

Two suspects charged in Wendy's slayings, robbery

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Two men accused of the execution-style slayings of five people during a robbery at a Wendy's restaurant — one of the most shocking crimes in recent New York memory — were charged yesterday with multiple counts of murder, attempted murder, robbery and weapons possession.

Queens Assistant District Attorney Greg Lasak described in chilling detail how John Taylor, 36, and Craig Godineaux, 30, allegedly bound and gagged their victims with duct tape, then executed them one by one.

"They were marched single file into a big freezer box. They were told to get on their knees, and they were each shot by the defendants once in the head," Lasak said, his voice filled with emotion.

Lasak told Queens Criminal Court Judge Michael Aloise that the defendants had given videotaped statements admitting the shootings

at the fast-food restaurant in Queens last Wednesday night. In addition, he said, witnesses picked them out of a police lineup, and detectives seized money, a security tape from the restaurant's camera and other evidence.

"The evidence we have to tie these defendants to the case is overwhelming," Lasak said.

All seven people shot were employees of the restaurant. Five were killed and two survived with wounds, one of them by playing dead until the bandits left.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown has 120 days to decide whether to seek the death penalty.

Brown refused to comment on media reports that Taylor had said, "no witnesses," as his reason for shooting the workers after taking \$2,300. Most of the money, recovered at Taylor's house, was in coins, according to the reports.

Aloise set the next hearing for June 26 and remanded the pair without bail.



New York City police yesterday escorted John Taylor to jail. He was charged, along with Craig Godineaux, in the execution-style slayings of five Wendy's employees in Queens. Ed Beta / Associated Press