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BREAKING

Three days after a TJ High School senior is killed in North Richmond, his girlfriend gives birth to his son

By **VANESSA REMMERS** Richmond Times-Dispatch

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George Carrington IV was born about 10:30 p.m. Monday night at nine pounds.

Courtesy of the Carrington famil

By VANESSA REMMERS Richmond Times-Dispatch

Three days after her boyfriend was found shot and lying on the ground in Richmond's North Side, Shaunte Townes felt the pains she had been expecting for nine months. She was going into labor, and she would have to do it without him.

George Carrington IV was born about 10:30 p.m. Monday at 9 pounds and 7 ounces. He inherited the name of the father he will never meet.

At 17 years old, George Carrington III was still Virnita Carrington's baby.

"He was just a good boy, a good, good boy. There wasn't a malicious bone in his body," she said.

His room in the family's new home on Chimborazo Boulevard is crowded with unpacked boxes, some still full of car parts and tools for his mechanical projects and others stacked with things for his newborn.

Large speakers are crammed in the rest of his room. Lately, his mother said, he had the rapper Gucci Mane on repeat.

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His shoes with blackened grease stains were scattered across the floor. His mother had long given up on removing those stains from his shoes and his Groome Transportation work clothes.

“He didn’t care about that kind of stuff, all the appearances,” his mother said, adding that he often wore work clothes to school so he could go straight to his job from his classes at Thomas Jefferson High School, where he was a senior. “He was just a hard worker.”

A crib sits in one corner, an unopened baby monitor and a package of Pampers in another. He talked of buying his son a Power Wheels toy, and his mother had fussed at him for thinking of such things so early, just like she fussed at him for toting his pregnant girlfriend with him to the junkyard at 7 a.m. some days.

“He wanted to make sure he was a father who was actively engaged in his son’s life,” said the Rev. Morris Henderson, pastor of 31st Street Baptist Church. Family members said Carrington had practically grown up in that church, where he operated the cameras from the balcony during services.

Carrington and his mother were supposed to travel Tuesday for his interview with Universal Technical Institute, a training school for the transportation industry that he felt could help him support his family and fulfill his dream of becoming a mechanic. His mother had purchased a nail kit to clean up his perpetually black and greasy fingernails.

This week was also when he had planned to give 18-year-old Shaunte Townes a promise ring.

Now, in her more desperate moments, Townes posts on his Facebook page.

“Goodnight, baby, we love you. I can’t get you off my mind and Baby George is missing your voice so much, he won’t stop moving,” Townes wrote on his Facebook page hours before she went into labor.

And now, his mother is fielding calls from funeral homes and trying to hold back tears when she sees something familiar like his key chain on the living room mantel, bulky from all the cars he was fixing up.

“It’s sort of like a bad dream,” Virnita Carrington said.

He was found shot about 5:30 p.m. Friday near an overturned white Buick sedan in the 600 block of Milton Street in the Providence Park neighborhood.

He was pronounced dead at the scene. Police said they have obtained a warrant charging 17-year-old Ishmael D. Brown with murder.

Virnita Carrington said she doesn’t know Brown. The last time she had seen her son on Friday night, he told her he was going to take his friend home. Police declined to release any further information about the case, including whether they have assigned a motive to the crime.

George Carrington's killing was the 55th of 56 homicides in Richmond this year, according to the police. Those numbers don't include some other types of homicides, including cases of self-defense, accidental and justifiable killings.

Virnita Carrington still hasn't seen her youngest son's body, but she has seen her grandson.

The baby is quiet, she said, unlike his father when he was a baby. But baby George looks just like him, she said, the same hair, the same round face, the same soft, brown eyes.

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MORE INFORMATION

A vigil will be held at 5 p.m. Friday at the corner of Milton Street and Missouri Avenue.

The family has also set up a Go Fund Me Page for funeral expenses and to help support Townes and the baby. The page can be found at: <https://www.gofundme.com/2n-honoring-george-m-carrington-iii?ssid=819882394&pos=3>