

SUSPECT CHARGED IN GIRL'S DEATH - PROSECUTOR SAYS DRUG RIVALRY LED TO 8-YEAR-OLD'S KILLING

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Author: BEN SCHMITT FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

They took turns shooting at each other, on street corners, **in** front of party stores and **in** residential neighborhoods with children, as they tried to stake claim to the best location to peddle drugs, Wayne County prosecutors said.

When 8-year-old Brianna Cadell got caught **in** the crossfire, killed as she slept **in** her bed April 10 when bullets came through the wall of her house, the shooting still didn't stop.

Six days after Brianna's **death**, Antoine Foote filed a police report saying he needed protection from the man he said tried to kill him. But the shooting between the two rivals continued, Wayne County Prosecutor Mike Duggan said Monday.

Detroit police arrested Foote on a felony weapons warrant Wednesday and by Friday, Duggan said, the **suspect** had confessed to being the triggerman **in** Brianna's **death**.

"This is a murder of a little girl that came out of drug turf fighting, and that is what this is about **in** this city every day," Duggan said.

On Monday, Foote, 26, of Detroit stood **in** 36th District Court **charged** with first-degree murder and four counts of assault with intent to murder. He had no attorney and made no statement except to say he understood the charges against him. The **suspect** has a long criminal history, including a felony conviction for cocaine possession, Duggan said.

Brianna was one of 13 children 16 and younger who have been homicide victims **in** the metro Detroit area so far this year, according to local medical examiners. Twelve of the 13 have been killed **in** Detroit -- nine of them by gunfire.

Three-year-old Destinee Thomas also was killed when caught **in** the crossfire of rival drug dealers March 23.

A Free Press review last month found that Detroit's child homicide rate so far this year is higher than those of Chicago, Los Angeles and seven other large cities. Detroit's homicide rate for children **in** the first quarter of this year is 3.5 homicides for every 100,000 children.

The charges against Foote came after a two-month police investigation into Brianna's **death in** which police had numerous **suspects** at different points.

Duggan said that Foote thought his intended target, Carl Donaldson, was staying at Brianna's house with her sister's boyfriend, Marvin Petty. Petty's van was parked **in** the driveway at the time of the shooting.

Petty, however, was **in** jail that night. He had been sentenced April 4 to 90 days on charges of drug possession and violation of probation charges.

Duggan said the dispute between the men began Oct. 19 when Donaldson, 24, killed Foote's brother, Colden Foote, **in** a shootout on State Fair near Woodward **in** a fight over a corner on which to deal crack cocaine. Duggan said that no charges were issued against Donaldson at the time because witnesses told investigators that Colden Foote initiated the shooting and Donaldson acted **in** self defense.

But Colden Foote's **death** touched off the series of five shooting incidents between Donaldson and Antoine Foote, including the one that resulted **in** Brianna's **death**, Duggan said.

Donaldson is currently **in** custody on a bank robbery warrant that was issued **in** January, Duggan said. He told investigators that Antoine Foote shot at him at the end of April, the last known shooting incident between the two, Duggan said.

Duggan said that violence from street-level drug dealers will continue until he can take down drug kingpins. He pointed to a bill under consideration **in** the Michigan Legislature that would give local prosecutors and police officers wiretap authority **in** certain cases.

Last year, Duggan's office **charged** 5,000 people with felonies for dealing drugs **in** quantities under 50 grams. One hundred people were **charged** with dealing quantities of more than 50 grams.

"We cannot build our cases against the higher-ups **in** the drug organizations because what we have is the word of a convicted drug dealer against somebody higher up," Duggan said.

Contact BEN SCHMITT at 313-222-6597 or schmitt@freepress.com.

Caption: Photo; Map Detroit Free Press
Antoine Foote

INTRO TO MAP OF SHOOTINGS:
DEADLY SHOOTOUTS

Wayne County Prosecutor Mike Duggan said that a series of shootouts between two men he described as rival drug dealers caused the **death** of 8-year-old Brianna Caddell. The gunplay between Antoine Fotte and Carl Donaldson continued for weeks after the **girl's death**, according to Duggan. Foote was **charged** Monday with Brianna's killing. Donaldson is jailed on an unrelated bank robbery charge.

Memo: SEE MAP DETAILING LOCATIONS OF DETROIT DRUG DEALER SHOOTINGS,
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