



Genesee County Prosecutor's Office David Leyton, Prosecutor



Suspect charged in four-year-old slaying of Mount Morris Township teen

by Shannon Murphy | The Flint Journal
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MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, Michigan -- For the past four years, Sarah Knighten has spent nearly every minute wondering who killed her 16-year-old son.

Now, she may have some answers.

Dantrell D. Conerly, 20, recently was charged in the 2005 shooting death of Bar'Ontay Bradshaw, whose body was found in a wooded area behind Northwestern High School.

Bar'Ontay of Mt. Morris Township had been missing for nearly six weeks before a hunter found his body. And Knighten had spent endless hours posting flyers all over town and searching for her son.

"(Police) thought my son ran away, but I knew he didn't," Knighten said.

Mt. Morris Township Police Sgt. Scott McKenna said Conerly and Bradshaw had gone to school together and may have had a verbal dispute that led to the shooting.

Bar'Ontay had disappeared a week before the first anniversary of his father's 2004 slaying. Roderick Bradshaw had been shot at a home in Genesee Township, supposedly in retaliation for another person's death. The man charged in Roderick Bradshaw's death was acquitted.

When Bar'Ontay was found dead, Knighten believed his slaying was connected to his father's death, but police said there is no connection.

Conerly has been charged with felony murder, armed robbery and the use of a firearm during a felony. He is expected in district court Tuesday for a preliminary examination.

Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said Conerly's arrest is a result of good "investigative digging." "We never gave up," he said, adding the investigative subpoena process was used to get a statement from a witness who might otherwise not have cooperated with police.

Knighten said she plans to go to every court hearing and hopes it will bring her some closure.

"It's been wearing me down," she said. "He had goals. He had goals to go to college and that was taken away from him."

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