

## Crimestoppers Tip Lead to Arrests

# 7 teens booked in Gretna shooting

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By: Allen Powell II (Times Picayune)

Gretna police have arrested seven juveniles in a shooting at a birthday party last weekend that left one teenager paralyzed and two others wounded.

Police have not released the names of the suspects because of their age. All are 16 years old, said Maj. Anthony Christiana, a police spokesman.

Each juvenile was booked with three counts of conspiracy to commit attempted first-degree murder and three counts of principal to attempted first-degree murder. The alleged shooter also was booked with three counts of attempted first-degree murder, Christiana said.

The incident happened June 13 around 9:40 p.m. at the America's Best Value Inn in the 1400 block of Claire Avenue. Authorities say the seven juveniles, who belonged to a group called the Young Squidda Gang, went to the Sweet 16 party to fight members of another group called the Young Menace Gang of Marrero. The groups had been feuding since an altercation June 6.

Christiana said Young Squidda Gang members from Gretna and Harvey brought a .22-caliber rifle with them that they hid on the motel grounds. After fighting with their rivals, the Young Squidda Gang retrieved the rifle and fired on the party.

This was the first arrest for some of the juveniles. Others had previous arrests and one had been arrested in connection with four other shootings. That juvenile was shot once and three other times was implicated in shooting someone else, Christiana said.

In seeking the public's help, authorities released surveillance video Monday that showed a rifle and pistol being fired across a parking lot at partygoers.

Through Crimestoppers tips and other information, police located the suspects and arrested five of them Wednesday, Christiana said. Police also recovered drugs and weapons when they searched a home at 532 Commerce St., near Gretna. Two handguns, 21 grams of marijuana and a rifle were found at the home, he said.

Lakita Davis, 32, was booked with possession with intent to distribute marijuana and with illegal possession of a firearm and controlled dangerous substance because she lived at the house where the guns and marijuana were found.

Earlier this week, Christiana said that three victims were hospitalized. They include an 18-year-old girl who was shot in the back and may be permanently paralyzed. A 16-year-old boy was shot in the lower left side of his back and a 15-year-old boy was shot in the right arm.