



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office David Leyton, Prosecutor



Four Men Charged in Murder of Elderly Flint Twp. Man

March 8, 2007

FLINT, MI – Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton announced today that four men have been arraigned on charges in the Sunday night killing of an elderly Flint Township man during an intended robbery at the man's home.

Randy P. James, 20, of Flint, 17-year-old Gilbert Lopez of Flint, Cecil R. Thornton, 19, of Flint, and Ricky A. Clements, 23, also of Flint, were arraigned in 67th District Court today on charges of murder, armed robbery, home invasion and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

According to reports from the Flint Twp. police investigation, the men had been at a party and Lopez told the others that he knew of an elderly man who had money. The four men then went to the home of retiree Jerry Quackenbush, age 76, and killed him with a shotgun blast as the robbery attempt unfolded about 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 4th. After the shooting, the men ran away and no money appears to have been taken according to the investigation.

Prosecutor Leyton indicated that more people could still be charged in the slaying as the investigation continues.

"We will not allow out-of-control criminals to prey upon our seniors," Leyton has said about this latest Genesee County homicide. "Our senior citizens are a vulnerable target for criminals for many reasons. Obviously, no homicide sits well with me. But, when an elderly person like Mr. Quackenbush, who has worked his whole adult life and has earned the right to a peaceful, enjoyable retirement gets killed in a senseless robbery by thugs, it is very upsetting."

As the police continue to look for more possible suspects, Leyton said that his office will work very hard on this case to see that justice is served for Mr. Quackenbush and the community.

A preliminary examination for the four defendants in 67th District Court is scheduled for later this month.

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