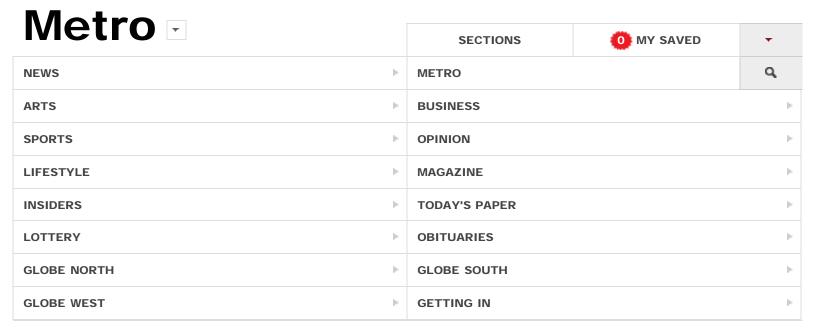
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Drive-by attack in Lowell leaves several wounded

By Matt Rocheleau, Jaclyn Reiss and Evan Allen | GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS SEPTEMBER 10, 2012



Several people were wounded Sunday night in a drive-by shooting on a residential street in Lowell, according to police.

Few details were available about the shooting, which happened in front of a three-decker at 165 Smith St.

Lowell police officers, who declined to be identified because they were not authorized to talk to the media, would not say how many people had been shot but said that all of the victims are expected to recover. The officers also said that there recently had been reports of gunfire in the area.

No one answered the door at the three-family home where the shooting occurred. There was blood on the sidewalk leading to the porch, where there were beer bottles, sodas, a liquor bottle, cigarettes, and a pair of eyeglasses.

Neighbors said they had heard between six and eight gunshots.

One woman who said she witnessed the shooting's aftermath, and who asked not to be identified, said that two women and two men lay on the ground and appeared to have been shot.

The woman did not want to be named because she fears for her family's safety.

She said that she had noticed the group "hanging out and talking, maybe having a few drinks" around 9:30 p.m. and that the shooting occurred sometime before 10 p.m.

She said the neighborhood was chaotic and emotional afterward.

"People were sitting on the ground crying, the girls were screaming, and people were saying, 'They got shot, they got shot,' " she said.

She said that she had heard three or four gunshots in the same area the night before and that police had come out to investigate.

"They should have been patrolling the area," she said. "I've never seen shootings [in this neighborhood] until the past couple of months, so I feel really concerned.

"It's crazy. You don't feel safe."

Lowell police would not say whether any arrests were made in Sunday's shooting, but said that the case remains under investigation.

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