

Four Charged in Hip-Hop Rap Artist Murder

Written by NiKKi ID1608

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Four suspects in the shooting death of hip-hop rap duo 2 Tha Hard Way member, Raymond Maxwell aka rapper Ray Smooth; appeared in court today.

Twenty-year-old Romaro Kincaid, Robert Cochran, 20, Andrew Nix, 21, and Alkeya Issler, 19 were all formally charged with aggravated murder.

Bond was set at \$1 million each.

The victim, Raymond Maxwell, was found dead from gunshot wounds on Westropp Avenue last Sunday. The Cleveland hip-hop rap artist died early Sunday after being shot in a robbery.

Maxwell and his cousin, James Portis Jr., formed 2 Tha Hard Way in 1993.

"Somebody blew our dreams out of the sky," James Portis, Raymond Maxwell's uncle and manager said.

2 Tha Hard Way are set to drop their first nationally distributed CD titled 'Patience Determination' on Jul 05, 2005 by Sonic Wave International.

Raymond Maxwell aka "Ray Smooth" is survived by his mother, Darlene; his father, Raymond Portis; and his sister, Michelle Maxwell, Portis said.