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Jury: San Jose man acted in self-defense, acquitted of 2011 battery

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San Jose - According to McMorris' public defender, Mark Wykoff, the pair was in the midst of a squabble over who was the rightful owner of the trailer.

The fracas occurred after McMorris showed up at the trailer to change the locks. Wykoff said that several of Davis' friends called him on the phone to alert him that a strange vehicle was parked at his trailer.

When Davis showed up, he attempted to enter through one of the doors that still had an original lock on it while an associate of McMorris, Donald Huffman, attempted to hold the door closed.

Wykoff said that testimony indicated that Davis overpowered Huffman, sending the man against a wall in the trailer.

"During the course of this skirmish, Mr. Davis went back to his truck and recovered a corn knife that others described as a machete," Wykoff said.

"McMorris' people say that Mr. Davis cut himself in the ear when he was swinging it. Mr. Davis' people allege that the injury occurred at the hands of Mr. McMorris... We raised the question of self-defense. Mr. McMorris admitted to beating Mr. Davis, but only in response to the beating that was first inflicted upon him." In the end, it took the jury about 35 minutes to conclude that McMorris acted in self-defense and found him not guilty.

It wasn't the first run-in between McMorris and Davis.

In August of 2010, the pair was arrested following a fight because McMorris posted a sign in his yard alerting neighbors to the fact that

Davis is a registered sex offender.

The Pekin Times reported that McMorris' wife, Heather, said her husband put the sign in their front yard at about 5:30 p.m. and Davis came home about a half hour later and tried to take the sign. McMorris tried to stop him and the tug-of-war escalated to the point McMorris yelled for help.

Randy Evans, a member of the San Jose Board of Trustees, responded to the scene with a baseball bat that he said was for his own protection.

All three were arrested on various misdemeanors after the incident, but charges were never filed.