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## Family of Slain Black Florida Teen, Trayvon Martin, Calling For Justice



**By Cyril Josh Barker  
Special to the NNPA  
from the New York Am-  
sterdam News**

The deadly shooting of an unarmed 17-year-old Black male at the hands of a white neighborhood watch member who has not been arrested in Florida is stirring tensions.

The situation, which is now gaining national attention and has the Rev. Al Sharpton getting involved, has the family of the slain victim,

Trayvon Martin, calling for justice as his admitted killer has yet to be arrested and charged by police.

As the local police continue to be criticized for their slow process and failure to arrest the alleged suspect, the case has gone to the Florida's State Attorney General's office with the hope that justice will be served.

Reports indicate Martin was visiting his father in Sanford, Fla., just outside Orlando, on Feb. 26 in a gated community when he was on his way back from a convenience store, where he had purchased Skittles and iced tea. White neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman, 28, spotted him.

Zimmerman allegedly called 911 to report a "suspicious person" in the neighborhood. Some accounts indicate that Zimmerman in fact told authorities there was a suspicious black man walking in the neighborhood.

Dispatchers told Zimmerman not to interfere and that officers were on the way to check out the situation. Ignoring instructions, Zimmerman followed the teen in his SUV, approached Martin and the two got into a scuffle on

the ground. Zimmerman then pulled out a semiautomatic handgun and allegedly shot Martin in the chest, killing him 70 feet from Martin's apartment. Police arrived on the scene and found Martin's dead body.

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Trayvon Martin

## Indianapolis police: Parents need to watch teens

**By Charles Wilson  
INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** - Unsupervised teenagers with nothing to do and easy access to guns are a recipe for trouble, experts said March 18 after a late-night shooting that wounded five youths in downtown Indianapolis.

Indianapolis Police Chief Paul Ciesielski said he has had more officers downtown since three shootings injured 10 young people during the Indiana Black Expo in the summer of 2010. A community task force found that teenagers were being dropped off in the area and left unattended.

But Ciesielski said there's only so much officers can do.

"Parents just need to be more responsible and not use the downtown as a baby sitter," he said after the latest shootings, which happened as crowds reveled along a downtown canal that had been dyed green for St. Patrick's Day.

"Two of the victims were 14 years old," Ciesielski said in an email. "Why were they there at 10 p.m. without parental supervision? Who are they hanging with while downtown?"

None of the victims, who ranged in age from 14 to 17, had life-threatening injuries, police said. Police searched a residence on the city's northside and questioned several people March 18, but there were no arrests, Sgt. Linda Jackson said.

Jackson said detectives believe the shooting

stemmed from a "lingering argument" between two groups of people.

The chief said police had extra officers downtown Saturday night (March 17) both in and out of uniform, though he declined to say how many. He said the department routinely assigns plainclothes officers trained to deal with youth to the Circle Centre Mall, a popular downtown gathering place for teens.

Bill Glick, director of the Indiana Juvenile Justice Task Force, said another piece of the problem was the availability of guns. Teens can get hold of guns at home or buy them on the street, he said.

"Our kids tell us it's no problem getting a gun," he said. "I ask kids if I drop you off in downtown Indianapolis, how long would it take to find someone to help you get a gun? They say probably a couple of

hours." Glick added that many teens seem to be desensitized to violence.

"They somehow seem to be inured to the fact that if you shoot a gun it's not like a video game, someone really gets hurt," he said.

Police said three teens shot Saturday were taken to nearby Riley Hospital for Children. They were a 14-year-old boy shot in the chest, a 14-year-old boy with a gunshot wound to the face and a 16-year-old girl shot in the leg.

Jackson said the boy who was shot in the chest and the girl had been upgraded from critical to serious condition. The other boy was released earlier Sunday, Jackson said.

The two other shooting victims, both 17-year-old boys, were taken to another hospital, one with a gunshot wound to the back and the other shot in the leg, according to the police statement. They had both been released by early Sunday, police said.

## NC man drops out of senate race after video flap

**CHARLOTTE (AP)** - A North Carolina state Senate candidate who drew denunciations from his own party over an online video in which he advocated the mass murder of black South Africans is dropping out of the race.

The Charlotte Observer reports that Bivins Holla posted a new YouTube video in which he says he's withdrawing from the race to be Democratic nominee in the Catawba County race.

