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## Mom says murder suspect has an alibi

*By Pat Murphy*  
*ECCENTRIC STAFF WRITER*

The attorney for a 15-year-old Southfield youth charged with first degree murder - and the youth's mother - says he has an alibi in the shooting death of a Lathrup Village restaurant manager.

Jerome A. Hamilton will vigorously fight the charge, attorney Arnold Weiner said Wednesday following a pre-examination conference in 46th District Court.

At that conference, Weiner waived his client's right to an exam within 14 days of his arrest, and Judge Shelia Johnson scheduled a preliminary examination for 9:30 a.m. Jan. 6. Hamilton was remanded to the Oakland County jail.

Immediately after the conference, Weiner told reporters the charges against Hamilton were based on false statements made by people - known by his client - who were trying to avoid prosecution by blaming a minor.

"Those statements are wrong," the Pontiac attorney said. "Something is fishy."

Hamilton is charged as an adult.

Weiner noted that his client voluntarily turned himself into police.

"That's not the mark of guilt," the attorney said.

Weiner declined to say where his client was at the time of the murder, nor did he elaborate about the alibi.

Hamilton's mother, Raina Harrison of Detroit, supported the attorney's claim about her son having an alibi.

"I know where my son was," she said. But she declined to elaborate.

Oakland County assistant Prosecutor Robert Novy also addressed the media after the conference. He insisted the charges against Hamilton - premeditated murder and using a firearm in commission of a felony - were based on solid evidence compiled by the Lathrup Village Police and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and reviewed by the prosecutor's office.

He declined to comment about the fact no other persons have yet been arrested - as predicted by Sheriff Michael Bouchard shortly after Hamilton was arrested.

"I can't comment on an ongoing investigation," Novy said. "But the evidence against Mr. Hamilton is very compelling."

Hamilton is charged in the Oct. 15 killing of Catherine Marie Solinski-Blain, 21, about 10:45 p.m., after

she had closed the Rib Rack restaurant on Southfield Road where she was a manager.

Solinski-Blain, who was pregnant, was shot once in the head in what police say was a botched robbery attempt. Police said a car pulled up next to Solinski-Blain as she was about to leave.

Attorney Weiner said his claim of innocence on behalf of his client is based on his preliminary review of some of the evidence, including fingerprints at the scene. He said surveillance tapes from a business next to the restaurant call into doubt the prosecution's case against his client.

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