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ALLSTON BRIGHTON, DORCHESTER

## Dorchester man held on \$500K bail for allegedly shooting 2 men during drug deal at Allston apartment

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 13, 2012 01:08 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Less than one year after a jury acquitted him of a first-degree murder charge, a 25-year-old Dorchester man was ordered held on \$500,000 cash bail today at an arraignment where he was accused of shooting and attempting to kill two other men during an alleged drug deal inside an Allston apartment building two weeks ago, according to authorities.

Paul Anthony Brown, arrested this morning when police raided a Dorchester residence, was the second man in one week to have a not guilty plea automatically entered on his behalf on three identical charges -- assault with intent to murder, armed robbery, and armed assault in a dwelling -- in connection with the shooting inside the Chester Street building late last month, police and prosecutors said.

Brown and the other man who has been charged, William "Billy" R. Vargas, 24, of Randolph, promised to sell the two victims -- ages 23 and 56 -- \$1500 worth of marijuana at 15 Chester St. just before 10:00 p.m. on Dec. 20

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worth of marijuana at 15 Chester St. just before 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 30, according to prosecutors.

When the victims produced that money to give to Vargas, Brown allegedly appeared, drew a handgun, and shot them, according to a statement from the Suffolk County District Attorney's office.

Officers responded to a radio call to apartment number 3 at the three-story building along Chester Street, according to a police report. In a second-floor living room, police found the victims conscious and lying on the floor suffering from multiple gunshot wounds.

One victim was transported to Brigham and Women's Hospital and the other to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, said the report, which did not identify the victims. They were both treated for serious, but non-life threatening, injuries.

District attorney spokesman Jake Wark said that neither of the victims lived at the Chester Street scene.

And, when asked about the victim's alleged role in the arranged cash-for-drugs exchange, he said that: "there are no plans to charge the victims given the state of the evidence at this point."

At about 5 a.m. this morning, officers and detectives from the Brighton D-14 police district, along with members of the Boston Police Swat Team executed a search warrant at 33 Tremlett St. in Dorchester where Brown was arrested, police said.

Just about one year ago, a jury acquitted Brown of a first-degree murder charge alleging that he was among three men accused of fatally shooting 32-year-old Jamal Vaughn in Quincy on Jan. 9, 2006, a spokesman for the Norfolk County District Attorney's office said.

Three days after last month's shooting, police obtained a warrant for Vargas, who has a last known address in Dorchester. A judge

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Vargas turned himself in to authorities at the District 14 police station in Brighton one week ago, according to the report. Following his arraignment at Brighton District Court on Jan. 6, Vargas posted \$5,000 cash bail, court filings show.

Both Vargas and Brown are ordered to have no direct or indirect contact — including through a family member — with the victims, prosecutors said.

"Boston Police detectives undertook a methodical investigation that started at the scene and soon included witness statements, ballistics evidence, and additional information that led to Brown and Vargas," prosecutors said in a statement today.

Brown is due to appear in court again on Feb. 1. Vargas is scheduled to return to court on Feb. 28, one day after his 25th birthday.

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