

## **DETROITER ARRAIGNED IN DEATH OF GIRL, 7 - JUDGE DENIES BOND FOR TRUCK DRIVER**

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Author: CECIL ANGEL and SUZETTE HACKNEY FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS; Staff writer Jim Schaefer contributed

A Detroit man who allegedly fired a gun into a home, fatally striking a 7-year-old girl, was arraigned Wednesday on murder and assault charges.

**Ronald Brown**, 42, a truck driver with a criminal history, was charged with first-degree, premeditated murder, three counts of assault with intent to murder, felon in possession of a firearm, committing a felony with a firearm and being a habitual offender.

Police say as many as four shots from a handgun were fired at Deva White's east-side home and at least one went through a window. The second-grader at Detroit's William Beckham Academy was an unintended victim of a dispute that police say started over a video game.

She was struck in the chest about 5 p.m. Monday while sitting in the front room of the house in the 14300 block of Glenfield near Chalmers. Her 8-year-old brother, grandmother and a family friend were home at the time of the shooting.

At his arraignment in 36th District Court in Detroit, Brown's lawyer argued before Magistrate Robert Costello that his client should be released on bond because he had not been in trouble with the law in 15 years. Attorney Randall Upshaw also argued that there's no evidence linking his client to the crime.

"I haven't seen a statement from anyone saying my client fired a gun at anyone," Upshaw said after the arraignment.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Patrick Muscat said Brown was convicted in 1997 of a controlled substance violation, in 1983 of attempted burglary and in 1980 of attempted robbery, not armed. He could receive up to life in prison if convicted of being a habitual offender. Costello denied bond for Brown, who is being held in the Wayne County Jail. A preliminary examination is set for 1:30 p.m. Dec. 8.

Upshaw said there are rumors about the case that Brown's sons and Deva's brothers were angry over a video game -- "Grand Theft Auto."

Upshaw said he's read the police reports. "They believe his children and the victim were arguing over a video game. Somehow from that accusation it gathered hearsay to believe that Ronald actually did the shooting," he said. "There was rumor about the kids being into a fight -- not the adults -- the children." The game series is popular and controversial. It puts players through missions as up-and-coming criminals. To reach goals, players have to steal cars, execute rivals and successfully flee from police. Critics decry the game's violence; fans rave over the soundtracks and innovative game play.

After the shooting, Deva was taken to St. John Hospital and Medical Center where she was pronounced dead. Ferguson Funeral Home in Detroit is handling the arrangements, which were not completed Wednesday.

Contact CECIL ANGEL at 313-223-4531. Staff writer Jim Schaefer contributed to this report.

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Caption: Photo;Photo KATHLEEN GALLIGAN / Detroit Free Press

Deva White **Ronald Brown** , right, is led out of Detroit police headquarters on Wednesday. The man on the left could not be identified.

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