

## Man charged in 2008 kidnapping, slaying of Warren man

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By Charles E. Ramirez

The Detroit News

WARREN — A 26-year-old Detroit man has been charged for his involvement in a January 2008 abduction and murder of a Warren man, officials said today.

**Kenneth Ray Witherspoon** was arraigned in 37th District Court in Warren on several charges, including first-degree murder, kidnapping, home invasion and auto theft.

**Witherspoon** entered a not guilty plea.

District Court Judge Dawnn Gruenburg remanded the defendant to the Macomb County Jail with no bond, officials said today.

The judge also set a preliminary examination in the case against **Witherspoon** for March 3.

Police arrested **Witherspoon** at his home Tuesday, said Warren Police Commissioner William Dwyer.

Authorities say the defendant and his cousin, Herbert Jamel **Witherspoon**, 31, of Detroit, kidnapped and murdered Rico White last year.

Warren police arrested Herbert Jamel **Witherspoon** Sept. 3, 2008, in connection with the crime. He is in the Macomb County Jail, awaiting trial on 11 charges stemming from White's murder, officials said.

Police said the two men kidnapped White, his girlfriend and their children at gunpoint from their home in the 27700 block of Gail Street on Jan. 15, 2008.

The duo terrorized the family for more than a day before releasing White's girlfriend and the children in the Gateshead and Canyon area of Detroit, detectives said.

Detroit Police found White's body with multiple gunshot wounds in the head at about 10:15 a.m. Jan. 16 on Giese Street west of Van Dyke, according to authorities.

Last week, Warren Police detectives received the results of a DNA test on gloves recovered from the crime scene that match them to the younger **Witherspoon** , Dwyer said.

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