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Bell jury is set to mull charges against cops

BY SCOTT SHIFREL DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

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After hearing from close to 60 witnesses and reviewing piles of evidence for nearly two months, the grand jury probing the police shooting of an unarmed Queens man will begin the weighty task of considering charges against cops tomorrow.

Indictments, if there are any, could come as early as the afternoon.

The 23-member jury will take a break today but reconvene tomorrow to hear a complicated charge from prosecutors that could take more than three hours.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown, a former appellate judge, has been working to craft the legal language, sources said. Yesterday, Lt. Gary Napoli, the officer leading the Nov. 25 undercover operation that left Sean Bell dead on his wedding day, spent an hour retestifying.

"He's at the disposal of the district

attorney, and he will cooperate fully with anything the grand jury requests," said Napoli's lawyer Howard Tanner.

A grim-faced Napoli, who testified two weeks ago, was escorted by two union officials and said nothing after testifying.

Jurors also heard yesterday from a second witness described as a civilian mopup witness of lesser significance. The five cops involved in the shooting - Detectives Michael Oliver, Paul Headley and Marc Cooper, undercover Officer Gescard Isnora and Officer Mike Carey - have insisted they identified themselves to Bell, 23, and two pals who were wounded in the shooting. One of the wounded men, Joseph Guzman, was reaching for what looked like a weapon, cops said.

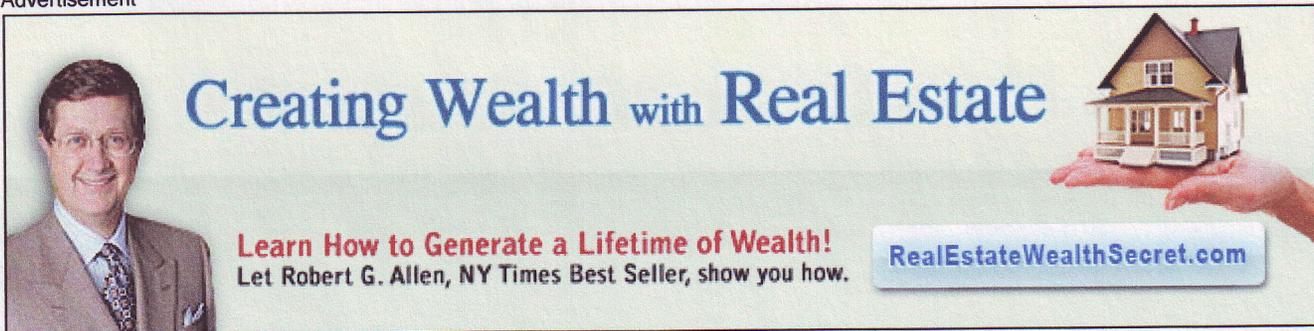
But no weapon was found, and Guzman and Bell's other friend, Trent Benefield, said the officers never identified themselves before firing 50 shots into their car.

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