

Gunshot kills Nizzel George, 5

Written by Ivan Phifer
Tuesday, 03 July 2012 00:00



June 27, 2012, (MINNEAPOLIS) Police continue their investigation into the circumstance of the death of 5-year-old Nizzel Anthony George.

Homicide investigators, officers from the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team and Fourth Precinct officers are working to find answers and to try and identify the responsible party. George was killed Jun. 26 when a bullet struck him while he laid sleep on a living room couch. The incident occurred around 8:00 a.m. that morning on the 4500 block of Bryant Ave N. in the Camden neighborhood.

According to investigators, about 10 shots were fired at the house. At least one bullet went through a wall and struck the boy, killing him.

The shooting was six months after 3-year-old Terrell Mayes was killed by a stray bullet that entered his home on 26th and Colfax on Dec. 26, 2011. His mother, Marsha Mayes, came to the scene of the most recent shooting to help console George's family.

"It's an outrage," said Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak. "Yeah, I'm pissed off. I'm plenty pissed off. But I'm not a parent of a child who's dead. And I think every person in this community needs to feel that pain that a family member feels when their kid dies to be able to take the extreme action it takes."

Seven bullet holes could be seen in the side of the house hours after the shooting. Inside, family members pointed out at least four holes where they said police had dug out bullets.

Ron Bailey, who lives across the street from where George was killed, said the soon-to-be first grader was a casualty in a senseless fight.

"He's just a good little soldier," Bailey said. "He didn't do anything to anybody."

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K.G. Wilson of Hope Ministries, who is also a mentor to the sons of Mayes, is all too familiar with this element.

“I used to be in the streets. I use to gangbang; there is nothing cool about it. The (people) responsible for this are cowards,” said Wilson.

“It's extremely tragic when you have these young, innocent kids who are killed as a result of poor choices that are made by older kids and adults that are around them,” said Minneapolis police inspector Mike Martin .

Rybak called it a “heinous act” and “despicable” and urged community members to channel their outrage into generating tips that can lead to an arrest instead of resorting to more violence.

“Do not protect a person who is using a gun to kill a kid,” said the mayor.

George's family has made funeral arrangements for the 5-year-old as follows: Tuesday, July 3, 2012, Wake 10:00am; Service 11:00am at Shiloh Temple International Ministries 1201 W. Broadway.

Police questioned various people and the results yielded some leads, however they still are asking for the public's help to identify a suspect. Police are asking for anyone with any information to call homicide investigators at 612-673-2941. Callers who wish to remain anonymous can call 612-692-TIPS (8477). Crime Stoppers of Minnesota has posted a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest.