

## Murders in Third Ward Houston

Written by Forward Times Staff Writer  
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Third Ward is one of six historic Wards of Houston Texas, and is located east of Houston's famous Texas Medical Center, and southeast of downtown Houston. Third Ward has undergone an urban resurgence with newly established businesses, thriving professional services, and an influx of new citizens from other cities, and other countries.

Recently, Third Ward further distinguished itself with 6 murders that have occurred in 45 days, in less than a third of a mile from each other, and each victim. In the early morning hours on July 14, Lori Ann Pittman's pregnant lifeless body was discovered on Calumet Street, near Burkett Street, one gunshot wound to the head, she was also pregnant. The same day, a man was shot to death in a drive-by shooting on Rosedale near Tierwester.

Again, under the cover of darkness, on July 17, Silas Albert's corpse was found in the 5000 block of Ennis Street, another victim of a gunshot wound, no suspect or suspects in custody yet, this victim was male. Death sought and found another victim on July 27, laying on the feeder road in the 4700 block of the south freeway between Southmore and Blodgett at about 4:44 am. Valerie Rick's body was discovered dead with a gunshot wound to the back of the head. Again, no witness, no suspect, or suspects identified. Another man's body was found around 4:30 am at Emancipation Park at Elgin and Dowling. At **Forward Times** press time another body had been added to the list.

With no witnesses or motives determined yet, is Third Ward the preferred killing fields with a new serial killer in its midst? All victims were alone on the streets at early hours of the morning. The Houston Police Investigative team is no doubt comparing ballistic similarities of the ammo used in the murders, and viewing available video images of those areas to ID a suspect, or suspects.

A "no-snitch policy" is hurting the inner city, said Houston community activist Quanel X, who on Monday called on Third Ward residents to come forward with information about homicides in recent weeks.

He called on the community to "organize and mobilize" to stem the tide of recent violence in the

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historic Third Ward community in southeast Houston.

Until HPD makes arrests in these murders, it would be wise to stay off the streets late at night, or in the early hours of the morning when known predators frequent the desolate sections of darkness in search of new victims.

Let the community come together and flush out the killer/killers. If anyone has any information regarding any of these senseless murders, please call the HPD Homicide Division at 713-308-3600. Crime Stoppers is offering a \$5,000 reward for any information leading to the arrest of suspects(s). Call 713-222-TIPS.

A Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Monday night, August 8, 2011 at Emancipation Park. For more details contact Black Panthers at 281.472.5589 or visit the website <http://www.qxjustice.com> . {jcomments on}