

## Reward increased for suspects in shooting

Officer wounded after Katrina

Friday, March 14, 2008

From staff reports

These are the two wanted suspects in the shooting of Officer Thomas  
Occurred in August 2005.



Police asked for help Thursday in finding two suspects on the lam for more than a year since they were charged in the Algiers shooting of a New Orleans police officer in the days after Hurricane Katrina.

Crimestoppers has increased the reward for information leading to the arrest and indictment of Vincent Walker, 45, or Jimil Joyner, 25, to up to \$10,000, said Darlene Cusanza, executive director of Crimestoppers.

Walker and Joyner were arrested Aug. 30, 2005, in the 2600 block of Gen. de Gaulle Drive, shortly after officer Kevin Thomas was seriously wounded. Police booked them with attempted first-degree murder in the shooting. Police say the 18-year veteran was wounded in a shootout with looters at a convenience store.

In the criminal justice quagmire that followed the storm's ravages, the pair were first held at an out-of-town jail, authorities said. But in an action that was never documented because of the storm, they were released sometime around July 2006, apparently because they had served beyond the time required for the district attorney's office to present sufficient evidence to hold them.

They were officially charged by the district attorney's office in February 2007, but police have not been able to locate them.

Crimestoppers had offered its standard \$2,500 for information leading to their arrest and indictment, but increased that figure Thursday to \$10,000.

Reached Thursday night, the Police Department could not immediately provide Thomas' status with the department. In a story written about the case in February 2007, Thomas was said to remain "on medical leave."