

## **Child deaths catalyst for city action - Killing of 13th youth prompts meeting with top county officials**

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DETROIT -- A plan by county, state and federal officials to stop a string of fatal shootings of children in the city will be made public next week, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick said Tuesday.

After visiting the home where 10-year-old Deantoiné Trammel was shot and killed Monday night, an upset Kilpatrick made late-night telephone calls to Wayne County Prosecutor Michael Duggan, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Collins, police Chief Jerry A. Oliver Sr. and Ruth Carter, the city's top lawyer. The mayor set up a Tuesday morning meeting with the officials.

The next day, Kilpatrick emerged from the 90-minute session in his office to announce some of the approaches discussed to stop the killings and protect children.

"We're going to put together a strategic plan and be ready to present it to you next week. We're dealing with the proactive end and how we make our community healthy, and also the punishment end and how we go after some of these people."

Trammel, a Bow Elementary School student, was the 13th homicide victim younger than 16 in Metro Detroit this year. Police allege he was shot by **Douglas Kendrick**, 24, the boyfriend of a relative of the dead youth.

Police said **Kendrick** was in the kitchen when he fired shots through a wall, striking the boy in the back. **Kendrick** was taken into custody Tuesday. A murder warrant was presented to prosecutors on Tuesday.

Drugs and gangs are a key reason for the sudden increase in shootings of children, Kilpatrick said. To fight drugs and gangs, Detroit hopes to form partnerships with federal agencies and community groups such as churches, Oliver said.

One model could be tactics used by Boston's Police Department, Oliver said. The city, at the urging of a local minister, used a 10-point plan that included working with churches, linking residents with law-enforcement officers and initiating neighborhood crime-watch programs. The program is credited with helping reduce gang-related killings by 71 percent over an eight-year period.

Another person moved to action by the string of homicides was Christopher Carter, owner of the Peace Chapel Funeral Home. He donated his company's services to the Trammel family to take care of the funeral.

Carter said the arrangements will be handled by the funeral home's branch at 12350 E. Seven Mile. Those arrangements were not complete by late Tuesday.

#### Other children killed in city

- \* April 30: Cherrel Thomas, 15, is shot and killed in the back seat of a car.
- \* April 18: Ira Keener, 39, shot and killed her five-year-old daughter, Irisha, while the child was sleeping and then used the pistol to take her own life.
- \* April 10: Brianna Caddell, 8, is killed in her sleep when, police said, a gunman angry about a debt owed to him fired a volley of bullets from an assault rifle into the home in the 19700 block of Cardoni.
- \* April 3: Christopher James, 11, is accidentally shot and killed when a pistol was discharged, in the 20500 block of Pelkey, near Eight Mile.
- \* March 28: Alesia Robinson, 16, is killed while sitting on her front porch with friends on Detroit's east side.

Caption: Kilpatrick

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Correction: An article on the shooting death of DeAntoine Trammell in some editions of The News' Metro section on Tuesday should have said the 10-year-old attended Bow Elementary School. Neighbors had said he went to a different school. (June 7, 2002 A2)

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