

Orlando police cameras help capture two murder suspects

Stephen Koon, 23, and Brandon James, 41, are charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of Michael Hutto, 49.



This IRIS cameras located at Church Street and Terry Avenue on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010 helped find the vehicle that was used in the shooting of Michael Hutto. Stephen Koon, 23, and Brandon James, 41, are charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of Michael Hutto, 49. Koon is accused of driving the getaway vehicle after James allegedly shot Hutto in the chest near the intersection of W. Church Street and Terry Avenue early Saturday, records show. (RED HUBER, ORLANDO SENTINEL / October 6, 2010)

By Bianca Prieto, Orlando Sentinel

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Eye witnesses and video footage from Orlando's web of surveillance cameras helped lead homicide detectives to two men accused of gunning down a transient in [Parramore](#) this weekend.

Brandon James, 41, is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Michael Hutto, 49, who was found in a pool of blood in front of a duplex near W. Jackson Street and Terry Avenue around 2:30 a.m. Saturday. Stephen Koon, 23, accused of driving the get-away vehicle, is also charged in Hutto's death.

Both men are being held without bond at the Orange County Jail.

Witnesses on the street and in a nearby apartment complex helped investigators piece together information to solve the city's 12th homicide Tuesday, less than four days after the shooting. Detectives have solved all of Orlando's homicide cases this year.

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On Wednesday police released information about the events that led up to the shooting.

According to arrest affidavits for both men, Koon and his girlfriend, Amanda Gooden, checked into the Sands Motel on S. [Orange Blossom Trail](#) around 11 p.m. Friday night. The couple met James and all three began smoking crack and drinking.

A few hours later, James asked Koon to drive him to Parramore so he could buy more crack. Earlier that day Koon had stolen a gun from his father's house and gave it to James before the drug deal, police said.

The two men jumped in Koon's wrecked, green Nissan Frontier and drove 2.3 miles to the intersection of W. Church Street and Terry Avenue. James, dressed in all dark clothing, got out of the truck and approached Hutto. He fired one shot, got back into the truck and drove away, police said.

Hutto ran about 30 feet before collapsing outside of the duplex. He was rushed to Orlando Regional Medical Center, but died.

The city's "Innovative Response to Improve Safety," or IRIS cameras at W. Church Street and Terry Avenue caught the truck's movements and ultimately led police to Koon, reports show.

When they returned to the motel, they told Gooden they robbed a man and fired one shot in the air. Koon later sold the gun for \$10 cash and \$60 worth of crack, police said.

All three men have lengthy criminal histories according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Hutto and James did several stints in prison drug related charges, records show.

On Wednesday a makeshift memorial for Hutto sat in the yard where he collapsed. A box of Newport menthol cigarettes, an empty bottle of E&J Brandy and a single Black & Mild cigar were placed in the grass along with a sign that read "In Loving Memory of Michael Hutto."

A Crimeline sign placed next to the memorial asked people with information to call and give tips.

"He was a nice guy," said J.R. Thompson, a friend of the slain man, adding E&J Brandy was Hutto's favorite drink.

Hutto's slaying was the first murder in the Parramore neighborhood in nearly a year. A couple was gunned down outside the Haitian Oaks Apartments in the 500 block of West Anderson Street last Oct. 15.

Kary Joseph Russell, 32, was charged with killing his neighbors Alton L. Palmer, 49, and Valerie Young, 44. Before that deadly shooting, Parramore -- once one of Orlando's most crime-ridden neighborhoods -- enjoyed 18 months without a murder.

Bianca Prieto can be reached at bprieto@orlandosentinel.com or 407-420-5620.