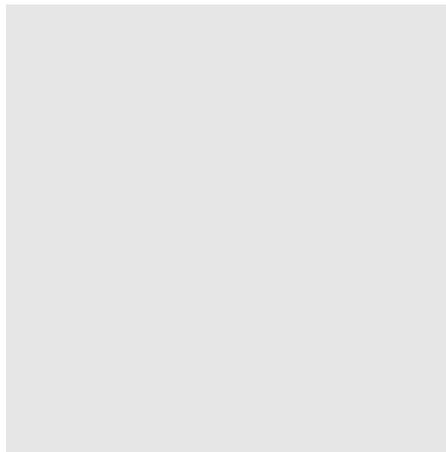


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SOUTHWEST SIDE HOMICIDE | NO SUSPECTS IN SHOOTING OF FATHER OF TWO

## **Madison man who was fatally shot in his car was father of two, no arrests made**

LOGAN WROGE lwroge@madison.com Jul 26, 2017



Simms

Submitted photo



A man who was shot and killed early Tuesday morning on the 2000 block of Adderbury Lane was identified Wednesday as Riccardo C. Simms.

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LEXY BRODT, STATE JOURNAL

A man who was shot and killed in his car early Tuesday has been identified by the Dane County Medical Examiner's Office as Riccardo C. Simms.

Simms, 29, of Madison, was shot several times while in his car in the 2000 block of Adderbury Lane around 3:10 a.m., police said. Chief Mike Koval said no one has been arrested, and there are no persons of interests.

Simms is the city's eighth homicide victim of the year.

While some anonymous tips have been received, Koval is asking for more help to avert possible future violence.

“Unless we get some preemption and/or get some community help to make some arrests, I worry that there would be retaliation,” he said.

Shada Lincoln, who had been dating Simms for five years, said in a Facebook message that the couple had two daughters together, ages 3 and 1.

“He was a wonderful and great father,” she said. “He lived his life wanting a better life for me and his girls.”

Simms, originally from Chicago, was a “respectful young man” who would host community barbecues, Lincoln said. “When people needed him, he was there, and he gave back to his community when he had it,” she said.

Within about 24 hours of Simms’ slaying, police reported two incidents of shots fired in Madison and one in Fitchburg.

Koval said police can’t confirm whether these incidents are related to the homicide, but he said detectives are looking into any connections.

“The fact that we have shots fired the same night or within 24 hours of this incident would give me pause to consider whether those are messages that are being sent,” he said.

There are no confirmed witnesses to the fatal shooting, Koval said.

“We’re confident there are more people who could at least guide us or point us in directions that would be (constructive) in finding the killer or killers,” he said.

Amid an increase in shootings in the city this year, a short-term, peer-support program that city and nonprofit leaders hope could address the problem has moved closer to reality.

In June, the City Council approved a \$50,000 contract for Nehemiah Community Development Corp. to run a crisis response service to provide support to victims of violence, being assisted by the collective of community and faith leaders, Focused Interruption Coalition, and the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County.

The contract was set to be signed Tuesday. But Michael Johnson, Boys and Girls Club president and CEO, said the same day his organization was pulling out, citing a slow response from the city to fund the program.

Koval said Johnson has a “pulse on community feelings, perceptions and attitudes,” and the withdrawal won’t change Johnson and his organization’s efforts in violence prevention.

“I think he’s still able to contribute, but more on his own terms where he’s more nimble working with private citizens rather than going through the various steps and processes to get city funding,” Koval said about Johnson. “He hasn’t burned any bridges, as far as I’m concerned, with me.”

Jim O’Keefe, the city’s community development director, said city staff met with Nehemiah leaders Wednesday and revised the contract in light of the exit.

O’Keefe expects the contract to be signed Thursday, and a release of up to \$15,000 for the program’s upfront costs is likely to happen early next week, he said.

The rest of the money will be on a reimbursement basis and will last until a contract is finalized with an operator to provide two long-term peer-support programs for victims of violence and those facing re-entry from incarceration, he said.



Map data ©2017 Google



Map: Gun crime incidents in Madison so far this summer

## MORE INFORMATION





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Logan Wroge has been a general assignment reporter for the Wisconsin State Journal since 2015.