

4 charged in police officer's slaying - Three are accused of helping shooter escape, hiding gun

Detroit News, The (MI) - Tuesday, July 18, 2000

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DETROIT -- Four people were charged Monday in the shooting death of Detroit Police Officer Shynelle Mason, who was killed after a chance car-side confrontation at a gas station.

Jason Pinson, 21, of Detroit -- who was convicted in 1999 of two felonies, and received probation from Wayne County Judge Gershwin A. Drain -- was charged with five felonies, including murder and attempted murder, in connection with the Friday-night shooting.

Pinson stood mute in 36th District Court and was ordered held until a hearing to review the evidence against him on July 31.

Darryl "Shawn" Dirrell, Daryl Patten and Armelia Noel were charged with being accomplices after the fact, a five-year felony, for hiding **Pinson** and the murder weapon. The three were ordered held on \$150,000 bonds each, pending hearings on July 31.

Mason, 21, a 1996 graduate of Cooley High School, had been on the force for two years.

The other two men in **Pinson**'s car have not been charged. A 17-year-old who was in the car was arrested in Kentucky by FBI agents and state police. He will be returned to Michigan. The other man has agreed to testify against **Pinson**.

Prosecutors don't expect any other charges.

Pinson's court record has been sealed by Drain, but The Detroit News reviewed some of the records that were obtained by the Detroit Police Department. **Pinson** pleaded guilty to a felony of receiving and possessing stolen property in 1996 when he was 17.

A warrant was issued for **Pinson**'s arrest in 1996, and he was arrested in September 1999, when police found him in illegal possession of four weapons. He was sentenced Nov. 11, 1999, to four years of probation.

Pinson also had to attend the Handgun Intervention Program, a series of three-hour sessions that are mandatory for anyone arraigned in Detroit for a crime involving a gun. The Saturday-morning sessions deliver a graphic, photo-documented message about gun violence. **Pinson** completed the program on Oct. 2, 1999.

In a court filing Monday, Detroit police investigators gave the following account of the shooting at 8 p.m. at the Mobil Mart station at Fenkell and Schaefer:

Mason and her friends, Christopher Woods and Rochelle Gilmour, were pulling out of the Mobil Mart when they were blocked in by **Pinson**'s car.

An argument began after the three men in the car went from trying to flirt with the two women to calling them names.

Mason got out of the car, pulled out her gun and badge and confronted **Pinson** for calling the two women names.

"What did you say?" Mason was quoted as saying in the police report.

As Mason walked back to her car, **Pinson** fired into her side, breaking her arm. The bullet lodged in her chest. Mason got off three shots, while **Pinson** fired a total of eight shots.

Pinson also was charged with trying to kill Woods.

On Thursday, there was another killing at a gas station. Kenneth Decker, 35, was killed in his car at the BP Amoco at Interstate 94 and Chene. Police said a man asked him for money at 12:20 a.m. and shot him when Wheeler said he had none. Travis L. Scott, 25, has been charged with first-degree murder in the shooting.

Officer's funeral

The funeral service for Officer Shynelle Mason will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in Greater Grace Temple, 19161 Schaefer. Visitation is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday at Thompson Funeral Home, 15443 Greenfield, Detroit.

Caption: **Jason Pinson** is arraigned in 36th District Court on Monday on charges of shooting Officer Shynelle Mason.

Edition: One Dot

Section: Metro

Page: 06B

Index Terms: POLICE-KILLED & ; INJURED ; SHOOTINGS ; DETROIT

Dateline: DETROIT

Record Number: det8174147

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