

## **Trail of death - 2 dead, 3 hurt in 10-minute shooting spree; suspect held**

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Police arrested a suspect Thursday in connection with the morning shooting spree in northwest Detroit that left two people dead and three wounded, heightened concerns about the city's rising murder rate and added urgency to demands for more police officers.

The man, who was arrested around 3 p.m. at a house on Northwestern, about a half-mile south of where the shootings occurred, fits the descriptions given by witnesses and released by police in a composite sketch, police said.

Ophelia Fry, 58, was fatally shot shortly after 6 a.m. while sitting in a car in front of the Angel Land Child and Parent Center at 8642 Linwood, police said. She was a cook at the day-care center. No children were in the center at the time of the shooting, police said.

Another Detroiter, Arthur James Smith, 49, died after he was shot in the head and the chest about one block away on Linwood, said Detroit Police Second Deputy Chief James Tate.

Three others were wounded and taken to Henry Ford Hospital. Elton Ash, 51, was shot in the elbow, also on Linwood. James Lee Brown, 50, was shot in the buttocks nearby on Taylor Street. And Dennis L. Anderson, 49, was also on Taylor when he was struck in the foot by a stray bullet. All three were released from the hospital, Henry Ford officials said Thursday night.

Police said homicide investigators received a tip from a woman who told them the suspect told her he had shot five people. The woman led police to the man at the house on Northwestern. A search of the house did not find a weapon or the clothes the suspect is believed to have been wearing during the shootings, police said.

The shootings happened within 10 minutes of one another. Police initially thought there were two shooters but now believe just one man was involved.

"It seemed to be random; it appears to be just a random shooting spree," said Anderson's daughter, who did not want to give her name. Police have not determined a motive for the shootings.

The two killings brought the murder count for the year to 373, compared to 335 at this time last year and about 360 for all of last year, police sources said.

Detroit was recently ranked the nation's second most dangerous city, after St. Louis, in a ranking compiled by Morgan Quitno Press, which ranks states and cities in various categories.

Detroit City Council members questioned Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings about the incident and the rising violence when she appeared before them Thursday on an unrelated matter.

Councilman Kwame Kenyatta said he's had complaints from neighbors, who have called police while an intruder was in their home and an officer didn't show up for hours.

"Where are we in making the citizens safe in the city **of** Detroit?" Kenyatta asked the chief.

The chief said her department is hampered by a lack **of** officers in a cash-strapped city. She said she has about 3,200 officers, down about 1,100 from four years ago. On any given day, only half **of** those are available for work, due to vacation or illness, she said.

Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was at an education conference in St. Louis on Thursday and unavailable for comment. But mayoral spokesman Matt Allen said the mayor would like to hire 200 to 300 more officers but the city does not have the money to do it.

Federal funds have shifted toward homeland security and federal money for policing in Detroit has plummeted from about \$30 million five years ago to about \$2.5 million today, Allen said.

Many large and mid-sized cities -- not just Detroit -- are seeing spikes in the number **of** murders and violent crimes, Allen said.

The chief confirmed murders are up about 10 percent in Detroit this year but said violent crime is down by about 4.75 percent overall.

Still, she said police will begin next week using drug forfeiture money to pay for extra patrols in problem areas.

Relatives **of** the victims talked about their loved ones.

In her spare time as a member **of** the East Bethune CB Patrol, Fry patrolled the area where she was fatally shot.

"She was a very pleasant person," said Mamie Robinson, who arrived at the day-care center shortly after the shootings to drop off her son, Silas, 6. "She did everything that needed to be done."

Arthur James Smith, 49, was out for a routine morning walk when he was fatally wounded, said his twin brother, James Arthur Smith.

Arthur Smith was a disabled Marine Corps veteran who joined the service after the Vietnam War, his brother said. The brothers lived in a house on Euclid Street, near Rosa Parks Boulevard.

James Smith, standing in his yard Thursday, said he and his family were in mourning and didn't want to comment further.

Dennis Anderson, who is self-employed, was on his way to work when he was struck in the foot, his daughter said.

The Rev. David Roquemore, pastor **of** Greater New Light Missionary Baptist Church, said the shootings shook the neighborhood. The church is directly across the street from the day-care center.

"We have had shootings, but they have been very sporadic and nothing regular," said Roquemore, 77, **of** Southfield.

#### Random violence

Random shootings are unusual but not unheard **of** in Detroit. Here are several examples over the years:

¥ A random drive-by shooting in April 2005 on Detroit's southwest side left 7-year-old Marguerita Gallardo with a grazing gunshot wound to the neck.

¥ Nine people were shot at Hart Plaza at Detroit's fireworks show on June 23, 2004, when a gunman sprayed the crowd with bullets. One **of** the shooting victims, Donald Murphy, 48, died Aug.

2. The case remains unsolved.

¥ Leslie Estelle, 24, **of** Detroit and two others were wounded in November 2002 when an unidentified man fired shots into a crowd in front **of** Club Med on the city's east side.

¥ A West Bloomfield man was shot and killed in an apparent random shooting in May 2001 in downtown Detroit. Sean Seman, 25, was driving to the Lafayette Coney Island with two cousins and stopped at a light near Bagley and Second. A red and white Ford Bronco pulled up and someone in the Bronco fired three shots. One struck Seman.

¥ Three men were shot in April 1997 while repairing a door inside the Babcock Greely Apartments on the city's east side. There was no motive in the shootings.

¥ In March 1997, Eric Skalnek was headed to the track at Denby High for a jog when he crossed paths with Allen Lane Griffin Jr. Griffin told Skalnek how nice **of** a day it was before shooting him in the face. Griffin went on that day to kill three people and wound a fourth before police shot and killed him.

Caption: Bauford Carmichael, right, husband **of** shooting victim Ophelia Fry, sits with his daughter Jennifer Lyons and sister-in-law Bridget Greene. The family is looking for answers to the random shooting. The arrested man matched a sketch, police said. Detroit police set up a command center Thursday morning on Linwood Avenue after the shootings. The two **deaths** push Detroit's murder count for the year to 373, compared to 335 at this time last year, prompting many to call for more police protection. Ophelia Fry: The cook was shot in front **of** a day-care center. Family member say she was tough, but kindhearted. Story on 6A. Arthur Smith: The disabled Marine Corps veteran was shot in the head and chest while walking on Linwood.

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