

SISTERS ' DEATHS SPUR POLICE TO SEEK AN END TO GANG WARFARE

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Detroit **police** launched a two-pronged attack on gang violence Friday after an escalating feud between rival gangs erupted, leaving two **sisters** dead and eight other people wounded in two separate shootings.

"We can't have vendettas being paid on this city's streets," **Police** Chief Isaiah McKinnon declared.

Since it began with an incident at a downtown rap concert in August, the feud between the Schoolcraft Boys and the Seven Mile Dogs has been responsible for killing three people and wounding nine, **police** said.

To bring the gang activity under control, **police** said they have stepped up patrols in troubled areas and are making attempts **to** negotiate a truce.

A van was raked with gunshots in the first attack early Friday on the 13900 block of Winthrop, killing two **sisters** and wounding four women and two children. The victims, **police** believe, were not involved in gang activity, but may be gang members' friends or relatives.

The morning attack triggered retaliation Friday afternoon, **police** said, when two men in a van were shot by a gunman in a passing car. Another man in the van escaped injury.

McKinnon said he hopes **police** efforts stem the gang violence that may be striking down people who may have only vague links **to** gang members.

McKinnon said street-level enforcement will be stepped up.

Meanwhile, he said, the **police** gang squad is trying **to** arrange negotiations between the gangs **to** work out a cease-fire.

McKinnon insisted that young gunmen have not taken over the streets. "What you have is sporadic instances in which individuals get involved in these types of action," he said. "It doesn't mean the problem is out of control."

Friday's attacks began about 2:45 a.m. as 10 people got into a van **to** head for a religious and family gathering in Alabama, **police** said.

Shots from a rifle or automatic weapon slammed into the vehicle, striking eight people, **police** said.

Sisters Monique Robinson, 25, and Nakita Robinson, 15, were killed. Latana Leake, 20; Kimberly Robinson-Anthony, 23; Nicole Lesley, 27, and Montez Robinson, 8, were treated and released. Roshaun Lesley, 2, and Victoria Young, 41, remain hospitalized.

Robinson-Anthony said she was trying **to** back up the van when the shooting started. She said the shots seemed **to** come from several directions.

Family members insisted they have no gang connections and that they were shot because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The slain **sisters** "ain't in no gang," their father, William, said. "We don't know anything about that."

Women and children are unlikely **to** be taken for gang members, he said.

A neighbor, Diane Moore, said she hears shooting on the street all the time.

Violence erupted Friday afternoon when a gunman in a car opened fire on a van at 7 Mile and Shiawassee. Terrell Wilkerson and Mark Baxter, both 25, were wounded.

Police drew tentative links **to** the earlier shooting.

"It's very possible it's related," said Lt. Gerard Simon, head of the Detroit **Police** gang squad. "It just fits."

Police investigators believe the trouble started at an Ice Cube concert Aug. 29 at the State Theatre downtown.

A member of the Seven Mile Dogs reportedly was jumped after he held up a T-shirt with the gang's insignia during the show.

The next day, Clifford Young, 22, was shot **to death** on the 14000 block of Winthrop, just a few doors from the location of the attack early Friday.

Witnesses said they heard arguing, followed by gunshots. Young was found inside a car, dead.

In the early morning of Sept. 21, Keon Wells, 22, tried **to** outrace gunmen in a car chase. The gunmen caught up with him at Clarita and Harlow, firing several times into his car. Wells was critically wounded.

Staff writer Kate McKee contributed **to** this report. Staff writer Suzanne Siegel can be reached at 1-313-222-6672.

Chronology of the feud

1. Aug. 29: Confrontation between rival groups at a State Theatre rap concert.
2. Aug. 30: Clifford Young, 22, shot **to death** in a car on the 14000 block of Winthrop.
3. Sept. 21: Young man critically wounded in a shooting at Clarita and Harlow.
4. Sept. 26, early morning: Van is ambushed on the 13900 block of Winthrop, leaving two women dead and six other people, including two children, wounded.
5. Sept. 26, early afternoon: Shots from a passing car wound two men in a van at 7 Mile and Shiawassee.

Caption: Photo MARY SCHROEDER/Detroit Free Press Map Detroit Free Press

Monique Robinson
Nakita Robinson

Kimberly Robinson-Anthony is consoled by Sonya Roland, back **to** camera, on Friday. Robinson-Anthony and her son Montez, right, were wounded in a shooting on Detroit's west side.

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