

Man acquitted in September fatal shooting

By Kaitlyn Scoville
OSHKOSH HERALD

Ricardo Martinez-Mendez was found not guilty of first-degree intentional homicide Jan. 26 in Winnebago County Circuit Court after a 12-person jury unanimously decided he was in his right to use self-defense.

Martinez-Mendez was arrested in the afternoon of Sept. 19 for the shooting death of Jarvis Gladney after an altercation at 1723 Taft Ave. in the day's early hours left Gladney face down on the ground in the common hallway of the eight-plex apartment building.

Testimony in the homicide case before Judge Scott Woldt was presented Jan. 25 with a not-guilty verdict returned the next day for Martinez-Mendez, who was represented by attorney Scott Ceman.

According to witness testimonies, police were first dispatched to the building around 2:30 a.m. after Gladney's girlfriend called for help to de-escalate a confrontation with Gladney. He was reported to be upset and his girlfriend decided to remove herself from the location after she attempted to get him to leave.

Martinez-Mendez was returning to his apartment during the time of the police response after going out for drinks and dinner, but said he had no connection with Gladney at that time.

According to Martinez-Mendez's testimony, at around 4:30 a.m. he was outside smoking a cigarette with his foot holding the front door open to allow him back in when Gladney came down the stairs from his girlfriend's apartment, still upset.

Martinez-Mendez said he was surprised



Ricardo Martinez-Mendez (left) was on trial in Winnebago County Circuit Court last week along with his attorney Scott Ceman, shown demonstrating the altercation that led to the death of Jarvis Gladney in a Sept. 19 shooting.

to see Gladney because he thought he had left after the earlier contact with the police. When Gladney sat down on the main staircase, Martinez-Mendez offered him a cigarette to which Gladney declined.

Gladney was allegedly complaining about the situation that had occurred, Martinez-Mendez said, and started to shift his anger toward him, asking why he was so scared.

At one point he said Gladney called Martinez-Mendez's girlfriend a derogatory name and threatened Martinez-Mendez with violence.

Martinez-Mendez said he attempted to return to his apartment but Gladney allegedly followed him and pinned him against the wall. Shortly after, Gladney held Martinez-Mendez in a chokehold and they fell to the ground struggling.

Martinez-Mendez said in his testimony that he was able to push Gladney off for a short period of time, long enough for him to get his gun and shoot. He then returned to his apartment.

A resident of one of the apartments

opened her door and noticed Gladney on the ground, when she then called the police for a wellness check. When police arrived they tried to wake the man up until they saw blood on his shirt and began lifesaving procedures.

Gladney was pronounced dead at 5:43 a.m. that morning at ThedaCare in Neenah. The autopsy found that the cause of death was a gunshot wound to the chest, and toxicology reports showed Gladney's system had small amounts of cocaine and marijuana, and his blood-alcohol concentration was 0.197.

The prosecution's case focused on the defendant's return to the area armed after Gladney's initial contact with police.

Martinez-Mendez spoke with negotiators from his apartment and was arrested nearly 12 hours after the shooting. At the time of his arrest, he said he was not familiar with lawfully acting in self-defense.

The jury began deliberations the day after testimony concluded and after three hours determined he was protecting himself in that situation.

Vehicle tied to Grand Chute shooting found in Oshkosh

Oshkosh police located a vehicle on West 20th Avenue connected to a fatal shooting Sunday afternoon at Fox River Mall in Grand Chute and the gunman who remained at large Monday.

Officers received information at about 7:30 a.m. Monday that the vehicle, a 2012 Dodge Avenger, was found parked in a driveway. Officers and detectives made contact with people inside of that residence, during which four of them became physically combative and were taken into custody.

A 37-year-old female, 18-year-old fe-

male, 16-year-old female and 15-year-old male were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting police.

Grand Chute police were looking for Dezman V. Ellis, 17, for his role in the shooting that claimed the life of Jovanni J. Frausto, 19, of Neenah, and injured another person who was treated and released at a hospital. Police said Ellis is considered armed and dangerous.

Those with information are asked to contact Grand Chute police at 920-832-1575 or text "TIPGCPD" to 847411.

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