

New suspect in Taylor shooting - Police had released 3 teens recently in controversial and confusing case.

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TAYLOR -- Police and prosecutors aren't talking, but a fourth man is **in jail in** the convoluted murder case of a **Taylor** single mother that's already seen three **suspects** freed **in** the past week.

Juwan Earl Willis, 22, of Detroit is due **in** 23rd District Court on Monday on two counts of felony assault with intent to murder **in** the July 30 **shooting** -- a case that became embroiled **in** controversy last week because protesters claimed police rounded up black **suspects** for the white woman's death.

Willis, on probation for assault and battery, was arrested Tuesday. That's a day before prosecutors dropped charges against two black teens, and a day after they freed a 14-year-old who was held five days.

Neither police nor prosecutors disclosed the arrest when discussing the case at length this week. And they wouldn't comment Friday.

"The investigation is ongoing and we're working closely with the **Taylor** Police," said Jack Fennessey, spokesman for Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

The twist is the latest **in** a case that **Taylor** cops call the most confusing **in** 20 years. Part of the discord stems from Wendy Meinke's death. Police recovered bullets from at least two guns after she died rushing to the aid of her son, who was arguing with several men outside Coppertree apartments.

Witness statements changed often, police said. So, too, have plans for one freed **suspect** , Franklin Smith, 18, who was charged as an accessory.

He and Devin Plummer, 17, were described by supporters such as political consultant Adolph Mongo as college-bound students. But officials for Rock Valley College **in** Illinois refuted claims Friday that Smith was enrolled or even applied to the school.

Press releases this week indicated Smith had a scholarship to play basketball. The school doesn't offer them, said spokesman Mike Robinson.

Smith's mother, Gwen Johnson, called it a misunderstanding. She said he missed an Aug. 9 recruiting meeting with a coach because he was jailed. Smith's lawyer, Mark Brown, said supporters should have said he would have received financial aid if the meeting led to his enrollment.

Either way, the opportunity is gone, Brown said, and the issue is irrelevant to the injustice that ended when tests showed Plummer couldn't have fired a bullet that killed Meinke, 38, mother of six.

"These boys are innocent, and throwing dirt on their name does not take away from what the police did to them," Mongo said.

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