

DETROIT NEWS BRIEFS

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Suspect in killings to undergo exam

The lawyer for a **suspect in the killing** of four people on Clairmount Street requested a competency evaluation for his client Tuesday before a scheduled hearing **in** 36th District Court.

Patrick A. Smith, 31, of Detroit will **undergo** the evaluation at the State Forensic Center **in** Ypsilanti. He is scheduled **to** return **to** court Dec. 19.

He is charged with four counts of first-degree murder **in** the Oct. 18 shooting death of Alexis and Terrence Eppinger, ages 9 and 6; their mother, Lynnette Lawson, 28, and her boyfriend, Jason L. Davis, 34.

Attorney Cliff Woodards, who is representing Smith, requested the evaluation before Judge Izetta Bright.

Another appointee is voted off of tax board

The City Council voted unanimously Tuesday **to** remove Sean Tidwell from the Property Assessment Board of Review after allegations that the board approved tax exemptions for residents who made too much money **to** qualify for them.

The council appoints the board; Tidwell was Councilwoman Martha Reeves' appointee. Last week, the council removed Councilwoman JoAnn Watson's appointee, board Chairwoman Roslyn Trotter.

Detroit police are investigating the board for possible criminal wrongdoing **in** its handling of the tax exemptions. The full or partial one-year property tax exemptions are supposed **to go to** residents whose income is below the federal poverty threshold.

Detroiter becomes judge for 36th District Court

Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced Tuesday the appointment of Esther Bryant-Weekes as judge of the 36th District Court, which serves Detroit.

Bryant-Weekes' term expires Jan. 1, 2009. She replaces the late Judge Jeanette O'Banner-Owens.

Bryant-Weekes of Detroit most recently served as a practitioner and hearings officer for the city's Department of Administrative Hearings.

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