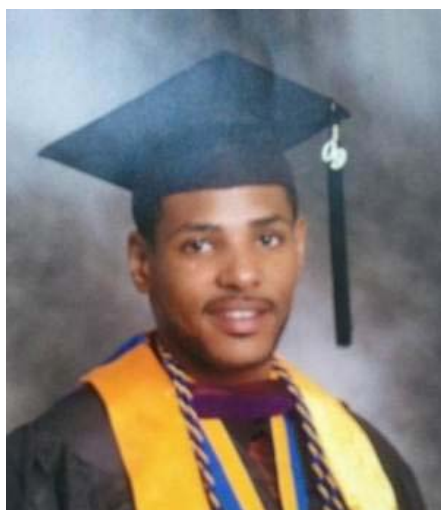




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# Mount Vernon slaying victim was rehab counselor

12:44 AM, Jun. 28, 2011 | Comments



Ruben Davis, 26, who was shot and killed in a Mount Vernon south side park Sunday afternoon. The picture is a 2009 picture of him when he graduated from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore with a master's degree in criminal justice.

MOUNT VERNON — A 26-year-old man who was shot to death Sunday in a south-side park was a Phoenix Academy counselor who graduated in 2009 with a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, his family said.

Mount Vernon detectives were searching for clues Monday in the death of Ruben Davis, a Bronx man who worked for the drug treatment and rehabilitation center in Shrub Oak.

Police Commissioner Carl Bell described the shooting as "senseless."

Taineasha Garland, 38, of Mount Vernon, the victim's sister, said her brother was on his way to her home for Sunday dinner. He drove from his home and stopped at the park at South Seventh Avenue and West Fourth Street about 2:30 p.m. to talk to his cousin, Dwayne Jones, 20, of Mount Vernon, Garland said. She said she asked her brother to talk to Jones, who lives with her, about a "personal matter."

Davis was sitting in the basketball bleachers talking to Jones when a man walked up to them, stuck a gun in Davis' chest and demanded money, Garland said.

"Give me all you got," is what Garland said the gunman told Davis before he shot him and ran off.

The victim was shot point blank in the chest, according to Bell.

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As people in the park scattered, Jones ran to Garland's home on South Third Avenue and told her about the shooting. Garland went to the park and saw her brother's body in the playground.

When police arrived at 2:40 p.m., Davis was dead, Bell said, adding that he doubts the robbery theory.

Bell said investigators are still trying to figure out what happened, but were having

trouble getting information even though the park was crowded.

"There was a ton of witnesses," said Bell, but witnesses may fear talking to the police in public. "I can't believe no one is going to say a word."

Police are asking anyone with information to call 914-665-2514.

The family held a candlelight vigil in the park Sunday.

"I want people to know he was smart, intelligent, outgoing and innovative," Garland said.

"We are taking this very hard," said Keja Davis, 43, the victim's cousin. "We just want justice."

Rubin worked at MasterCard in Rye before he was laid off and went to work for Phoenix Academy, his family said. He is survived by four sisters and a brother. His father is a retired career Navy officer.

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