

## NWS

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, August 15, 1985

Author: BETSEY HANSELL and GREGORY HUSKISSON , e Press Staff Writers

Roberson set the bond after a bond reduction request by Franklin's attorney, W. Otis Culpepper, according to court records. Franklin was being held without bond pending a Sept. 16 trial. Franklin, accused of being a hit man for the Young Boys Inc. drug ring, is charged with first-degree murder in the shooting of a Detroit teenager.

In requesting the bond reduction, Culpepper cited a Michigan court rule that states: "Whenever an accused in a felony case is imprisoned for six months or more to answer for the same crime, they must be released."

That six-month period expired Aug. 5, Culpepper said.

Judge Roberson declined comment Thursday. **FIRST-DEGREE MURDER DEFENDANT FREED ON BOND**

An alleged hit man for the Young Boys Inc. drug ring who was being held in the execution-style slaying of a Detroit teenager has been released from Wayne County Jail, a spokesman said.

**Dennis Franklin**, 19, was released Tuesday on a \$100,000 personal bond, a spokesman for the jail said late Wednesday. His release came three days after another alleged Young Boys member was gunned down as he sat in his car on Detroit's west side, police said.

Alleged Young Boys kingpin Raymond Peoples was shot dead Saturday night as he sat in the front seat of his car in the 2200 block of Sturtevant, police said. His funeral will be held today.

FRANKLIN, NICKNAMED "Frank Nitti" after the 1920s gangster, was charged in January with first-degree murder in the shooting death of Richard White, 18. He had been ordered held without bond pending his trial this month.

But the jail spokesman said Chief Recorder's Court Judge Samuel Gardner re-evaluated the case and ordered that Franklin be released without having to post bond. A first-degree murder charge generally carries a stipulation that no bond be set.

Police said Franklin is a member of the "A-Team," a band of enforcers for the drug ring. Police believe A-Team members -- who wear bullet-proof vests and carry submachine guns -- are responsible for at least six Detroit killings.

A Detroit police homicide investigator, who asked not to be named, said Franklin's release has sparked fear among the witnesses who are to testify at his trial.

"I tell you, the phones have been buzzing off the hook," the investigator said. "And they (witnesses) are mad and scared. Very mad and scared."

Police claim Franklin and another man killed White on Nov. 12 outside his home in the 600 block of Harmon, apparently because White owed the gang money.

Witnesses told police that Franklin and an accomplice drove up and told White to come to the car. As White approached, the men opened fire with Israeli-made, semi-automatic UZI submachine guns.

Franklin also had been charged in the killing of Highland Park Community College basketball coach James Smith, but was released when witnesses failed to identify him at a preliminary hearing.

\*\*\*\*

Memo: CORRECTION RAN August 16, 1985

getting it straight

In some editions Thursday, the Free Press incorrectly identified a judge and reported that he released alleged hit man **Dennis Franklin** from the Wayne County Jail on his own recognizance.

In fact, Franklin, 19, was released on a \$100,000 surety bond -- or 10 percent cash -- Tuesday after meeting the requirements for a reduced bond set by Recorder's Court Judge Dalton Roberson.

Edition: METRO FINAL CHASER

Section: NWS

Page: 3A

Index Terms: MURDER ; JUVENILE ; DRUG ; DENNIS FRANKLIN; AGE ; PRISON

Record Number: 8502020479

Copyright (c) 1985 Detroit Free Press