



Cop walked away from dying man, inquest told

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Toronto Police Const. Michael Adams talks to his lawyer, Gary Clewley. (CHRIS DOUCETTE, Toronto Sun)

As Junior Manon lay handcuffed and with a faint pulse, Const. Michael Adams walked away without being “concerned” for the teen’s health, an inquiry heard.

Adams – one of the officers accused of misconduct in the beating of G20 protester Adam Nobody – continued his testimony Wednesday at Coroners Court, into the death of Manon, 18, who died in custody on May 5, 2010, after a chase and struggle with police at York University.

"During my last encounter with him, he was still struggling," Adams told the jury. "I wasn't concerned. There were other officers there that were capable."

Adams, then a rookie with 15 months experience with Toronto Police, and his partner then-Const. Stuart Blower pulled Manon's car over for having an expired licence sticker. A computer check on Manon revealed he was violating a curfew and driving with a suspended licence, Adams previously testified.

Earlier Tuesday, Corner Dr. Dan Cass also dismissed submissions of Adams' involvement in G20 arrest for this inquest because he found it "not relevant" and "the likelihood the evidence would distract the jury...the benefit would be small."

The lawyer for the Manon family, Julian Falconer, argued statements three other attending officers gave to the Special Investigations Unit contradict Adams' account in which the officer testified he left Manon on his side.

The other officers said they found the teen face down "with a faint pulse."

"I guess they shared that hallucination," Falconer suggested.

Falconer also contended that Adams' uniform was clean, despite his story of rolling in the mud while struggling with Manon and that the police officer was able to send six radio calls for back-up during the incident.

"You can hear me out of breath," Adams responded. "I'm not looking for pity here. My job is not easy. When I know I need help...you have to convey everything."

Adams walked away with a sore shoulder and minor injuries on high right hand from striking Manon at least five times, he said, adding he never put his entire body weight on Manon – just restrained him by holding his arm back.

The police officer said he completes up-to-date annual training on using a baton and pepper spray on the job and in November, he was re-certified. He also knows basic CPR training and underwent "dynamic situation training" in Aylmer and Toronto Police College, where officers learn to speak to people in appropriate tones.

Adams said he made the decision not to use pepper spray on Manon because the chemicals dissipate in water and that evening, it had been raining on and off.

"It was partly due to the weather, if he takes off running, I'm running into a cloud of my own spray," he said.

Falconer said it was problematic for lawyer Gary Clewley to represent both Blower and Adams, because it offered a "clearing house" for shared information between the two officers.

Clewley clarified with Adams on the stand whether he had any assistance handling his notes before proceeding with the Special Investigations Unit probe after the incident.

"My notes are my own," Adams testified. "I wrote them myself."

When asked by Coroner's Counsel Frank Giordano the importance of backing up his partner, Adams said if he was going into gun call, he'd hope his partner would assist him.

"Does backup extend to testimony?" asked Giordano.

"No," Adams responded. "My testimony is based on interviews I've given. Backing up...is on the street in the midst of danger."

The inquest continues Friday and is expected to last several weeks.