

Teen charged in stabbings - Police say he confessed to killing two former co-workers at Cheli's Chili Bar in Detroit.

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Author: The Detroit News ; Ronald J. Hansen

DETROIT -- The teenager **charged** with killing two former co-workers at Chris Chelios' downtown restaurant confessed to the slayings and said he felt cheated out of tips he was owed, police said Wednesday.

Justin Christopher Blackshear, 17, showed little emotion as he was arraigned Wednesday **in** 36th District Court on murder charges stemming from the Tuesday morning **stabbings** at Cheli's Chili Bar across from Comerica Park.

Blackshear was ordered held without bond before his Jan. 16 preliminary examination.

Investigators believe he confronted Mark A. Barnard, the kitchen manager, **in** the second-floor employee locker room. Barnard, 52, reminded Blackshear he had been fired and had to leave the restaurant.

Blackshear then stabbed him **in** the center of his back and again **in** the upper chest with one of the cooking knives, a police official said.

Barnard, 52, also had slash wounds on his hands and face, presumably from trying to fend off the attack.

Blackshear, who had been fired as a busboy **in** November for poor work habits, went upstairs to the third-floor office and told Megan Jo Soroka, the restaurant manager, that something was wrong with Barnard, one police source said.

His movement through the building may have been captured on videotape, police said.

Soroka went downstairs and, as she approached the room where Barnard had died, was stabbed **in** the back of the neck, the source said.

Soroka, 49, was stabbed about seven more times.

Blackshear went back upstairs and took \$10,000 **in** cash to make the slayings appear to be a robbery, police believe.

Investigators found \$10,000 covered **in** wrappers from Cheli's **in** the house where Blackshear was staying, police said. The **teen** had changed his clothes and wandered around aimlessly before his arrest Tuesday afternoon.

The slayings happened about 8:45 a.m. as the restaurant staff was preparing to open at 11 a.m. for lunch.

Blackshear's family could not be reached for comment Wednesday, and a woman who knows him declined to comment about him, citing his parents' concerns.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy offered her sympathies **in** announcing charges against Blackshear.

"From all accounts Ms. Soroka and Mr. Barnard were good employees and more importantly, good people," Worthy said **in** a statement.

"It is truly disturbing that they died **in** such a senseless and violent manner. We are glad that Mr. Blackshear was quickly apprehended so that he could not harm anyone else."

Neither the Detroit restaurant nor its sister restaurant **in** Dearborn opened Tuesday.

The Dearborn location reopened Wednesday, while a sign outside the Detroit restaurant said only that it would reopen soon.

Caption: Soroka Barnard Justin Christopher Blackshear was **charged** Wednesday with **stabbing** to death two former co-workers at Cheli's Chili Bar **in** downtown Detroit. His preliminary exam will be Jan. 16.

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