

JUSTICE

## **Bail hearing begins for man charged in bike thefts**

ANTHONY REINHART

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The wheels of justice lurched slowly into motion yesterday as a bail hearing got under way for Igor Kenk, the used-bicycle dealer facing 58 charges related to bicycle theft and narcotics trafficking.

Mr. Kenk, who has been in custody at the Don Jail since his arrest on July 16, will be back in an Old City Hall courtroom today as a justice of the peace hears arguments from lawyers for the Crown and defence as to whether the 49-year-old should be released pending a trial.

He appeared wan and dishevelled in his orange jail-issue jumpsuit yesterday, his long, stringy hair framing a tired face.

A small crowd looked on from the gallery, including cyclists, friends of Mr. Kenk and two men who have organized a Facebook group to encourage bike-theft victims to attend any future trial.

A publication ban prohibits the reporting of evidence presented during bail deliberations, but outside court, Toronto police detailed the charges Mr. Kenk faces so far: 35 counts related to bicycle theft, most for possessing stolen bikes; 21 federal charges related to drug possession and trafficking involving roughly seven kilograms of marijuana, along with crack and powdered cocaine; one count of possession of the proceeds of crime involving a small amount of cash; and possession of a stolen computer.

Police expect to bring more charges as owners reclaim bicycles from the more than 2,700 seized since Mr. Kenk's arrest during searches of 12 properties.

As of yesterday morning, 335 bicycles had been returned to people who were able to prove ownership at ongoing public viewings at two warehouses, at 35 Strachan Ave. and 30 Ordnance St. The viewings are scheduled to end tonight at 8 p.m., but will likely resume, perhaps in other locations, police said.

As Mr. Kenk's bail hearing was to resume today, a co-accused, Jean Laveau, 47, was to appear in another courtroom.

Mr. Laveau was arrested with Mr. Kenk on July 16, after police watched Mr. Kenk allegedly direct him to steal a bicycle near his shop and try to steal a second one.