

Local news

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Teen suspect 'bright,' 'dangerous'

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A 15-year-old boy once described as a "bright young man" with a lot of potential was charged Monday with the slaying of Donnell Storks, also 15.

Thinking that Storks stole \$100 his grandmother had given him, the suspect allegedly shot him in the head while the two argued Saturday in a back yard in the 3400 block of North 1st Street, according to a delinquency petition.

After Storks fell to the ground, the 15-year-old confessed, he walked closer to the body, leaned over and shot the boy again with the gun 6 inches from the victim's head, the petition said.

During the 1992-'93 school year, the suspect's middle school principal described him as being a "very bright young man who has a lot of potential" but whose biggest problem was his environment, according to his juvenile record.

At the end of that school year,

the suspect made the honor roll, won six certificates in track and dancing, and was awarded first place in a drill team competition. The Children's Court charges — first-degree intentional homicide and possession of a dangerous weapon by a child — came just a year later. At the time of the shooting, he had a long police record and was on probation for a drug-related offense.

Judge Russell W. Stamper ordered that the suspect be held in secure detention pending a June 21 court appearance.

According to the court petition, the suspect and murder victim started arguing about the missing money late Friday night as they walked through the neighborhood.

As they walked into a back yard, the suspect allegedly pulled out a 9mm pistol and pointed it at Storks. The two were yelling at each other when the suspect fired the first shot, hitting Storks on the left side of the head.

The suspect was described Monday by Probation Officer Al

Hahn as a "dangerous individual" with an extensive juvenile record, including a stint at a juvenile detention facility for conduct regardless of life. The suspect also has been declared delinquent for carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a dangerous weapon and battery.

"And, of course, he started out in 1988 as a neglected child," Hahn said.

Most boys who end up involved in violent crimes first enter the court system as abused

and neglected children, Hahn said in an interview.

The suspect's legal guardian is his grandmother. His juvenile record outlined a dysfunctional family history that "apparently influenced" the suspect's behavior.

The mother, who has been incarcerated, abused drugs and alcohol, and physically abused and neglected her children. In addition, there was physical abuse and lack of supervision by the grandmother in the home, the record stated.