Bonaminio. Green is charged with one count of murder as well as two special circumstances: the murder of a law enforcement officer and murder to avoid imminent arrest. There is also an allegation in count one that he used a firearm in the commission of a felony. Green also has been charged with one count of vehicle theft with a previous conviction for vehicle theft and one count of felon in possession of a firearm.

Today, Judge Jean Pfeiffer Leonard heard evidence at a preliminary hearing and ruled that there was sufficient evidence against Green and ordered him to stand trial as charged.

Green is scheduled to return before the judge on April 29, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 54 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside to be arraigned on the information.

Green faces the death penalty for the officer's murder.

The night of Nov. 7, 2010, Officer Bonaminio pulled over a big-rig tractor that was involved in a hit-and-run traffic collision on Highway 60. The officer stopped the vehicle on Market Street in Riverside and the driver, later identified as Green, ran into Fairmount Park. Green ran up an embankment in the park. Green attacked Officer Bonaminio then shot and killed him. The officer's service weapon was taken by Green. During the subsequent murder investigation, a fingerprint was located inside the stolen big-rig. That fingerprint belongs to Green, who was on parole. Further investigation led law enforcement officers to Green's location and he was arrested on Nov. 9, 2010, in the parking lot of a Target store on Arlington Avenue in Riverside.

Bonaminio was born and raised in Riverside and graduated from Riverside's Ramona High School in 2000. He was a four-year veteran of the Riverside Police Department and served as a member of the U.S. Army in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The case, RIF10005956, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Michael Hestrin and Deputy District Attorney John Aki, both of the Homicide Unit.