

2 MEN CHARGED WITH MURDER IN TEEN'S DEATH - FAMILY GETS DETAILS OF SUMMER SHOOTING

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Author: JACK KRESNAK FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

The young **man** came that June night **with** a look of anguish on his face, as if something terrible had happened, asking for Z'Ante McDonald's mother.

The distraught visitor, Jerome (Rome) Smith, 24, supposedly had gone to the fireworks **in** downtown Detroit on June 25 **with** 15-year-old Z'Ante.

Z'Ante's grandmother, Rogener McDonald, told Smith that the boy's mother wasn't home but asked if she could help.

"He never said anything, not one word, but tears ran down his face," McDonald said Wednesday. "And I knew that my grandson was not going to come home."

McDonald, 66, found herself **in** the Wayne County morgue the next day, identifying her oldest grandchild, Z'Ante, dead of a single gunshot wound to the face.

The family buried the boy but didn't know many details of his **death** until Wednesday, when a reporter called their Detroit home **with** news that **two men** believed to have been involved **in** the shooting had been **charged with** first-degree **murder**. One of the **men** was Smith. The **men** also have been **charged in** connection **with** the robbery of three other people that night.

Rufus (Bushie) Lango, 33, of Detroit was arraigned Wednesday **in** front of Judge B. Pennie Millender of the 36th District Court. Lango, who is being held without bond, faces a Jan. 6 preliminary examination. Smith was **charged** earlier this month and also is being held.

A police report filed **in** court said Lango, Smith and Z'Ante were driving around the city that night looking for people to rob. They saw **two men** and a woman outside the Three Nicks bar at West Warren and Abbington.

The report said Lango and Z'Ante got out. Lango held the victims at gunpoint while the teenager went through their pockets.

Unexpectedly, the gun went off. The bullet grazed the head of one of the robbery victims and then hit Z'Ante **in** the face, according to the police report.

He died instantly.

Even if Lango didn't mean to shoot, killing someone during a robbery is considered felony **murder** . Smith also was **charged** because he allegedly drove the getaway car.

Z'Ante's family said he was an electrical whiz, who at age 8 made an old black-and-white television set cable-ready. He had graduated from Drew Middle School last June and was planning to attend Mackenzie High School this fall, said his mother, Leslie McDonald.

Z'Ante's mother said Wednesday that she had heard rumors that Lango and Smith had killed her son. Several weeks ago, she said she saw Smith and asked him to give her a straight answer.

"He told me he was going to come talk to me and tell me" what happened, she said. "He never did."

Contact JACK KRESNAK at 313-223-4544 or kresnak@freepress.com.

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