

YOUTH , 15 , IS CHARGED WITH SHOOTING OF BOY GANG VIOLENCE IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT BLAMED

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A **15** -year-old Detroit **youth** , described in court records as a member **of** an increasingly violent southwest Detroit gang, was in the Wayne County **Youth** Home on Tuesday, **charged with** wounding a 10-year-old **boy** while **shooting** at the house **of** a rival gang member's sister.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office said the **youth** , a runaway from Starr Commonwealth Schools for delinquent **youths** , may be tried as an adult in the March 4 **shooting** .

He was arrested Monday by the Detroit police gang squad, according to documents filed in Wayne County Juvenile Court. The documents identify him as a member **of** the Latin Counts, a southwest side group **of** Hispanic **youths** allegedly involved in several violent incidents.

Court reports said police were seeking an adult trial for the **youth** because **of** the serious nature **of** gang trouble in the neighborhood.

The Latin Counts were among the gangs named this week in the Michigan Catholic newspaper in several articles about gang trouble in southwest Detroit. The newspaper said rivalry between gangs has intensified since the Dec. 23 slaying **of** Octavio Viramontez, 16, brother **of** reputed Latin Counts leader Anthony Viramontez, who is in prison for a drive-by **shooting** .

According to court records, the runaway **youth** , who has a record **of** assault and car theft arrests, is accused **of shooting** Ruben Alvarez, 10, in the doorway **of** a home on Cavalry Avenue.

According to police reports, the **youth** and three other armed members **of** the Latin Counts were walking on Cavalry shouting "Count Love" when he fired a sawed-off rifle four or five times toward a house where Alvarez stood. Alvarez was hit in the hand and stomach.

The police reports said the Latin Counts apparently were looking for a member **of** another gang, the Underground Syndicate, and fired on a house where they believed the rival's sister lived.

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