

Lawyers ask Tennessee Supreme Court to weigh in on police officer Andrew Delke's case

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Lawyers for a Nashville police officer charged with murder want the Tennessee Supreme Court to reconsider their request for an outside jury before a trial takes place.

Defense attorney David Raybin filed an appeal with the high court Friday, requesting a ruling on his change of venue request. If granted, the request would bring jurors from another county to Nashville for the murder trial against officer Andrew Delke.

A jury trial is scheduled to begin in March. If the Supreme Court decides to consider a change of venue, Raybin said in a filing, the trial should be delayed.

Delke, who is white, was charged with first-degree murder after he shot Daniel Hambrick, who was black, in the back during a 2018 foot chase.

Prosecutors say Delke, 26, broke the law by shooting Hambrick, 25, in the back while he was running away. Delke's defense team said the officer was acting in self-defense after he saw Hambrick holding a gun. Delke has pleaded not guilty.

Delke's lawyers argue a deluge of news coverage on the case, including surveillance video of the shooting, had tainted the jury pool in Nashville. They say jurors from another part of Tennessee would be more impartial.

A trial court and appeals court have already ruled against a change of venue. Criminal Court Judge Monte Watkins said jury selection would give lawyers a chance to filter out biased Nashville jurors.

