

## 2 in Gang Charged With Murdering Near-Deaf Man, 85

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Two teenage members of an east side gang were charged Friday with the stabbing death of an 85-year-old man who apparently could not hear their demands for money.

Police said the man, Lawrence Simun, of 8250 Woodlawn, who was deaf in one ear and hard of hearing in the other, was killed Tuesday night after he was awakened by two members of the Coney Oneys gang who had broken into his home.

Steven Thornton, 17, of 9404 Traverse, stood mute at his arraignment Friday before visiting Recorder's Court Judge Arthur Kocinski. He was charged with first degree felony murder in Simun's death.

Thornton was held without bond pending a preliminary examination on the charge April 11.

A 16-year-old juvenile who lives on the same street as the old man was turned over to Wayne County juvenile authorities. Police said they would seek a juvenile court waiver to charge the youth as an adult.

**SGTS. DANNIE** Knepp and Wanda Hernacki of Homicide Squad 7 said a group of about eight Coney Oneys were walking in front of Simun's house about 9 p.m. Tuesday, when one of them threw a broken baseball bat through his front window.

The group then went to the old man's front porch and broke in through the front door, Knepp said. He said about six of the eight went inside.

Knepp said the youths looked through the apartment and saw the old man sleeping, but did not disturb him. The youths then left, he said.

**Around 10 p.m., Thornton and the arrested juvenile returned to the old man's home and began ransacking the house and drinking the old man's beer, police said.**

Sgt. Hernacki said that the boys awoke the sleeping Simun and demanded money. She said the old man apparently did not hear what they asked him and said he wanted to go to the bathroom.

At that point, one of the boys stabbed him several times in the abdomen, leaving him draped across a chair and the bed, Knepp said.

About 3 a.m. Wednesday, Knepp said, a youth police later identified as Thornton called the 911 emergency phone number to report that a break-in had just occurred at Simun's home.

Knepp said a clock, an old vacuum cleaner, an old radio with a 78 r.p.m. record-changer, a flashlight and Simun's wristwatch with a total value of about \$20 were taken from the old man's home by the youths.

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