Holla's announcement came a day after an Observer story about a video in which he advocated shooting and starving South Africans. The video was removed from YouTube after the newspaper contacted him.

In his latest video, Holla claims to have always been liberal Democrat. But voting records show he was registered as a Republican for roughly 10 years before changing his affiliation in October.

**JAZZ PIANIST AND A CAPPELLA GROUP HEADLINE NCCU JAZZ FESTIVAL** - The 22nd Annual NCCU Jazz Festival will take place April 16 - 21 and will include performances by Take 6, a Grammy-winning Christian vocal jazz group, above; pianist Cyrus Chestnut; the U.S. Air Force big band Airmen of Note; the UNC-Chapel Hill Faculty Jazz Group and Gary Smulyan; and the NCCU Jazz Combos, Vocal Jazz Ensemble and Faculty Jazz Group. See story on page 13.

## Donald Payne Jr. to seek father's congressional seat

**By Angela Delli Santi**

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - Donald Payne Jr. has decided to seek his late father's congressional seat representing the 10th District.

Payne tells The Associated Press he would be "proud to continue in his father's legacy."

Donald Payne Sr., New Jersey's first African-American congressman, died of cancer on March 6 and was buried March 14.

Payne Jr. is Newark's City Council president and the father of teenage triplets.

Pressure had been building for Payne Jr. to get into the race.

Newark Councilman Ron C. Rice and state Sen. Nia Gill announced earlier that they intended to run.

The district includes parts of Essex, Union and Hudson counties in northern New Jersey.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

Two days after New Jersey's first African-American congressman was eulogized in a funeral that brought former President Bill Clinton and members of President Barack Obama's Cabinet to Newark, the race to succeed Rep. Donald Payne Sr. was on.

Newark City Councilman Ron C. Rice and state Sen. Nia Gill both announced plans to run for the seat Friday. Meanwhile, a decision was being awaited by Donald Payne Jr., Newark's council president, on whether he would pursue the opportunity to succeed his father in Washington.

Two Democratic insiders said if Payne's son is interested in the seat, the party establishment would coalesce around him. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about private political discussions.

Payne Sr. represented the 10th District, which includes parts of Essex, Union and Hudson counties, since 1989. He died of cancer March 6 and was buried Wednesday.

Essex County Democratic chairman Phil Thigpen hasn't said publicly whom he will support. Essex wields the most influence with about 60 percent of the district. The 10th District hasn't elected a Republican to Congress since 1940s.

"I expect my party - which I've given much to and asked nothing from - to support me," Rice told The Associated Press on Friday. "I expect and will pursue the party line in all three counties."

Rice said he would make his candidacy official early next week. Gill's camp indicated an official announcement would be made within 10 days. Rice and Gill are both African American.

Rice, 41, filed paperwork with federal election officials this month switching his federal exploratory committee to a campaign account, signaling his intent to run. He planned to announce his candidacy sooner but delayed the announcement out of respect for the Payne family.

He raised \$12,000-\$14,000 as an exploratory candidate.

Gill let word of her intentions leak out Friday, but she has not commented directly. Her campaign spokesman, Pat Politano, and Sen. Ray Lesniak both confirmed her plans.

"She told me she's running," said Lesniak of Union County.

The vacancy touched off a flurry of political speculation about possible Democratic successors this week. Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver of East Orange also has been mentioned, sparking additional speculation about who might succeed her at the Statehouse if she runs for Congress.

Because congressional districts were redrawn this year to reflect population shifts recorded in the census, there will be simultaneous elections in two districts for the seat: one to fill the remainder of Payne Sr.'s term in the existing 10th District, and another for the two-year term that begins in January in the new 10th District.

The filing deadline for the June primary is April 2.

Rice, a lawyer, is the son of veteran state Sen. Ron L. Rice. The elder Rice chairs the Legislative Black Caucus.

The younger Rice represents Newark's West Ward. He was elected in 2006 and is in his second term.

He first ran for office in 2002 with mayoral candidate Cory Booker in a losing effort documented in the Academy Award-winning documentary "Street Fight." As a member of the "Booker Team" four years later, Rice was sworn in with the newly elected Booker.

Gill, a lawyer, has been in the state Legislature since 1994, first as an assemblywoman then as a senator since 2002.