

## **2 adults, 2 kids killed in Detroit shooting - Detroit police chief said home was known as a 'narcotics location.' Suspect may have known victims, she said.**

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DETROIT -- A mother, her two young children and an adult friend were shot to death today as they slept in a reputed dope den on the city's west side.

**Lynnette Lawson**, 28, was shot about 3:25 a.m. as she slept on a mattress with 35-year-old Jason "Smoke" Davis in his home on the 3000 block of Clairmount, Detroit Police said.

**Lawson**'s children, 5-year-old Terrence and 9-year-old Alexis Eppinger, also were shot to death as they slept on a mattress on the floor of another room in the home, Detroit Police said. Relatives identified the victims.

The family was visiting Davis, said **Lawson**'s brother, Cail Madison. A stream of family and friends of the victims came to the home today and cried and fell to the ground because of their loss.

"This kind of thing shouldn't happen to nobody," he said.

Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings said whoever shot the victims likely knew them and was in the house before the shootings happened.

"There was no forced entry," Bully-Cummings said during a televised news conference. "Whoever it was must have been in the house ... They were asleep. They were at rest. By the nature of the scene it was clear that everyone was asleep."

Police initially had difficulty gaining access to the home because doors had multiple locks and thick pieces of wood nailed into the doors to reinforce them, police said.

Shots had been fired at the house as recently as September, but there had been no drug raids at the house, police said. But area residents have told officers the drug dealing has happened there, police said.

Davis' mother, 53-year-old Georgia Davis, said her son is legally blind and did not work because of it.

She said she found out about the incident from a relative who saw it on television newscasts. She said her son had lived in the house for about five months, but she had never visited it.

"Jason was a good guy," she said of her son. "He had never been in no trouble. I just don't know what could have happened."

The home was a known "narcotics location," Bully-Cummings said. She would not say what types of drugs were alleged to have been sold from the house.

Shell casings collected from the home indicate that a high-powered assault weapon was used to kill the victims, Bully-Cummings said.

She implored neighbors who may have heard or seen anything to call police.

"It shouldn't be me, as chief of police, saying we have to put a blanket on our city and take it back," Bully-Cummings said. "I am tired of seeing our children dying. This can't continue to happen."

Bully-Cummings also said adults are supposed to keep children out of harm's way.

"We as adults have a responsibility to our children to allow them to grow up as adults in a safe environment and we're failing them," she said.

Alexus and Terrence attended Stewart Learning Academy, where Alexis was in third grade and Terrence in kindergarten, a Detroit Public Schools official said. Grief counselors on Friday will help children upset by the incident, the official said.

Police said an SUV usually parked at the home was missing this morning. It is a black 1995 Ford with the license plate 2JKR87.

Those with information should call (800) SPEAK-UP, a confidential tip line.

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