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Metro

16-year-old fatally shot in Dorchester

Second youth, 14, is badly wounded

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

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THE BOSTON GLOBE

Police photographed the scene where two teenagers were shot on Geneva Avenue in Dorchester. One teen died and the other has injuries considered life threatening, police said.

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A 16-year-old youth died last night after he and a 14-year-old were each shot multiple times yesterday afternoon less than a block from an elementary school on Geneva Avenue in Dorchester, police said.

The 14-year-old boy's injuries were considered life threatening, police said last night.

Police said they found the teens lying in the street near 253 Geneva Ave. at 3:25 p.m. They were taken to Boston Medical Center, where the older one died, police said.

An officer at the scene said police were searching for a black man wearing a red shirt and black hat who was seen leaving the site riding a blue bicycle.

"It's tough when anyone gets shot, especially when it's kids," Boston Police Superintendent Rafael Ruiz said at the scene yesterday.

No arrests had been made as of last night, according to police.

Officials said they received 911 calls and the gunfire was detected by the department's ShotSpotter system.

The death marks the 47th homicide this year, compared with 50 at this time last year, according to police.

An area of Geneva Avenue was sectioned off with yellow tape as police investigated before clearing the scene at about 6:30 p.m. While the street was closed off, dozens of neighbors congregated in a parking lot of the Geneva Apartments complex, while others watched from porches, balconies, and windows as police investigated.

Police placed about a dozen safety cones along the road and sidewalk where the shootings occurred.

One was placed atop the trunk of a parked sedan that had a shattered rear window.

A parked sport utility vehicle had a bullet hole in its side, pointed out by Willa Mae Brown, 71, who said she knew the vehicle's owner.

"I'm glad I wasn't here," said Brown, who said she returned from church to find the street she has lived on for 22 years blocked off. "I'm just praying to God that something will change."

A woman who lives on Geneva Avenue but declined to identify herself said she heard gunshots and ran outside to see the 16-year-old fall first on the black SUV, then to the ground.

He had a bullet wound in his neck, she said, and the 14-year-old was lying on another house's front stairs.

"He was so young," she said. "It's a shame."

"There were a few people outside," she added. "A lot of people seen a lot. They seen exactly what happened. . . . But they don't talk and that makes me angry. These kids need a chance."

The crime scene was less than a block away from John P. Holland Elementary School and a day care operated on weekdays out of a home near Beechwood Street and Geneva Avenue.

The day care's owner, Yolanda Nova, 56, said she and her father, Carlos Cruz, 75, were sitting outside drinking coffee yesterday afternoon as they held a yard sale on their front lawn.

Nova's daughter's two nieces, 7 and 4, were playing outside with them.

“All of a sudden they just heard four or five shots being fired,” said Nova’s daughter, Yolanda Dume, 32, translating for Nova, a Dominican Republic native who primarily speaks Spanish. “That’s all they heard. They didn’t see anything,” Dume said.

Dume said the shooting on their residential street in broad daylight concerned her.

“They were outside playing, so it could have happened to anybody. It could have been any of them,” said Dume, referring to her two young nieces. “God forbid.” But, she and other neighbors said they were not surprised by the violence’s proximity.

“This is bad here. This is not a good neighborhood,” she said.

At least five people have been fatally shot since June 28 within a half mile of where the shooting occurred.

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