



St. Petersburg Police Department News Release



For Immediate Release

April 5, 2009

Media Relations Office

727-893-7550 / Fax 727-893-7773

Media Relations Office

Bill Proffitt

George Kajtsa

Eight Year Old Killed in Drive By Shooting

Incident: Homicide
Location: 771 Preston Avenue South
Date: April 5, 2009
Time: 2:24 a.m.
Offense #: 2009-023430
Victim: Paris Hamilton, DOB: 01/09/01
771 Preston Avenue South.

On Sunday April 5, 2009 at 2:24am, the St. Petersburg Police Department received a 911 call of a person shot at 771 Preston Avenue South.

The victim, Paris Hamilton, was asleep in the front room of the house at 771 Preston Avenue South when someone fired multiple shots from a semi-automatic rifle at the front of the house. At least one of the bullets entered the house and struck the victim.

Paris Hamilton was treated at the scene by EMS personnel and transported to Bayfront Medical Center where she died a short time later.

According to investigators, Paris' Hamilton's mother passed away several years ago and Shenita Joseph is currently her legal guardian. Shenita Joseph, several other adults and one other child were inside the house at the time of the shooting.

At this juncture of the investigation, it appears that the shooting is an act of retaliation rather than a random act of violence. Detectives are currently interviewing a number of people to sort out those details and learn more about the motive in this case.

There is no information on a suspect's description at this time.

Anyone with information in this case is urged to contact our Communications Center at 727-893-7780 or call the Homicide Squad at 727-893-7164.

###