

DETROIT YOUTH CHARGED IN NEPHEW'S DEATH

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A 17-year-old Detroit youth was arraigned on one count of first-degree murder in Detroit's 36th District Court on Sunday in the shooting death of his 18-month-old nephew.

The child, Dajuan Hill, suffered a gunshot wound to the face late Friday and died Saturday morning at Children's Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, police said.

The youth, **William Howard Straughter**, also was arraigned on two counts of assault with intent to commit murder and felony firearm possession.

Straughter stood mute as 36th District Court Magistrate Charles Hammons entered a plea of not guilty on his behalf. **Straughter** is in the Wayne County Jail without bond pending an Aug. 24 preliminary examination.

The child and his mother, Lanetta Hill, who is **Straughter**'s sister, were struck by gunfire after **Straughter** fired a shotgun that he had retrieved from under the porch at a house in the 500 block of South Green on the city's southwest side, according to court documents.

No motive was given in the shooting.

Hill was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital but refused to be treated for a gunshot wound to her shoulder, police said.

Also arraigned on Sunday was Terry Joe Putnam, 36, of Detroit, on one count of first-degree murder in the shooting death of Lyndon Baines Johnson, 25, of Detroit. Putnam also faces charges of felony firearm possession. Hammons entered a plea of not guilty on Putnam's behalf. Putnam is in the Wayne County Jail without bond pending an Aug. 23 preliminary examination.

Putnam allegedly shot Johnson about 2:40 a.m. Saturday during a dispute that started when Johnson slapped a woman at a house in the 4800 block of Vinewood on the city's west side, court documents said.

Meanwhile, at about 8 p.m. Sunday, an unidentified man entered a home in the 18000 block of Winthrop with a gun and shot two men, killing Larry Johnson, 38, and wounding Sabron Pruitt, 41, Detroit police said.

Johnson was dead on arrival at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital from a gunshot wound to the chest while Pruitt was in temporary serious condition at Providence Hospital in Southfield with gunshot wound to the leg.

The man who shot the pair fled in a car. No one was in custody.

At least 22 other people were wounded in shootings in Detroit in the 28 1/2 hours from 12:30 a.m. Saturday to 5 a.m. Sunday. Four of the shooting victims were between ages 14 and 17.

Mike Ruiz, 22, of Detroit was dead on arrival at Detroit Receiving Hospital Saturday after being shot in the chest about 3 a.m. on Martin on the city's west side, police said. The assailant apparently pulled up in a car and called Ruiz over, then fired one shot.

Police are investigating.

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