

Funeral held for man shot by NYPD

NEW YORK (AP) - Hundreds of mourners paid their last respects Friday to the man killed on his wedding day by a barrage of 50 police bullets, attending a funeral in the same church where he was to be married to his high school sweetheart.

The service for Sean Bell, 23, took place in a Queens neighborhood seething over what residents view as rampant mistreatment of Blacks by police. Bell and two companions were unarmed.

"They took his life, but we can't let them take his legacy," the Rev. Al Sharpton said, repeatedly greeted with cheers and "amens" from the



Mourners stand outside the church holding funeral services on Friday for Sean Bell, a 23-year-old bridegroom killed by police the day before his wedding day in New York.

overflow crowd. "We must give Sean a legacy. A legacy of justice, a legacy of fairness. We don't hate cops, we don't hate race, we hate wrong."

Bell was killed and his two friends wounded after a bachelor party early Saturday at a strip club.

It is still not clear what prompted officers to open fire on Bell's vehicle, but police reportedly said they feared one man in the group was about to get a gun.

The five officers who fired their guns included two Blacks, two Whites and one Hispanic.

The Rev. Lester Williams had been preparing to lead Bell and his fiancée through their vows last week, but instead delivered the eulogy. He stressed the importance of forgiveness and urged the congregation to remain calm despite the outrage over the shooting.

"I am angry as hell, but our anger must not cause us to sin," he said.

"Ask not for whom the bell tolls. The bell tolls for Sean. The bells are ringing

outrage," he added.

Earlier Friday, hundreds of mourners at Bell's wake filed past the open casket at the Community Church of Christ.

"It's sad for a young brother like that," said Joseph Barry, 20, of Brooklyn, who attended junior high school with Bell. "It's ridiculous. ...Justice needs to be done, and justice also needs to be served."

Several people outside the church held up signs reading "Justice for Sean Bell." Blue police barricades stretched for about two blocks in anticipation of a large crowd.

Prior to the wake, the relatives of two survivors from the weekend shooting also pleaded for calm.

"Please, let's respect this day, and don't cause no problems," said Denise Ford, the mother of shooting victim Trent Benefield. "We don't need no more trouble."

Benefield was in stable condition, and the third victim, Joseph Guzman, remained in intensive care in critical condition at last report.

Detroit police kill 16-year-old

By Diane Bukowski
Special to Sentinel-Voice

DETROIT (NNPA) - Like millions of others across the country, 16-year-old Brandon Burks, a straight-A student at Osborne High School, went out to shop with his friends on the afternoon of Nov. 26, the big shopping day after Thanksgiving.

But Burks never came home.

An off-duty Detroit police officer, moonlighting on security duty at the National Wholesale Liquidators store in the Bel-Air Mall on Detroit's east side, shot him once in the back as Burks ran from him. The bullet pierced his heart.

He was one of two men to die at the hands of Detroit police Thanksgiving weekend.

"It was wrong," said Burks' grieving brother Hoisea Jackson, 14. "They were kids. If you were a grown-up, you could have talked to him or you could go talk to his parents, but no, he wanted to get a gun and shoot at kids. That is so wrong."

Burks' 14-year-old friend, Johnathan Stanley — also an Osborne student — was shot in the hand by the cop, an injury that could end his budding football career.

At press time, Burks' 19-year-old brother John Henry Moore Jr. remained jailed, held without charges, unable to be with his family as they prepared for his brother's funeral. State law requires the arraignment or release of individuals within 48 hours of arrest.

"In Sunday's *New York Times*, there is a front-page story about a young man killed on his wedding day by

an off-duty cop," said attorney Geoffrey Feiger, who has been retained by Burks' family.

"That happened in Detroit on Sunday," Feiger continued. "A young man went out with his friends, and for no other reason than a store policy barring 16-year-olds from shopping there, he was executed in Detroit. But there has been no uproar, no controversy. Instead, there is a cover-up. We are pressing for murder charges to be brought. The leaders of this city, Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, must step forward."

At Feiger's office Nov. 28, Johnathan Stanley and Laron Hundley, 16, recounted the details of that nightmarish afternoon.

They said that the group of seven young friends had split up once they got to the store around 2 p.m., with John Moore and Hundley going to the electronics section to shop for games.

Stanley said that his group was followed by undercover cops and eventually ejected from the store. Hundley said that he and Moore saw their friends leaving, and also went out, but realized that another friend was still in the store.

"I tried to go back in the store to get Keith," said Hundley, "but the guard pushed me and started fighting. I got a bruise on my eye. In the middle of this, his gun fell out, he reached for it, and everybody started running."

Stanley said he ran to duck behind his car after he was shot in the hand.

"Brandon [Burks] was running," he said. "I heard

two more shots, and then I saw Brandon fall."

When police cars arrived at the scene, the entire group except Stanley, who was sent to the hospital, were hauled off to jail.

"As soon as they pulled up, they came out with their guns out," said Hundley. "I asked what about this dead body here, and they said don't worry about it, just worry about what's going to happen to you."

All of the young men except Moore were later released without charges. At press time, Maria Miller, spokesperson for Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, said the police department had submitted a warrant to charge Moore, but that an investigation by their office would "take some time." She said she expected Moore would be released pending further investigation.

Second Deputy Chief James Tait, spokesperson for the Detroit Police Department, stated: "The six males between the ages of 16 and 22 were being unruly. They were asked to leave, and initially refused to do so, then they complied. That's when they and the off-duty officer encountered each other. Words were exchanged, and one individual took off his jacket and rushed toward the officer and got in a tussle. The other males also joined. That's when the officer's weapon discharged, striking two young men. It's still unclear on who pulled the trigger."


DPD Sgt. Omar Feliciano said the department is not releasing the name of the officer.

National representatives of the National Wholesale Liquidators chain were not able to be contacted. The store's manager, who would not give his name, would not comment or allow interviews of his workers.

Susie Burks, mother, said a doctor at St. John's Hospital (See Shooting, Page 4)


Follow the Rainbow to...

Good Health!



When your family counts on you to stay healthy, you can count on Rainbow Medical Centers' board certified family physicians to provide the highest quality of primary and urgent care services. Our facilities offer lab, x-ray, and are open evenings and weekends for your convenience. Rainbow Medical Centers has also been awarded Joint Commission Accreditation (JCAHO) for maintaining national standards of quality healthcare.

Track your health at
My Health Zone
You'll find it at...
www.rainbowmedical.com



RAINBOW Medical Centers

PRIMARY & URGENT CARE

West
255-6657
1341 S. Rainbow Blvd.

East
438-4003
821 N. Nellis Blvd.


North
655-0550
4920 Lone Mtn. Rd.

Rampart
254-9192
8522 Del Webb Blvd.

Galleria
436-5800
1397 Galleria Dr.

Golden Triangle
657-9555
1302 W. Craig Rd.

Boulder Hwy
898-1405
4241 S. Nellis Blvd.



Board Certified Physicians
Most Insurances Accepted