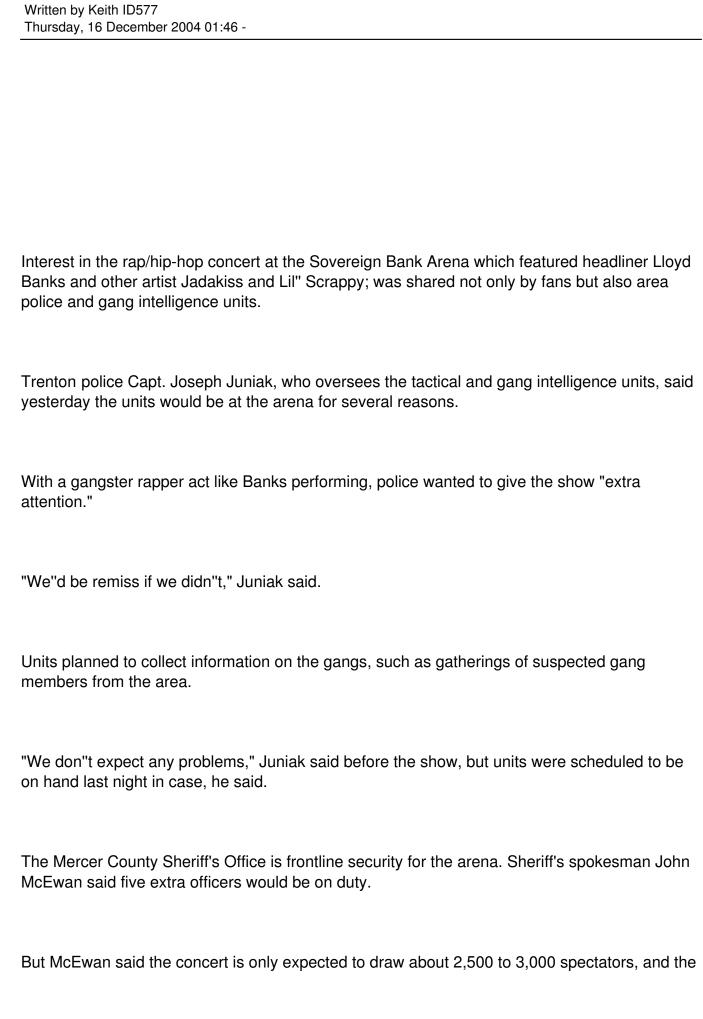
Police Give Concert 'Extra Attention



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Written by Keith ID577 Thursday, 16 December 2004 01:46 -

complement of officers for that type of an event is about 10.

Sovereign Bank Arena spokeswoman Amanda Bogotuik declined to discuss whether any extra security measures were in effect for last night's show, reports NJ.com.

"We"re preparing for a show like we would prepare for any other show at Sovereign Bank Arena," she said yesterday afternoon.

Banks, 22, whose birth name is Christopher Lloyd, has quickly made a name in the rap world since his debut album this spring, "The Hunger for More." The single "On Fire," produced by Eminem, was recently nominated for a Grammy.

Banks is a member of the G Unit, a collaborative of friends and rappers from the Jamaica section of Queens. The group, featuring 50 Cent, Tony Yayo and Young Buck, together released an album last year that sold several million copies. And all have successful solo careers.

But the G Unit also retain, and often rap about, their strong connection to their neighborhoods, and the fact that they are real gangsters, according to media interviews.

50 Cent and Banks have been wounded in shootings - Banks in the early morning hours of Sept. 11, 2001 - and Young Buck was recently charged with stabbing a man at an awards show in Los Angeles in November. Banks reportedly was involved that night with the G Unit.

The G Unit is known to travel with armed bodyguards, and 50 Cent wears a bulletproof vest in public and on stage.