

Youth pleads guilty to assaulting police officer

MIKE ADLER
Staff Reporter

Work hard and you can change yourself, a judge told a boy who pled guilty Tuesday to trying to murder a York Regional Police detective and aggravated assault against another.

"You can make good the wrong you've done and you can heal yourself," Ontario Court, Provincial Division Judge Sherryll Rogers instructed the Markham youth, was 15 years old on June 9 when he stabbed Det. Robert Wiche in the neck with a knife and wounded Det. Dave Kingston on the elbow.

Rogers sentenced the boy, now 16, to two years in a youth jail and one year of open custody, following a joint submission from defence lawyer Peter Rosenthal and the Crown.

"You're not there just to sit. You're there to work hard," she told him, after describing his knife attack on Wiche at the Newmarket courthouse as "horrendous."

"This young man has a lot of (unresolved emotional) issues," Rogers concluded. "He needs an enormous amount of help to become a good citizen."

Following the guilty plea, Crown Attorney Bob McCreary withdrew an application to have the youth tried as an adult.

Rogers was told the youth sat waiting outside a courtroom with a hood pulled down over his face. He ran to Wiche and jumped at him with a knife, which the attacker held in a gloved hand.

"One of the five stab wounds was at the side of Det. Wiche's throat and that wound bled profusely," McCreary said.

Kingston was stabbed as he lifted his arm to protect himself from the four-inch blade. The wound became infected after the attack and surgery on the elbow was necessary, court heard.

Outside the courthouse, Det. Gary Minors, police spokesperson, said he didn't think Kingston would ever fully recover the use of his elbow. But he said police had considered the history of the youth, which, court heard, included no previous involvement in criminal acts.

"Putting him in an adult system probably would not be the best answer," Minors said.

He also said Wiche knew in advance about the agreement on a suggested sentence. "He didn't disagree with it," said Minors.

The boy's parents said they accepted their son's penalty.

"He needs help and he will get help,"

the youth's mother said as she was surrounded by television cameras.

"An act has been committed, whether

it's accidental, reflex or emotional. My son has to pay the price for it, just like anyone else in this country," she said.

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