

## 5 CHARGED IN KILLING OF GANG ADVERSARY

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Five young Detroiters were charged Friday in the gang-related killing of a rival who police said tried to flee but was chased down and shot in the back.

The murder charges came four days after Rafael Ortiz Jr., 18, a member of the **Latin Counts**, was shot outside a McDonald's restaurant on Vernor Highway near Dragoon.

Nelson Cruz, 22; Raymond Everly, 22; Danny Hinojosa, 23; Jesus Lopez, 22, and Eugene Triumph, 15, were charged with first-degree murder. Police are seeking Cruz, who also faces a charge of using a handgun during a felony.

Triumph, who was wanted since 1988 for failing to appear in court on a gun offense, was charged as an adult.

Witnesses described the killing to police this way:

Around 7 p.m. Monday, Ortiz and four other members of the **Latin Counts** were at the McDonald's and saw members of the Cobras stopped in a car at a traffic light. Words and gestures were exchanged.

The Cobras went to a home on Christiancy, where Everly, Cruz and Triumph were picked up.

Ortiz and his friends had gone inside the restaurant, and members of the Cobras followed. The manager kicked out Ortiz and the Cobras because they were fighting with bats. The door was locked behind them.

Outnumbered, Ortiz ran. The five suspects jumped into their car. While moving, Cruz allegedly stood up through the sunroof and shot Ortiz.

At Friday's arraignment in 36th District Court, Magistrate Izetta Bright refused to grant bond for the suspects, ordering them held in jail.

They all face a preliminary hearing April 22.

In other courtroom action involving southwest side gangs, the alleged leader of the **Counts**, Anthony Viramontez, was sentenced Friday to 20 months in prison for assaulting another man with a brick in December.

Meanwhile, outside Bright's courtroom, family members and friends of the murder suspects disputed the charges, saying the **Counts** instigate much of the trouble in southwest Detroit.

They accused members of the **Counts** of shooting up Raymond Everly's home on three different occasions. And despite the Police Department's contention that officers have recently cracked down on gang activity, the **Counts** have been given a lot of leeway, the family members and friends said.

Ortiz is survived by his mother, Alicia; father, Rafael Sr.; brothers Mario Torres, Marlo and Ricardo; sister, Aida, and grandparents Lorenzo and Luz Torres.

Funeral services will be at 9 a.m. today at St. Anne de Detroit Catholic Church, 1000 St. Anne, Detroit. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Caption: Photo

: Rafael Ortiz \*\*\*

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