

Joshua Woods...Another life taken over Jordans

Written by Jeffrey L. Boney

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If there was ever a cultural phenomenon that has picked up steam year after year, one need not look any further than the Nike Air Jordan brand of tennis shoes.

You would have to be hiding under a rock to have not seen or heard about it. People stand in line for hours and even camp out overnight, seeking to buy the latest release. It is the latest release of Air Jordans that has community residents scratching their heads and asking themselves what is prompting people to rob, steal and even kill others in order to have them.

Right here in Houston, another young African-American man has lost his life over the latest pair of Air Jordans, and his death has left a family grieving and seeking justice.

WHY...WHY...WHY?

What began as a simple trip to the mall for two young men, took an unfortunate turn for the worse, when 22-year old Joshua Woods was shot in a northwest Houston subdivision. Woods was shot about 10:30 a.m. Friday, December 21, in the 1700 block of Plumwood near Hallfield in northwest Harris County.

Woods and another man got up early Friday morning, to be one of the first in line to buy the latest Air Jordan tennis shoes. Both young men bought several pairs of the newly released Air Jordans at Willowbrook Mall before jumping in their vehicle and driving straight home.

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The Nike Air Jordan XI 'Bred' sneakers, first released 11 years ago, have a retro look dating back to 2001 and had only become available to the public in the United States the morning that Woods was shot.

According to the sheriff's office, the driver of the car that Woods was in, stopped at his house. Upon doing so a green four-door car pulled up in front of him. It was at that time that an armed man got out of the green car and demanded the newly purchased shoes from both men.

According to reports, the driver jumped out of the car and took off running, with the armed man shooting at him. As the driver knocked on a neighbor's door for help, he heard more gunfire, which turned out to be another man firing shots at Woods.

Woods, who was in the passenger seat, had been shot. He managed to slide behind the steering wheel and drive away, just before crashing the car in between two houses and hitting a gas line, according to the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Woods, who was taken to Houston Northwest Hospital with life-threatening injuries, died Wednesday, December 26, as a result of the gunshot wounds.

The driver was not hurt and authorities have confirmed that three teenagers; Anthony Quinn Wade, 19, Neal Bland, 18, and Kegan Arrington, 19, were charged with capital murder in Wood's death. Arrington had already been behind bars on an unrelated charge, and Bland and Wade were arrested prior to the New Year.

