



St. Petersburg Police Department News Release



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For Immediate Release

Dec 23, 2011

Arrest Made re. Homicide in the 600 Block of 23 Avenue South

Dec 23, 2011 22:42:04

From: St Petersburg Police Department

Arrest Made re. Homicide in the 600 Block of 23 Avenue South

Arrested Suspect: Demontray Tya Lovett, B/M, 09/19/93 of 2400 15th Avenue South, Apt #40, St. Petersburg (Photo Attached)

Charges: Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child and Delinquent in Possession of a Firearm. Lovett does have prior juvenile arrests for Attempt Burglary, Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer and Auto Theft.

Demontray Lovett has been charged with the shooting death of Carl Martin which took place yesterday evening. He was arrested at his home at about 7:30 p.m. tonight without incident.

According to detectives, Lovett and Martin were part of group of five subjects who were occupying the stolen Dodge Caravan as they drove to St. Pete Beach looking to steal another vehicle.

Lovett, who was armed with a 40 cal. handgun, was seated in the right rear passenger seat directly behind Martin who was in the right front passenger seat.

At about 10:45 p.m., while out on St. Pete Beach, Lovett accidentally discharged the gun with the bullet going through the front passenger seat and into Martin's upper torso.

With Martin critically wounded and losing consciousness, the group drove back into St. Petersburg.

At some point, believing that had Martin had died, the rest of the group decided to abandon the van at the location where it was later found by police and then fled the area.

No other arrests have been made at this point. The investigation is still ongoing as to the involvement other individuals in the van. Detectives are also attempting to ascertain who was originally responsible for stealing the van in Lakeland on December 21st.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org



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Previous updated release of 12/23/11 at 9:41 a.m. *****

Update re. Homicide in the 600 Block of 23 Avenue South

Victim: Carl Lee Martin, B/M, 04/18/96 of 817 15 Street South, Apt #E109, St. Petersburg. Martin was a student at Pinellas Secondary School.

Stolen Vehicle: Green 2002 Dodge Caravan

Location: Alley behind 626 23 Avenue South

Homicide detectives have released the name of the 15 year old victim in the homicide which was discovered late yesterday evening. The Dodge Caravan the victim was found in was reported stolen from an apartment complex in Lakeland on December 21st.

Homicide detectives are still in the early phases of the investigation and do not plan on releasing any other specific details regarding the case at this time.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org

Original Release of 12/23/11 at 2:36 a.m. *****

Date / Time of Release: 12/23/11 @ 0215 Hours

Incident: Homicide

Location: 600 block of 23rd Avenue South

Date / Time of Incident: 12/22/11 @ 2324 Hours

Victim(s): N/A

Arrested: N/A

Charges: N/A

Brief Description of Incident:

On 12/22/11 @ approximately 2324 hours, Officers responded to the 600 block of 23rd Avenue South in reference to a suspicious vehicle. Upon arrival, Officers observed the victim inside the vehicle in question with an injury, consistent with a gunshot(s) wound, to his upper body. Medical personnel responded to the scene and pronounced the victim deceased at 2353 hours.

The investigation revealed the vehicle in question was stolen from Lakeland, FL, earlier this week. At this time the motive for the homicide has not been established. No suspects have been identified. The investigation is ongoing.

The victim's name will be released to the general public when the next of kin is notified.



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Release Prepared by:
Sgt. T.A. Skinner, Homicide Unit

For more information, please contact the St. Petersburg Police Public Information Office at 727-893-7550 during normal business hours; weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

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