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Juvenile Certified to Stand Trial as Adult on Capital Murder Charges

Sixteen-year-old Vanterrial Jones has been certified to stand trial as an adult for his role in a robbery that left two young men dead in the Tamina neighborhood last summer. The Honorable Dennis Watson, Judge of the Montgomery County Juvenile Court, reached that decision after hearing testimony and argument in the case this past Tuesday and Wednesday. With this transfer to adult court, the juvenile's identity is now a matter of public record for the first time since his arrest on July 27, 2017.

Montgomery County Attorney J D Lambright explained that his office has jurisdiction over all criminal referrals involving suspects under the age of 17. According to Lambright, "if my office determines it would be appropriate for a particular juvenile to instead be tried as an adult, it is incumbent upon my Juvenile Division to convince the judge of the Juvenile Court that such a transfer to the adult system is warranted".

"The Chief of our Juvenile Division, Marc Brumberger, presented the testimony of Montgomery County Sheriff's Detective Donna Ripley to lay out all of the evidence gathered thus far in the investigation. Marc then presented additional evidence through Juvenile Probation Department Officer Blaine Johnson to impress upon the court how dangerous it would be to leave Vanterrial in the juvenile system. We were quite pleased that Judge Watson agreed with our assessment and chose to transfer the case to the adult system."

Three other suspects are also in custody. Roman Pray and Tomas Lizcano, both 18, are accused in the July 20, 2017 murder of Jaquise Williams, 23, and Akeem Russell, 24. The fourth suspect, 29-year old Roddrick Jordan, is facing a first-degree felony aggravated robbery charge in connection with the shooting.

Although charged with capital murder, Jones and Lizcano are not eligible for the death penalty because both were under the age of 18 at the time of the shooting. Jordan could face an enhanced punishment range of 25 years to life in prison on the first-degree felony aggravated robbery charge due to his criminal history.

Given the extreme seriousness of these charges, Lambright further stated he was pleased the Juvenile Court set Jones's bond at \$200,000.

The bodies of Russell and Williams, along with Williams's uninjured 3-year-old daughter, were discovered by family members who had not heard from them that morning last summer.