

# Two arrested in slaying

*murder*  
**Police believe the men** were involved in the Nov. 17 killing of state Sen. Bruce McPherson's son and two other robberies that night.

**By Alexis Chiu**  
*Mercury News*

Two men have been arrested in connection with a street-crime spree in San Francisco that police say culminated in the slaying of Hunter McPherson, a state senator's son gunned down near his Potrero Hill apartment on Nov. 17.

Acting on tips from the public and leads culled by gang investigators, authorities arrested Clifton Terrell, 18, and Dwayne Reed, 22, on suspicion of murder Wednesday night. Both San Francisco men were already in custody on unrelated charges.

McPherson, the son of state Sen. Bruce McPherson, R-Santa Cruz, was killed as he walked home with his girlfriend just before 2 a.m. that Saturday. The couple were accosted on the 1200 block of Mariposa Street by an armed man who demanded money.



Hunter McPherson was killed as he walked home with his girlfriend.

McPherson's companion handed over her property, but McPherson refused to give up his wallet, police said. He was shot in the chest and died hours later at San Francisco General Hospital.

"This arrest will not bring back

our beloved son and brother, Hunter," Bruce and Mary McPherson said in a written statement Thursday. "However, we pray that the love and goodness Hunter exemplified through his life will overcome the evil and hate that exists in the world."

While investigators said Terrell fits the initial description of the suspected shooter, they declined to comment on Reed's alleged involvement. They also said they did not believe there were additional suspects.

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"We think we have the two main players," said police Capt. Roy Sullivan.

Authorities did not disclose the charges on which Terrell and Reed were in custody when arrested Wednesday, but said they were not violent offenses.

In addition to murder, the men face charges stemming from at least two armed robberies in which couples were targeted in the hour before McPherson was killed. The first attack, a holdup and assault, was at 1 a.m. near Pier 39. The second was about 20 minutes later in the parking lot of the Sega Entertainment Center near Townsend and Ninth streets.

McPherson was killed 20 minutes later, less than a mile away.

Investigators said they are looking for the suspects' possible connections to six other robberies in the same area the night of Nov. 16.

When asked whether the suspects had confessed, Sullivan said they provided information to homicide investigators that has led to the

arrest.

McPherson's death sparked a manhunt in San Francisco, including an offer by Mayor Willie Brown of a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible. On Wednesday, police said they were not sure who

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— GEOFFREY DUNN,  
 FAMILY FRIEND

— if anyone — is eligible to collect the money.

As word of the arrests spread on the central coast, where more than 1,000 people attended a memorial service last week and thousands have anguished over McPherson's death, many took solace in the arrests.

"Everyone I've talked to has expressed a deep sense of relief," said Geoffrey Dunn, a longtime family

friend. "So many people loved Hunter."

McPherson was a popular basketball and baseball player at Santa Cruz's Harbor High School. After graduating from the University of California-Berkeley with a history degree four years ago, he was working as an account executive at BizDevEx, a San Francisco sales and business-development company. McPherson had moved to San Francisco from Santa Cruz six months ago.

McPherson was one of three people killed in the last few weeks on Potrero Hill, a mixed-income neighborhood that is home to both public housing projects and expensive loft spaces that multiplied with the dot-com boom. Police are still investigating the Monday shooting deaths of two men sitting in a car on Turner Terrace, but they do not believe the case is related to the McPherson slaying.

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