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Man arraigned for robbing cabbie twice

By Karen A. Kapsourakis / For The Item
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SALEM - A Lynn man was arraigned Thursday on charges of twice robbing the same cab driver at knife-point within nine days.

Michael Kinzer, 27, of 9 Cedar St., Lynn, pleaded not guilty at his arraignment Thursday to two counts of armed robbery and two counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon in connection with two holdups of a taxicab driver in September.

Salem Superior Court Judge Thomas P. Billings allowed defense lawyer Lawrence J. McGuire's request that Kinzer remain free on his promise to return to court, but Kinzer was ordered to stay away from the cab driver and not use Garcia Taxi until his case is resolved.

Assistant District Attorney Murat Erkan argued that a bail of \$10,000 be set.

"This is a serious case. The circumstances alone are tragic that a working man is robbed twice," Erkan said.

According to Erkan, in the early morning hours of September 3, 2005, a cab driver for Garcia Taxi, Lesandro Cabrera, 40, was dispatched to 21 Cedar St. to pickup a fare. A man later identified as Kinzer got into the taxi and ordered the driver to take him to 9 Quincy Terrace in Lynn.

When he arrived at the destination, the fare allegedly pulled out two knives, put one to Cabrera's throat and the other to his neck, and said, "Give me all the money or I'll kill you."

Erkan said Cabrera pulled his wallet, containing \$200, from a coat pocket, and that a struggle ensued before he turned the wallet over to the robber.

After the robber got out of the taxi, Cabrera put the cab in reverse and struck Kinzer twice.

Then on Sept. 12, shortly after 4 a.m., Cabrera was dispatched to 376 Boston St. for a pickup. Once there he waited several minutes for the fare, Erkan said. A man then got into the taxi, sat directly behind Cabrera and asked to be taken to Allen Avenue.

Cabrera, realizing there is no such address and looked back and in horror, Erkan said, as he recognized the man as the same person who robbed him nine days prior.

Cabrera quickly dialed 7, which is a speed dial to police dispatch, and told police to wait outside the station for him.


Cabrera drove the shortest route to the Police Station, but when he arrived there were no officers waiting outside, Erkan said.


Kinzer then allegedly pulled out two knives again, put them to Cabrera's neck and ordered him to keep going.

Cabrera was slashed from his forehead to his ear, and Kinzer made off with \$280

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in cash.

After the robber exited, Cabrera got out of his taxi and started chasing Kizner with a pipe, but police saw Cabrera with the pipe and stopped him before realizing the situation.

Kizner jumped over a fence and escaped.

A short while later, Erkan said, Cabrera was on his way to the hospital for treatment when he recognized Kizner at a bus stop. He called police, who immediately responded and arrested Kizner.

Kizner told police he was at a friend's house for a birthday party when the first robbery occurred, but police, following his alibi, learned that was not true, according to Erkan.

McGuire pointed out that his client has appeared for all court hearings since the case began and thus, should be allowed free without bail.

Billings noted the serious nature of the charges, but agreed with McGuire that Kizner remain free pending trial.

A conviction on each of the armed robbery charges carries a penalty of life and each of the assault and battery with a dangerous weapon charges carries up to 10 years in state prison.

An Essex County grand jury handed up the four indictments against Kinzer on Feb. 10.

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