

## **Faces 20-month prison sentence**

### **Judge to deliberate till Feb. 3 Acquitted in officer's death, Brossard man pleads guilty to eight firearms charges**

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A QUEBEC COURT JUDGE WILL DELIBERATE ON A JOINT SENTENCING RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE CROWN AND DEFENCE AFTER BASIL PARASIRIS PLEADED GUILTY TO EIGHT WEAPONS OFFENCES YESTERDAY.

BEFORE PARASIRIS, 43, PLEADED GUILTY AT THE LONGUEUIL COURTHOUSE, JUDGE ANDRÉ VINCENT ADVISED HIM THAT HE WAS NOT REQUIRED TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION, WHICH WOULD SEE HIM SERVE THE EQUIVALENT OF A 20-MONTH PRISON TERM, FOLLOWED BY 16 MONTHS OF PROBATION. LAST YEAR, A JURY ACQUITTED PARASIRIS OF FIRST-DEGREE MURDER IN THE DEATH OF LAVAL POLICE CONSTABLE DANIEL TESSIER.

DESPITE VINCENT'S CAUTION, PARASIRIS STILL PLEADED GUILTY TO EIGHT COUNTS RELATED TO FOUR LOADED FIREARMS SEIZED FROM HIS BROSSARD HOME AFTER HE KILLED TESSIER DURING A PREDAWN DRUG RAID.

AFTER HEARING BRIEF STATEMENTS FROM CROWN PROSECUTOR JOËLLE ST. GERMAIN AND DEFENCE LAWYER DOMINIQUE SHOOFÉY, THE JUDGE DECIDED TO DELIBERATE ON THE SENTENCE FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS. HE SAID HE WOULD RENDER HIS DECISION ON FEB. 3.

PARASIRIS SHOWED UP AT THE COURTHOUSE CARRYING A LARGE GYM BAG, APPARENTLY FULL OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS, KNOWING HE WOULD HAVE TO SERVE SOME TIME BEHIND BARS NO MATTER WHAT VINCENT DECIDED YESTERDAY. HE WAS IMMEDIATELY PLACED IN CUSTODY AFTER ENTERING HIS PLEA.

THREE OF THE COUNTS HE PLEADED GUILTY TO, POSSESSION OF A RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED FIREARM, CARRIED A ONE-YEAR MINIMUM PRISON TERM, AND A 10-YEAR MAXIMUM, WHEN THE WEAPONS WERE SEIZED IN MARCH 2007. OTTAWA HAS SINCE AMENDED THE MANDATORY MINIMUM TO A THREE-YEAR PRISON TERM. PARASIRIS ALSO PLEADED GUILTY TO ONE COUNT OF POSSESSION OF A FIREARM AT AN UNAUTHORIZED ADDRESS AND FOUR COUNTS OF IMPROPER STORAGE OF A FIREARM.

PARASIRIS HAD A PERMIT FOR THE GUN HE USED TO KILL TESSIER, A RUGER .357 MAGNUM REVOLVER, BUT IT WAS IMPROPERLY REGISTERED TO A PREVIOUS ADDRESS. DURING THE MURDER TRIAL, PARASIRIS ADMITTED HE BOUGHT THREE OTHER GUNS ILLEGALLY, KEPT ALL FOUR LOADED IN HIS HOUSE AND DID NOT STORE THEM PROPERLY.

ST. GERMAIN ASKED VINCENT TO CONSIDER THE FACT THE REVOLVER WAS USED TO KILL TESSIER AND WOUND ANOTHER POLICE OFFICER AS AGGRAVATING FACTORS IN SENTENCING. SHE ALSO INFORMED VINCENT THAT THE LOADED FIREARMS WERE HIDDEN IN VARIOUS PARTS OF PARASIRIS'S HOME, INSTEAD OF BEING LOCKED UP, AND HIS CHILDREN COULD EASILY HAVE GOTTEN THEIR HANDS ON THEM.

PARASIRIS TESTIFIED DURING HIS TRIAL THAT HE MISTAKENLY BELIEVED HE, HIS WIFE AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN (AGES 14 AND 7 AT THE TIME) WERE ABOUT TO BECOME THE VICTIMS OF A HOME

INVASION WHEN NINE LAVAL POLICE OFFICERS BURST INTO HIS HOME IN WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS A "DYNAMIC ENTRY" TO EXECUTE A WARRANT.

SUCH SURPRISE PREDAWN RAIDS ARE CONDUCTED WHEN POLICE BELIEVE A SUSPECT WILL ATTEMPT TO DESTROY EVIDENCE.

SEVERAL LAVAL POLICE OFFICERS, INCLUDING AT LEAST TWO WHO WERE PART OF THE BOTCHED RAID WHEN TESSIER WAS KILLED, WERE IN ATTENDANCE IN THE COURTROOM.

THE RAID WAS CONDUCTED AS PART OF A YEAR-LONG INVESTIGATION INTO A GROUP OF DRUG DEALERS WHO OPERATED OUT OF LAVAL. PARASIRIS WAS OBSERVED WITH AT LEAST TWO OF THE DEALERS DURING THE INVESTIGATION AND THEY VISITED HIS CLUB IN DORVAL.

BUT PARASIRIS WAS NEVER CHARGED WITH DRUG TRAFFICKING.

HE SERVED NEARLY TWO MONTHS BEHIND BARS BEFORE HE WAS GRANTED BAIL IN THE MURDER CASE IN 2007. BECAUSE TIME SERVED WHILE AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF A TRIAL COUNTS AS DOUBLE, PARASIRIS WOULD HAVE ONLY 16 MONTHS LEFT TO SERVE IF VINCENT ACCEPTS THE JOINT RECOMMENDATION.

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