

DETROIT MURDER CHARGED IN BEATING OF MAN, 62

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The snowball came first, exploding on the back of 62-year-old Selma Smith's head as he walked down the street near his east side Detroit home.

Then came a beating in which police say three teenagers pummeled and kicked Smith on a cold street corner on Feb. 22. One of them allegedly body-slammed Smith to the pavement.

Smith died after four days at a Detroit hospital without regaining consciousness. Police say a 56-year-old companion also was injured in the attack on the corner of Mapleridge and Gratiot.

Now one youth has been charged with murder, a second is about to be charged, and Detroit police are looking for a third.

No motive has been established for the assault, police said. The cause of Smith's death was blunt-force trauma to the head, according to the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.

On Saturday, 17-year-old **William Perkins** of Detroit was charged with second-degree murder in Smith's death.

A police report filed with 36th District Court said he confessed his role in the attack, including slamming Smith to the ground.

Maria Miller, a spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, said Monday that a 16-year-old Detroiter would be charged with second-degree murder as an adult. He could be arraigned today or Wednesday.

The 16-year-old has been in the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility since last week pending the prosecutor's decision on whether to charge him as an adult or juvenile.

A preliminary examination for Perkins is scheduled for March 15.

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