

Baby's mom may face charges - Cops, dad say death is punishment enough

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DETROIT -- The Wayne County prosecutor is weighing whether to file criminal charges against the mother whose infant son allegedly was killed by a stranger who she asked to hold the child at a bus stop.

Michael Duggan could decide later this week if he will prosecute Shaniqua Betty, 20, in connection with the disappearance Aug. 3 and subsequent death of her 3-month-old son, Isaiah Lewis. A spokeswoman for Duggan declined to say what, if any charges, the prosecutor is considering.

Harold Reed, 48, is facing murder charges in Isaiah's death. **Reed** led Detroit police last week to a fire-scorched house on Penrose where they found the child's decomposing remains. The house has since become a kind of shrine to the baby, made up of stuffed animals and toys.

Police investigators have not submitted a warrant for formal consideration by Duggan's staff. But Duggan and prosecutors discussed the case Monday.

Police executives have indicated they do not think charges are appropriate. They argue that Betty's punishment is having to live with Isaiah's death on her conscience. The child's father, Ivan Brown Jr., also told The Detroit News that she shouldn't face charges.

Isaiah died from blunt-force trauma, not suffocation, investigators said. The baby was found Friday morning underneath a mattress in the abandoned two-story house.

Betty, now staying with a relative in Pontiac, told police she left Isaiah with a stranger at the bus stop about 2 a.m. while she walked three-quarters of a mile to get her purse and shoes.

Police said she has passed two lie-detector tests and she does not appear to have been on drugs.

"There's been a lot of public interest in this case. We want to make sure we look at the whole picture before we make a decision," said Duggan's spokeswoman, Ruth Carter.

Caption: Susan Dorsey consoles her son, Stephon, after looking at the memorial left to 3-month-old Isaiah Lewis. The house where Isaiah's body was found has become a kind of shrine to him, made of stuffed animals and toys. Isaiah Lewis: 3-month-old's body found in abandoned house. Shaniqua Betty, 20, left Isaiah with a stranger at the bus stop. **Harold Reed**, 48, faces murder charges in Isaiah's death.

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Section: Front

Page: 01A

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