

## Mom tells baby's killers: 'God will get you'

Detroit News, The (MI) - Tuesday, September 30, 2008  
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Detroit woman pleads with gunmen who sprayed her window with bullets to come forward.

By Oralandar Brand-WilliamsThe Detroit News

DETROIT — Outrage over the fatal shooting Sunday of a 4-month-old boy has sparked an outcry for a crackdown on crime and moved a young mother to a tearful plea for the killers to turn themselves in, warning them, "God will get you."

Police have few leads in the death early Sunday of **Walter Brogan III**, who was shot in the head while he slept. Gunmen sprayed his mother's second-floor apartment window with bullets.

On Monday, 25-year-old Seleena Tafflemire clutched a picture of her young son during a news conference at a Police Department holding facility and asked the shooters to come forward and face justice.

"Please, please," Tafflemire said, crying and wearing the green hospital clothes given to her at Sinai-Grace Hospital, where the baby was pronounced dead after the 4:30 a.m. shooting. "I beg you to come forward. This is not right. This was cruel."

Tafflemire said she has no idea who would want to shoot up her apartment on Lahser near Seven Mile on the city's northwest side.

Tafflemire, who took just a few questions by reporters at the news conference, said she got up to give her baby some medicine when the shooting started.

Police believe the shooting was the result of an argument between two groups of men. Investigators believe 10-13 gunshots were fired into the apartment, where the baby lay sleeping in Tafflemire's arms.

Detroit Police spokesman James Tate said police have a few leads, but no one is in custody.

Several people arrested Monday on suspicion of possessing narcotics and firearms in raids near the shooting told police they "may have information that might further the case," Tate said, and are being questioned.

On Monday, newly appointed Detroit Police Chief James Barren said he is going back to a precinct-style department.

"I think that's very important for the community to have a precinct," Barren told Detroit News reporting partner WXYZ-TV (Channel 7). "That is something I would like to see brought back in."

In 2005, then-Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings merged 12 precincts into six districts to save money. But city residents criticized the plan, saying the district-style department made them feel less safe and led to increased crime because of a lack of police presence in their neighborhoods.

Also Monday, Detroit City Council President Monica Conyers called for the death penalty for anyone who "kills a child in Michigan."

"We go about our business in Detroit as if we are immune to the killing of our children," said Conyers in a statement.

"Two teenagers were gunned down last week, now a 4-month-old baby is murdered while asleep. If we are not mad as hell about this, we have lost our humanity."

Conyers also called for quick action by the Police Department in finding the shooters. She said she will meet with the mayor and police chief to discuss her concerns.

Tafflemire had some strong words for her baby's killers.

"This was my only child," said Tafflemire as she held a picture of the baby and rocked as if to console herself. "God will get you. I promise you, God will get you."

Detroit News Staff Writer Mark Hicks contributed to this report.

Edition: 1-dot

Section: Metro

Page: 1B

Record Number: det28013704

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