

# Newark

(Continued from Page 1)  
nity-based organization. "It takes something like this for people to open up their eyes and understand that not every person killed in Newark is a drug dealer."

The killings bring Newark's murder total for the year to 60, and put pressure on Mayor Cory A. Booker, who campaigned last year on a promise of reducing crime.

Jackson said Booker "doesn't deserve another day, another second, while our children are at stake."

Booker said Monday that it was "not a time to play politics and divide our city." A \$50,000 reward was being offered for information leading to the arrest of those involved, he said.

A month ago, Booker and Police Director Garry McCarthy announced that crime in the city had fallen by 20 percent in the first six months of 2007 compared to a year ago. Yet despite decreases in the number of rapes, aggravated assaults and robberies, the murders have continued.

Natasha Aerial, 19, was listed in fair condition at Newark's University Hospital. Police identified her slain companions as her brother, Terrance Aerial, 18, Iofemi Hightower, 20, and Dashon Harvey, 20.

Authorities believe the shootings were a random robbery committed by several assailants and that some of the victims may have tried to resist their attackers. They were piecing together details of the attack from interviews with Natasha Aerial.

Hightower and the Aerials had been friends since elementary school and played in the marching band at West Side High School. Terrance Aerial, known as T.J., took Hightower to the school prom in 2006, chauffeured by his sister.

At Delaware State they met Harvey, another musician, and struck up a friendship. Friends and family members said the four were not involved in drinking, drugs or gangs. They liked to congregate at the school, which sits in a middle-class neighborhood less than a mile from the campus of Seton Hall University, to hang out and listen to music.

Harvey's father, James, said Monday the parents of the assailants were to blame.

"If you raised your kids better, this would not happen," he said.

Hightower worked two



Shalga Hightower, right, is consoled by family friend Cathy Rainey, left, at Hightower's Newark, N.J. home Monday as she talks about her daughter, Iofemi Hightower, 20, who was killed in an execution-style shooting of four young friends in a schoolyard late Saturday night. Newark is no stranger to street violence.

jobs and recently enrolled at the school. One of her jobs was at Brighton Gardens, an assisted living center in nearby West Orange, where her mother also worked.

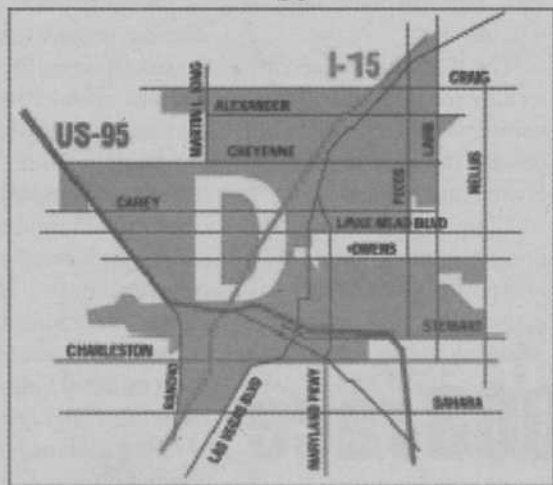
On the afternoon of the killings, she told her mother she planned to spend the night at Natasha Aerial's house near the Mount Vernon School. "The last time I heard her voice was Saturday night," Hightower said between sobs. "She called me

from work to let me know Natasha was going to pick her up and she was going to spend the night. She told me she loved me."

The Aerials' mother, Renee Tucker, said the last time she saw them was around 10:30 p.m. Saturday, when they told her they were going around the corner to get something to eat.

"They said they were going to come right back to the house," Tucker said.

## DISTRICT D TOWN HALL MEETING



Commissioner Lawrence Weekly

District D. Where You Can Be Heard.

Date: August 16, 2007

Time: 5:30-7:00

Discussion Items Include:

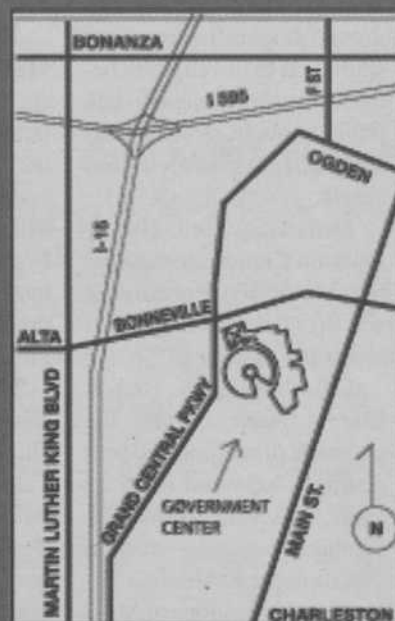
- Crime
- Graffiti
- Code Enforcement
- Community Service
- Dist. D Special Events
- Public Comment



District

Location: Government Center  
Commission Chambers  
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy  
Las Vegas Nevada 89155

Who: Citizens of District D



For more Information please call  
702-455-3500

To Our Friends In District D