

MISSING POLICE WITNESSES END HIT-RUN CASE

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A murder **case** against a Detroit man accused in the **hit- and-run** death of an 11-year-old Highland Park boy was dropped Tuesday because **police** failed to have their **witnesses** in court.

Police blamed a "large lack of communication" between **police** and **witnesses** for the dismissal of the **case** against Ronald Jordan, 22, but said they plan to seek a new arrest warrant for Jordan on Thursday.

Lt. John Killala also said the investigator handling the **case** apparently was confused as to whether he should be in court. The officer was attending a seminar in Lansing.

Thirtieth District Judge William Bledsoe called the mix-up "despicable" and said a hearing had been postponed once because officials hadn't completed their investigation. He said he dismissed the **case** without prejudice, meaning officials can refile charges "when they get their act together."

Jordan was charged with second-degree murder in the March 4 **hit-and-run** death of Shawn Brown, a sixth-grader at Liberty Elementary.

Shawn's death angered the community after it was learned that the driver had swerved for nearly three blocks down Hamilton after the child was hit, apparently trying to throw him from his car.

Shawn's sister, LaNese Brown, said relatives are outraged by the ruling.

"It's really sad. My mother's been on medication ever since Shawn got killed and she almost had a heart attack, and now this. They dismissed the **case** and sent him home. They can't send Shawn home. It's not right. I'm very, very upset."

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