

In 2007, 17 people were murdered in St Paul. Victims Otahl Saunders, Maria McLay and her 15 year old daughter, Brittany Kekedakis were murdered during one incident on March 23, 2007, which is still unsolved. In the only other unsolved St Paul murder in 2007, Eric Woulard was shot to death while sitting in his van at Vanburen and Dale. St Paul Police are still actively investigating these cases, and a reward of up to \$ 1000.00 has been offered through Crime Stoppers of MN. Additional money of up to \$ 15,000.00 is also available for information leading to the arrest and charging of perpetrators of these crimes.

The FBI is assisting the investigation into the tragic and particularly brutal murder of Otahl Saunders, Maria McLay and Brittany Kekedakis. These murders were precipitated by a home invasion robbery during the early morning hours of March 23, 2007. The investigation developed suspects, but has not yet yielded enough evidence for prosecution. Investigators believe that the most violent suspects are currently incarcerated for unrelated offenses and are expected to be in jail for many years.

The investigators hope that the fact that these violent offenders are locked up for many years will give people the courage to come forward with information they have that could help solve these murders. Family members of the victims are here today to support the efforts of the Police to identify and bring the perpetrators of this horrible crime to justice.

The murder of Eric Woulard is the only other unsolved murder from 2007. During the late evening hours of June 16, 2007 Eric was shot to death by an unidentified person while he sat in his vehicle in front of a friend's house near Vanburen and Dale. One arrest had been made early in the investigation but that person has not been charged. Information in this case has been slow in coming to police on this case. Eric's mother is with us today in support of the investigation and with hope that someone with information about her son's murder will come forward and contact police so she can get justice and closure for her son's death. Crime Stoppers is also offering a reward of up to \$ 1000.00 for information leading to the arrest and charging of the person or persons responsible for the death of Eric Woulard.

We would also like to ask for the public's help in the unsolved murder of 18 year old Jaques Dortch who was killed in an apparently random attack on three young adults as they sat talking in a parked car near their home on St Paul's East side.

On October 25, 2008 Jaques Dortch was in a parked vehicle near her home chatting with friends, when a lone gunman approached and fired shots into the car killing her instantly. One other occupant in the car was wounded during this vicious and unprovoked attack. Police Investigators are actively seeking information on the perpetrator of this crime and its motive. Crime Stoppers is also offering a reward of up to \$ 1000.00 for information leading to the arrest and charging of the perpetrator of this crime.

Detectives believe that a street code of "no snitching" may have hindered the investigations into these cases. They believe this street code should never apply to murder especially when the victims are innocent women and children.

Call the St. Paul Police at 651-266-5650 or contact Crime Stoppers via the Internet, text message, or a phone call to help solve these murders (see Crime Stoppers poster for contact information – You can give information and remain anonymous and collect a reward if the information you give leads to the arrest and charging of suspects.)