

## **Investigators : Boys ' deaths drug-related - Five charged in case have prior convictions; victims alleged to be involved in trafficking.**

Detroit News, The (MI) - Tuesday, February 27, 2007

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DETROIT -- The execution-style slayings of two young **boys** and the wounding of another man on the city's west side last Friday night were driven by drugs and robbery, **investigators** believe.

**Investigators** said there are allegations that the young victims, Orlando Herron, 13, and Darren Johnson, 12, who were both shot in the head, were also involved in narcotics trafficking.

On Monday, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy brought premeditated and felony murder charges against five suspects in the case: Sonya O'Neal, 38, Deandre Witherspoon, 23, Torrisandois Lyons, 42, Robert Reed, 36, and Charles Moore 38, all of Detroit. The four men have prior state convictions for drugs, burglary and criminal sexual conduct. O'Neal was convicted of a marijuana charge in 2003

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

She praised Detroit police for their round-the-clock effort in investigating this crime.

Police and prosecutors are still trying to sort out the details of what happened Friday night in the house on Mansfield. The **boys** , who lived on the city's east side, were already in the house with four other adults, including a 23-year-old man, who police found shot twice with his hands bound with duct tape. At least two of the adults were connected to that house, according to **investigators** .

Police said the five people charged in the case robbed and assaulted the surviving adults and kept them in the house at gunpoint against their will.

O'Neal faces two counts each of felony murder and premeditated murder, which carry maximum penalties of mandatory life in prison without parole; and kidnapping, which carries a life sentence.

She also faces two counts of assault with intent to rob while armed, assault with intent to murder, and two counts of conspiracy to commit felony murder, all of which carry life sentences. She is also charged with felony firearm; felon in possession, and being a habitual 3rd-time offender, which could enhance her life sentences one and a half times over.

Witherspoon faces the same litany of charges. He was on parole for a 2006 conviction for burglary. He was also convicted of fleeing and eluding police in 2005.

Lyons has a 1986 conviction for possession of 25 to 49 grams of a controlled substance, and a 1999 conviction for possession of a Taser. The charges against him are the same as the others

except his habitual charge is for a 4th offense.

Reed was convicted of criminal sexual conduct in 1990 and violation of the sex offender registry last year. He faces the same charges as the others plus a habitual 4th offender offense.

Moore has a history of four burglary convictions dating to 1991. He was also convicted of home invasion in 1996. He, too, faces the same charges plus the habitual 4th offense.

The five suspects are expected to be arraigned on the charges today in 36th District Court in Detroit.

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Company Name: #keywords2#

Index Terms: SHOOTINGS ; DETROIT ; DEATHS; CHILDREN ; DRUG TRAFFIC ; INVESTIGATION

Dateline: DETROIT

Record Number: det28402853

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