

Public pays respects to siblings - Mourners gather outside service for 2 kids left in car

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DETROIT -- While up to 50 mourners attended private services for two youngsters who died in their mother's locked car, a handful of Detroiters touched by the tragedy waited outside a funeral chapel for more than an hour to pay their respects.

They watched quietly as two small white caskets with gold trim were carried to hearses Saturday afternoon for the burial of Adonnis **Maynor**, 3, and his sister Acacia, 10 months.

"I was compelled to come out and show the family love from my church," said Dimitris Hester, 29, of Detroit's Perfecting Church. "When something like this happens, we have to reach out because we are all family.

"Only God knows what was going on in the young mother's mind and heart and only He can judge her."

In a case that's drawing national attention, 25-year-old mother **Tarajee Maynor** is accused of leaving her youngsters in a sun-baked car for 3 1/2 hours June 28 outside a Southfield salon while she had her hair styled.

The Detroiters, held in the Oakland County Jail on murder charges, is scheduled to have a preliminary hearing Wednesday in 46th District Court. **Maynor**, escorted by deputies, was allowed to view her children Friday.

But a judge denied her request to mourn with her mother Mary **Maynor** and others Saturday during the restricted-access service at James H. Cole Home of Funerals on the northwest side.

Two ministers shared messages of encouragement and support, according to Hester, who described the proceeding for reporters. Clergy members also read poems written by relatives.

No one from the family addressed the mourners, but a pastor who spoke with **Maynor** earlier in the week described her as saying repeatedly, "What was I thinking?" when reflecting on her children.

At the family's request, members of the public were allowed only to sign a visitation booklet. A few dozen were turned away. Hundreds of others were denied entrance Friday after a scheduled public viewing was cancelled by the victims' grandmother, who oversaw funeral arrangements.

"I know we didn't know them, but when something like this happens, you don't have to be acquainted to feel the pain. It's heartbreaking," said Rosie L. Flowers of Detroit.

Thirty-year-old April Johnson, mother of two, also joined the sidewalk vigil outside Cole.
"Anytime a child is lost, it tugs at the heart. I wish the family the best," she said.

After the service, bouquets and stuffed animals were loaded into black hearses with the caskets.
The young siblings were buried at Lincoln Memorial Park in Mt. Clemens.

"My heart goes out to the entire family," said Tony Edison, 42. "This was such a senseless tragedy, but God said all of his children will go to heaven. So if nothing else, at least the family can take comfort in knowing the kids are in a better place."

Caption: Pallbearers carry the caskets of 3-year-old Adonnis **Maynor** and his 10-month-old sister, Acacia. Mary **Maynor**, grandmother of Adonnis and Acacia, mourns at the James H. Cole Funeral Home.

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