

**From:** [Roshanda SmithJones](#)  
**To:** [Clerk of the Board](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2024 4:29:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [Visalia Times DJ Reporting.docx](#)

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Hello,

Please contact me regarding the public comment agenda you have set for tomorrow. I am writing in my comment in advance to ensure transparency as well as priority; please communicate with me if I can read my comment ?I would rather bring the comment before you; it reads:

My Name is Roshanda "Rose" SmithJones; I am the Mother and Administrator of "A Mother Matters" Non-Profit Organization.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020; my eldest 23 year old Son Demetrius (DJ) Perry-Jones was killed in a "Mass Shooting" in Tulare, Ca; My Son "DJ" was killed at a celebration of life at a gathering after a funeral. Someone walked through a gathering where people were and used a high power gun and shot 5 people including a 7 year old girl (she was shot 7 times). (newspaper report attached) My Son "DJ" was the one who died.

With Mass Shootings on the rise; and with Tulare City and Tulare County being added to the statcal report of Mass Shootings in 2024 with death; I do not want another mother to experience the loss that I have. I am very concerned with this; I have attempted to bring this concern in July of 2024; there has been at least 4 shootings/murders since my Son's death.

"What is Tulare City and County doing to ensure that this will not happen again in Tulare?"

Thank You,  
Roshanda Rose SmithJones  
559-563-6455  
Relative's Address

# Tulare mass shooting: Man killed in gunfire identified by police

James WardJoshua YeagerRon HolmanSheyanne N Romero

Visalia Times-Delta

1:18

2:03

A 23-year-old man is dead and a 7-year-old girl is clinging to life after a gunman opened fired Wednesday night near a skate park.

Initial reports say the shooting started around 10:20 p.m. in an apartment complex at Tulare Avenue and I Street across from the Tulare Skate Park.

An eyewitness at the scene says the gunfire erupted during a celebration of life event held in an apartment complex. The event was held for a person recently killed in a traffic collision, according to police.

Multiple people at the party were seen on Snapchat, a video sharing application, drinking, throwing up gang signs and dancing on the hoods and roofs of cars in the parking lot. Several children can be seen walking around as adults party.

Some of them were wearing red, a color that represents the Norteño street gangs that run under the Nuestra Familia prison gang.

The witness said at least one gunman walked up to the gathering in an apartment and began pulling the trigger. The type of gun used wasn't immediately known.

"There was blood everywhere," the woman said, refusing to give her name out of fear of retaliation.

Other witnesses claim to have heard two different types of guns. Police believe there was is one shooter.

When police arrived at the apartment complex, the scene was chaotic with 50-60 people rushing from the area, Tulare Sgt. Ed Hinojosa said.



Police found six people shot, one of whom was declared dead at the scene. He was later identified as Demetrius Perry-Jones, of Tulare.

A 7-year-old girl was shot seven times, Hinojosa said. The child was rushed to Valley Children's Hospital in Madera and is listed in serious condition. The names of the victims weren't released.

Another person, a woman, was grazed by a bullet and refused to go to the hospital, police say.

Others said they weren't surprised by the violence.

Tulare Detective Cynthia Vasquez's business card was stuck in the screen door of Judy Hickman's home. Hickman lives across the street from the skate park, which means she may have information for the detective.

She was home Wednesday night and saw flashing lights near the park.

"I didn't even hear it," Hickman said. "I usually hear (gunshots), and I'm usually the one who calls it in."

Hickman has lived in the area for eight years and said she's seen an increase in crime, especially related to gang activity.

"It's escalating," she said. "It used to not be so bad. It's every day now. I don't go out at night anymore, not even to take out the trash."

Hickman isn't hopeful that she'll ever feel safe in her neighborhood.

"I don't see it getting any better," she said.

Resident Jo Wallace shares the same concerns.

Wallace has lived in the area for more than a decade and was on her way home from Visalia when she saw the celebration of life.

“I looked over and saw the party,” she said. “A lot of kids and their parents go to the skate park.”

Hours later, she heard gunshots, a familiar sound for Wallace.

“I heard boom, boom,” she said. “It happens every night.”

Thursday morning, a woman was putting her child in the car with roadblocks just feet away from her home. She’s lived in Tulare for a year.

“This is the second time someone’s been shot since we moved here. It happened around the same time,” said the woman, who asked to remain anonymous. “I heard about nine or ten shots. It sounded like two different guns.”

The woman said while she wasn’t surprised by the shooting, she was especially upset that a 7-year-old girl was injured.

“I don’t let my kids outside because I don’t know the area,” she said.

Police are looking at all angles and considering the chance the shooting was prompted by gang violence; however, they haven't confirmed it. Typically, police are notified when gangs have memorials for fallen associates. It's unclear if police knew the celebration of life was scheduled for Wednesday night.

"The motive is unknown," Hinojosa said. "Suspect information is vague at this point and the entire Investigations Unit has been called out to investigate."