

## TEEN KILLINGS SHOCK COUNCIL MAN ARRESTED , ANOTHER ARRAIGNED IN CRACK-HOUSE SLAYINGS OF 3

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Author: WILLIAM KLEINKNECHT Free Press Staff Writer

Shaken by the slayings of three teenagers in a Detroit crack house, a city councilman deplored the nation's "culture of violence" Thursday and accused the Bush administration of doing little to stop the bloodshed.

"We are not a peace-loving people," Councilman Mel Ravitz said at the end of a **council** hearing on youth homicide. "Anybody who thinks we are a peace-loving people just doesn't understand that we actually encourage lethal violence.

"We have war toys, capital punishment, television violence -- the more violent, the larger the audience," he said.

Ravitz's statement, delivered with a passion that left some of his colleagues visibly moved, came after educators and youth workers at the hearing appealed to the **council** to help rescue the city's youth from violence.

The hearing had been scheduled for weeks. But it was lent urgency by the shooting deaths of Jacuya Jackson, 13; D'Angelo Moore, 15; and Lamond Nicholson, 18, in a Ewald Circle crack house on Tuesday.

Jackson and Moore were the third and fourth youths age 16 and under killed by gunfire so far this year; 10 others have been wounded in shootings, according to an unofficial tally kept by the Free Press. In 1990, at least 252 youths age 16 or under were shot in Detroit. At least 29 of them died, the Free Press tally shows.

Thursday, a 20-year-old Detroit **man** was arraigned and another **man** , 21, was **arrested** in the Tuesday night shootings.

Tyrone Franklin pleaded not guilty to three counts of premeditated murder, three counts of first-degree murder and three counts of felony use of firearms. The murder charges each carry possible mandatory life imprisonment and the firearms charges each carry 2-year sentences. Franklin is scheduled for a preliminary examination in Detroit Recorder's Court on Feb. 1.

Court records show Franklin told police that he and another **man** planned to rob a drug dealer when they went to the third floor of an apartment in the 2400 block of Ewald. When they could not find the dealer, they robbed the three youths. He said his companion shot the robbery victims.

The 21-year-old is expected to be arraigned today on the same charges.

At the **council** hearing, Michael Cross, chairman of the **council** 's Youth Advisory Commission, proposed that the city ask voters to approve a special tax to fund programs to reduce violence. The commission is pushing for more after-hours recreation programs and a midnight basketball league.

Cross also called on **council** members to carry the protest against violence into the community.

"Young people are crying out for us to do something," Cross said. "If they see you join the rest of us at the funerals and at the rallies against violence, I think they are going to see that we mean business."

While Ravitz embraced Cross' proposals, he said Detroit's efforts are doomed to failure if the Bush administration fails to more effectively combat urban poverty and wage its war on drugs.

"This is a problem of such magnitude that we need a national commitment," Ravitz said. "And we don't have a president who has this as the foremost item on his agenda."

Frank Hayden, a Detroit school board member, said the school system has already adopted its own conflict resolution programs and is ready to take part in any major citywide effort to control violence.

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Caption: Photo

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