

TEEN TO FACE MURDER TRIAL IN FRIEND'S DEATH GUN MAY HAVE COME FROM VICTIM'S MOTHER

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The family and friends of a slain teenager lined a Detroit court bench Thursday in a show of subdued support for his accused killer.

In a case that has been full of twists, 17-year-old **Brian Black** killed his best friend, Lorenzo Shelton III, after Shelton allegedly killed three teenage girls from Lincoln Park last month.

The latest twist, revealed Thursday, is that Black borrowed the rifle used on Shelton from the teen's mother, who is said to have not known the gun was meant for her son.

And among Black's supporters on Thursday was a woman who says she is pregnant by Shelton, who was upset that one of his victims might be carrying his child when he shot the three girls.

Black said Shelton asked to be killed, so he put the rifle into Shelton's mouth and pulled the trigger in a southwest Detroit park. He says he shot him once more in the chest because Shelton asked for that, too.

Black was bound over for trial Thursday on a first-degree murder charge after his defense attorney unsuccessfully argued the charge should be reduced to manslaughter and his client should be freed on bond.

Virginia Shelton, who muffled sniffles through the preliminary examination at 36th District Court, said she misses her 18-year-old son, but feels for Black.

"I love Brian. He did what he did at Lorenzo's mercy," she said.

The 18-year-old woman who said she is pregnant with Shelton's child, said, "I forgive Brian for doing this." She asked not to be identified.

Police say that on March 23, Shelton sprayed Mindee Kalka, 14, Aleisha Belcher, 15, and Rachelle Goodwin, 17, with a barrage of bullets outside his southwest Detroit home and then blamed the killings on a drive-by shooting by gang members. He was reportedly worried that Kalka was pregnant.

That night, Shelton -- who had been questioned by police earlier and released -- learned the police would be coming back for him and asked Brian to fulfill his death wish.

Black confessed the next day, police said.

Defense attorney Daniel Blank said the tale was so unusual that Black should receive some mercy, but Wayne County Deputy Chief Prosecutor Douglas Baker characterized Black as a

teenager who took the law into his own hands in a twisted act of "street justice."

Homicide investigator Richard Ivy said Black told him Shelton admitted to slaying the three girls before he asked Black for a final deadly favor.

"He said he wasn't going to go back to jail," Ivy read from Black's confession. "He asked me if I would help him kill himself. He said he couldn't do it himself."

Black went to Shelton's mother's house on Waterman and got a rifle from her.

Michele Dotson, Shelton's 34-year-old sister, told police her mother didn't know why Black was borrowing the gun.

Black and Shelton went to Patton Park, where Shelton tied a white T-shirt around his head, knelt and waited for Black to shoot him twice.

Ivy said Black broke down in tears when he recalled how he went back to his car and sat for a few minutes after the killing.

Black is scheduled to be arraigned in Detroit Recorder's Court on May 2.

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