

Mother wants to visit baby left in trash

Judge orders 28-year-old woman to stand trial on attempted murder charge

By CARRI GEERTHEVENOT

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A Las Vegas woman accused of dumping her newborn daughter in a trash bin now wants permission to visit the baby, her attorney said Monday.

The request elicited snickers from some observers in Justice of the Peace James Bixler's courtroom, and Deputy Public Defender Robert Thompson said his client understands why public sentiment might not be on her side.

"That just wasn't the location you'd want to see a baby put in," Thompson said after the hearing.

Bixler set bail at \$50,000 on Monday for the mother, Monique Tucker, but said he has no authority to rule on the woman's request for visitation.

The judge also ordered Tucker, 28, to stand trial on a charge of attempted murder. He made the ruling after four witnesses testified at a preliminary hearing.

Lopresti said he looked inside the bin and saw a shoe box, then lifted the lid on the box to discover a baby wrapped in a plastic bag.

He said he immediately picked up the box and took it to his supervisor's apartment about 20 to 30 feet away.

The supervisor's wife, Jennifer Augustine-McKillop,

Albert Lopresti, a groundskeeper at the Silver Shadow Vistas apartments, testified that he was cleaning the area around a trash bin around 8 a.m. on Aug. 6 when he heard a noise that drew him closer.

"I wasn't sure if it was a baby or a kitten, to tell you the truth," he said.

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Monique Tucker, accused of leaving her baby in a trash bin, appears Monday at her Justice Court preliminary hearing with her attorney, Deputy Public Defender Robert Thompson.

