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# Wanted For Trying To Bribe Juror

by **Dave Racher, Daily News Staff Writer**

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Reputed South Philadelphia drug dealer Mark Obus apparently wanted the best jury money could buy, the prosecutor said.

So he offered a juror \$1,000 for "a not-guilty verdict," said Assistant District Attorney Thomas Malone.

The juror refused the offer, allegedly made outside the Criminal Justice Center on Tuesday night. Another juror witnessed the bribe attempt, Malone said.

Yesterday, Obus, 26, of Bancroft Street near Morris, must have had second thoughts about what he had done.

He jumped bail of \$25,000.

Testimony was about to begin on charges that Obus was dealing drugs from a car at Moyamensing and Snyder avenues last Sept. 8.

Common Pleas Judge Eugene E. J. Maier dismissed the jury and issued a bench warrant for Obus.

Maier thanked the two jurors for being "courageous" and coming forward with the bribe report when they arrived in court.

The judge said it was only the second time in his 18 years on the bench that he's had a case of jury tampering.

"Mr. Obus is now a fugitive," Maier said.

Malone said Obus now faces "a long list of new charges," including bribery and tampering with a juror.

Defense lawyer A. Charles Peruto Jr. said he was disappointed over the incident.

"I thought we had a good shot at winning the drug case," Peruto said.

The target of the bribe attempt said he was leaving court for the day when Obus approached him from behind on 13th Street near Filbert.

"Are you on my jury?" Obus allegedly asked.

"Yes," replied the man.

After the offer was rejected, the juror quickly walked away.

Prior to jury selection, Obus lost a motion to suppress over \$1,000 in drugs and \$2,800 in cash police say they seized from him during the arrest.

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