

3 TEENS GUNNED DOWN IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT LINCOLN PARK GIRLS WERE VISITING A FRIEND

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Three teenage Lincoln Park girls were killed early Sunday **in** a hail of gunfire apparently meant for the boyfriend of one girl at his **southwest Detroit** home, police said.

The 14-year-old and her two friends, 15 and 17, also from Lincoln Park, were leaving the 19-year-old boy's home **in** the 600 block of Waterman when he ran inside to fetch his keys.

Seconds later, a barrage of shots left the **three** girls dead on the sidewalk, slain by gunmen who were on foot, police said.

After hearing the shots, the boyfriend came outside, saw the bodies, ran back inside to get his gun and fired at a minivan that was racing away. Police said the boyfriend had been **in** a feud with neighborhood gang members and that the house, near Zug Island, had been shot at two weeks ago.

Investigators took five males into custody late Sunday. The boyfriend was also being questioned.

Killed at around 4 a.m. were Mindee Kalka, 14; Alicia Belcher, 15, and Rochelle Goodwin, 17. A police spokeswoman said they were pronounced dead at the scene.

The **three** had been picked up about two hours earlier **in** Lincoln Park by Kalka's boyfriend, who brought them to his home, police said.

"It wasn't meant for these girls because they didn't live there, they weren't **in** a gang and they had nothing to do with it," said a **Detroit** homicide investigator who asked not to be identified.

Another police official who requested anonymity said the shooting was gang-related, though it wasn't clear what sparked it.

"It seems to be a case of you shoot up my car, I'll shoot yours. You shoot up my house, I'll shoot up yours," he said. "Except there happened to be **three** girls."

He said the **teens** were shot first from a distance, then at point-blank range. The killers were "just making sure," the official said.

The Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office attributed the deaths to multiple gunshot wounds.

Eva Rose, 21, who lives next door to the Goodwins, said late Sunday that Rochelle Goodwin frequently baby-sat for her. Rose said Goodwin and the other two "were great girls."

"They didn't drink or nothing," Rose said, holding her 17-month old daughter. "They were just innocent girls. It was a needless death. It was stupid."

Rose and another friend said they had taken Goodwin and Belcher bowling Saturday night. On the way home, they said, the girls mentioned that they'd recently started hanging out **in southwest Detroit**.

"We told them don't do that," said the friend. "It's not a good thing."

Kelly Marcoux, another neighbor of Goodwin, said she last saw the teen on Friday as she came home from school.

"She did not seem like the type that would be interacting with gang members," said Marcoux. "That's how most of the neighbors feel, too. We are pretty shocked by it. She seemed to me to be an average teenager."

A man who answered the door at Alicia Belcher's house declined to comment. "We're grieving right now," he said.

Ann Bell, who lives next door to the house where the shooting happened, said Sunday that she was awakened by the gunshots that have become all too routine.

"I just heard 'boom, boom, boom, boom, boom,' " she said. "I don't know how many shots."

She said she told her children to get away from the windows until it appeared to be safe. She said she didn't know her neighbors well but never thought violence would reach so close to home.

Staff writer Matthew G. Davis contributed to this report.

Caption: Photo; Photo KIM KIM FOSTER/ Detroit Free Press

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