

HIGHLAND PARK KILLINGS - NOW, ONE VICTIM HAS A NAME ANGUISHED FAMILY SAYS STREETS TURNED HER TOUGH

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The police, the courts and the morgue had her logged as "unknown" woman. Body found Jan. 12 in **Highland Park** . Homicide.

There's a name now with the body: Toya Lynn Hill, age 30. She was identified by the Michigan State Police crime lab. Her fingerprints were on file because Toya Hill struggled with drug addiction in recent years, and for that she had a criminal record.

Her family found out this week that she is dead, and they also learned that despite her problems, had it not been for a mistake, Toya Hill might still be alive. The man who is accused of **killing** her, Michael Lee Anthony, was supposed to be in prison for rape and robbery. Because of errors by the Michigan law enforcement system, he never served a day of that 15- to 30-year sentence.

Anthony, 54, is charged with murdering Toya Hill and another woman, whose name authorities still don't know. Their decomposed bodies were found in his basement flat after police got a tip. Authorities said they were asphyxiated.

He's in jail now without bond, and the court has ordered him again to serve his forgotten 1991 rape and armed robbery sentence.

But all this means little to Hill's mother.

Mattie Hill lost a piece of her youngest daughter years ago, when Toya moved from her Mt. Clemens neighborhood for dark corridors and street corners and guys with nicknames like Pops.

Drugs can do that -- steal loved ones away and erase from their minds the importance of family, friends and home.

But Mattie Hill said she always hoped her daughter would emerge from the **Highland Park** neighborhood where she put herself in jeopardy. One of Toya's sisters, Chana Hardin, made forays into the city. She'd ask someone who knew someone else who knew where Toya was -- and big sister would pull her out, away from "lowlives," as Hardin put it.

Then followed holiday gatherings at the family home on Beyne Street in Mt. Clemens, and laughter, and rehab. But the fix never took, and Toya would vanish again.

Her addiction had costs, even before she ended up in Anthony's basement, her body stashed under a pile of clothes. She was the mother of five, but others raised her children.

The streets turned her tough, her family said. She went from a naive, trusting girl to someone drawn to those "who were much more savvy and not as kind," said another sister, Rosalyn Tulip of Ann Arbor.

Toya Hill was someone's mother. She was someone's sister. She was someone's daughter.

Even on her darkest days, she still called her mother Mommy.

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Caption: Photo RICHARD LEE/Detroit Free Press

Mattie Hill of Mt. Clemens says she always hoped her daughter would emerge from the **HighlandPark** neighborhood where she put herself in jeopardy. Toya Hill moved from her Mt. Clemens neighborhood years ago. "I never would have given up on her," Mattie Hill says. The body of Toya Hill, 30, was identified by the Michigan State Police crime lab. She struggled with drug addiction. Rehab never seemed to work. She was the mother of five children, but they were raised by others.

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