

## **DRUGS , CASH AND 2 DEAD CHILDREN - POLICE: 5 DEALERS KIDNAPPED COUSIN TO GET IN DETROIT HOME**

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Tuesday, February 27, 2007

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They knew the two boys in the house on Detroit's west side wouldn't open the door for just anybody. So they kidnapped one of the boys' adult cousins to get them in.

And when the boys saw him at the front door, they unlocked and opened it - and unwittingly let five **drug** dealers push their way inside the house.

That's how police sources Monday described the scene leading up to Friday night's shootings of 11-year-old Darren Johnson and 13-year-old Orlando Herron, two cousins authorities identified as **drug** runners. Both were shot in the head at close range.

Orlando was shot multiple times; Darren, less than two hours shy of his 12th birthday when he was killed, was shot once.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy said the motive for the shootings - a crime that led her to authorize charges against five people Monday - appears to be **drugs** and money.

"Two **children** were killed by being shot in the head," Worthy said in a statement. "The enormity of this senseless crime is incomprehensible."

Police, meanwhile, say they are trying to find out what led the shooters to the home on Mansfield, though the stories - gleaned through interviews with witnesses - center on money the alleged intruders believed they were entitled to.

Sources close to the investigation said one version has the five suspects pushing their way into the home, where they bound and gagged the kidnapped 23-year-old cousin, whom police allege also is a **drug** dealer.

Once inside, investigators said, the intruders began screaming, "Where's the money?"

Then they ransacked the home and shot the boys to show their ruthless determination to find what they were looking for.

It was unclear what money the intruders may have been after. But police also are investigating a claim suggesting the boys may have stolen money from a **drug** dealer and been killed in retaliation.

"Everybody's pointing the finger at everybody else," one police official said.

The 23-year-old man was shot in the leg, arm and torso and left for **dead** , authorities said. He

survived and remains in serious condition at a Detroit-area hospital, which police declined to name to protect him. His name is not being released.

Three other people in the house - two juveniles and one adult - also were assaulted, police said.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office authorized charges against Sonya O'Neal, 38; Torrisandois Lyons, 42; Deandre Witherspoon, 23; Robert Reed, 36, and Charles Moore, 38.

All have Detroit residences, and each faces two counts of first-degree murder, kidnapping, two counts of assault with intent to rob, assault with intent to murder, two counts of armed robbery, conspiracy to commit felony murder and using a firearm to commit a felony.

Each also is charged as a habitual offender.

Lyons, who turned himself in Saturday night after Detroit police released his name and photograph to the news media, served seven years on **drug** charges for a 1986 conviction, according to the Michigan Department of Corrections. He later served about **2 1/2** years for having, or attempting to sell, a Taser.

O'Neal served eight months in prison on a 2003 **drug** charge. She also served two years in federal prison on a cocaine distribution conviction. Federal court documents indicate she had been investigated by the federal **Drug** Enforcement Administration in 1996.

Police said they seized nine weapons and \$40,000 in **cash** from her home on Orleans.

Worthy commended Detroit police for "their round-the-clock work to find the people who committed these vicious acts."

Officials said both boys were dealing **drugs** , but neither has a criminal record.

A man who identified himself as Darren's father, also named Darren Johnson, hung up Monday when reached by the Free Press. His last known address on the city's west side was empty and for sale. Calls to members of Orlando's family were not returned.

Residents on Mansfield, where yellow police tape was still stretched across several lawns Monday afternoon, said they didn't know who lived in the house across the street from Gardner Elementary School. All declined to give their names for fear of retaliation.

However, all agreed that the neighborhood, which once was modest but safe, has turned violent in recent years.

One 43-year-old man said his car had been broken into twice. Another said his home had been shot up in a drive-by. Most residents keep dogs and firearms for protection and rarely open their doors for strangers, they said.

For-sale signs dot the run-down street, but, as one resident said, "Who would buy a house here?"

I'm stuck. I want to move, but I'm stuck."

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ILLUSTRATION: Map DAVID PIERCE Detroit Free Press;Photo MARY SCHROEDER Detroit Free Press

CAPTION: Two boys were shot in this house on Mansfield on Friday. The home is on Detroit's west side a short distance from Dearborn.

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Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS; NEWS

Page: 1A

Index Terms: drug ; crime;homicide; death; multiple; 2 ;juvenile victim;shooting; Detroit

Record Number: dfp0000395833

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