

SHOT FOLLOWS LONG DISPUTE - DEXTER -LINWOOD RIVALRY TURNS FATAL FOR TEENAGER

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Friday, November 22, 2002

Author: BEN SCHMITT FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Though organized gangs may not exist in one west side Detroit neighborhood, dropping the names of two main streets -- " **Dexter** " and "Linwood" -- can lead to a fight or worse.

It's been that way for at least 25 years, police and sociologists say. In 15-year-old Deshawn Glenn's case, it led to a fatal shooting.

The animosity has been passed down in Detroit's **Dexter** -Linwood neighborhood through generations of residents who have attended Central High School, sparking a couple of fights a year, police said.

On Wednesday, it started with a cold stare.

Then obscenities between two youths began flowing.

And then, the threat: "You're going to get shot," followed by the words "Linwood forever."

Five minutes later, Deshawn was dead in front of a party store at Collingwood and **Dexter** . As of Thursday night, no one had been arrested.

Deshawn's brother Michael Glenn, 32, said the suspect is "from Linwood. Deshawn's from **Dexter** . The guy came and said 'Linwood down.' Deshawn said ' **Dexter** up.'

"So what? Nobody deserves a bullet in the head," Glenn said.

Dexter -Linwood, just east of the Lodge Freeway and north of West Grand, is the old neighborhood for Carl S. Taylor, director of community and youth development programs at the Institute for Children, Youth and Families. He's also professor at Michigan State University.

Taylor, who has written two books on Detroit gangs, said the **Dexter Boys** and Linwood **Boys** go back at least 25 years and don't fit the traditional mold of a Los Angeles or Chicago gang.

"It's more of a rivalry that stems from the location of where you live," Taylor said Thursday. "It's not common for disputes to erupt into fights. What's changed the game is weaponry and the easy access to guns."

Cmdr. Gerard Simon of the Detroit Police organized crime and gang division said the territorial rivalries in Detroit have no real hierarchy.

"The names change and the players change, but the phenomenon stays the same," Simon said Thursday. "The way for us to attack it is not only to strictly enforce the neighborhoods but pay close attention to what goes in the schools."

There's no single incident that touched off the **Dexter** -Linwood feud, Simon said. At least no incident that police know about.

Simon said he takes rivalries such as **Dexter** -Linwood seriously because "kids have changed and weapons have gotten stronger."

Frank McGhee, program director of the citywide Youth Initiatives Project in Detroit, had a relative who got caught up in the **Dexter** -Linwood feud.

"The warfare took on a new flavor with the drug trade," he said. "Tragically, a lot of families got caught up in it."

Still, Toni Owens, a friend of Deshawn's family, said she doesn't see any gang rivalries.

"You have young kids running around trying to be hard. I've never seen anything escalate to the point that it did last night," she said, while on the front porch of Deshawn's home on Lawrence. "You know what this was about? Teenage stupid stuff. It's a complete tragedy."

Kevin Johnson, 23, who said he saw Wednesday's shooting, said Deshawn didn't run in a gang. The shooter, who boasted to be from Linwood, couldn't be talked out of pulling the trigger.

"I kept saying, 'It doesn't have to be like this,' " Johnson said at a makeshift memorial with candles and balloons outside the party store where Deshawn was killed. "He kept saying to Deshawn, 'You got a lot of mouth.' Then he shot him. It doesn't make any sense at all."

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

Caption: Map Detroit Free Press

Memo: CORRECTION RAN NOVEMBER 23, 2002.

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS

Page: 1B

Correction: * An article in Friday's Local News and Oakland sections about a long-standing rivalry in a Detroit neighborhood should have said the Dexter -Linwood area is west of the Lodge Freeway.

Index Terms: DESHAWN GLENN ; DETROIT ; HOMICIDE ; SHOOTING ; JUVENILE

Record Number: 0211220484

Copyright (c) 2002 Detroit Free Press