

# Men plead not guilty in Gary shootout that injured ATF agent

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## FULL TEXT

Three men charged from a Gary shootout that injured an ATF agent pleaded not guilty this week.

Bernard Graham, 25, of Calumet City, Ill., and Blake King, 19, of Chicago, appeared Thursday in Hammond's federal court.

The two were charged in an indictment with assault on a federal officer and one count of discharge of a firearm during a crime of violence, court records show.

Judge Andrew Rodovich ordered King to remain in custody without bond pending trial, finding that he "is a danger to (the) community and no combination of conditions exist to ensure the safety of the community," court records state.

Graham previously agreed to remain in custody but could possibly ask for another detention hearing in the future, his attorney, Gregory Smith, said.

Graham and King are scheduled to go to trial Aug. 20, court records show. They are set to appear before then for a pretrial conference on Aug. 10, according to court records.

Leondre Smith Jr., 29, of Homewood, Ill., appeared Wednesday in Lake Superior Court. He pleaded not guilty to attempted unlawful transfer of a handgun, a Level 5 felony, court records show.

Smith is scheduled for a bail hearing on June 27, according to court records.

The three were charged after an undercover operation turned into a shootout June 7 in Gary.

An ATF agent, who has not been identified "due to the nature of his work," was shot in the chest and arm but is expected to recover, officials said.

Raymon Truitt II, 28, was killed in the shootout with undercover agents in the 500 block of Kentucky Street, U.S. Attorney Thomas Kirsch II said.

Smith brought two undercover ATF agents and their confidential informant to Gary June 7 to illegally buy firearms from King, Graham and Truitt, court records state.

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Credit: Becky Jacobs

## DETAILS

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