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# More about Irvin Carter Jr.

 January 20, 2015

 Justice Project

 UW Tacoma Justice Project

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By the time he was 10 years old, Irvin Carter was being harassed by his peers and even adult men because of his light skin, according to his mom, Lisa Taylor.

One night, Taylor said she found him under a tree, beaten. “Somebody was always messing with him.” Carter remembers being beaten that year for inadvertently wearing the wrong colors.

Carter, born June 22, 1983, was determined to change his image by the time he turned 12. He said he joined others in his family in the Hoover Crips gang and began stealing cars, selling drugs and collecting illegal weapons while others his age were starting middle school.

“He was wild,” Dontrell Bobo, a friend and fellow Hoover Crip, told the UWT Justice Project. “People looked up to him.”

Carter said his “mind was twisted” during his teen years.

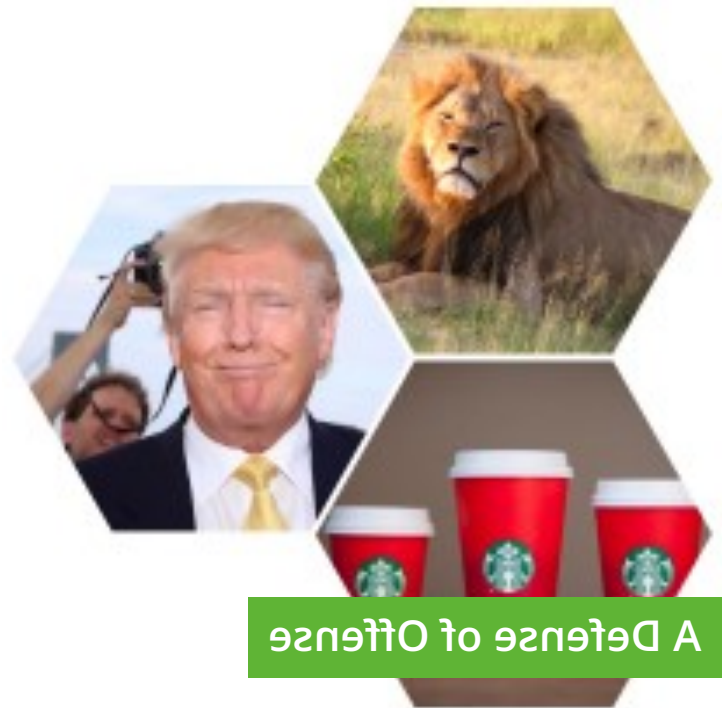
He was also surrounded by crime: In 1996, Carter’s older brother Walter Taylor was convicted of armed robbery. The following year, Carter was living with his mom and grandmother in East Tacoma with up to 10 family members, including his uncle, Cecile Davis. One night, Davis raped, poisoned, strangled and robbed an elderly neighbor, Yoshiko Couch, while her disabled husband slept downstairs. Davis was convicted and is among nine inmates on death row in Washington.

In 2002, Carter and his sister, Lisa Hubley, got into a fight while her toddler was in the room. In a

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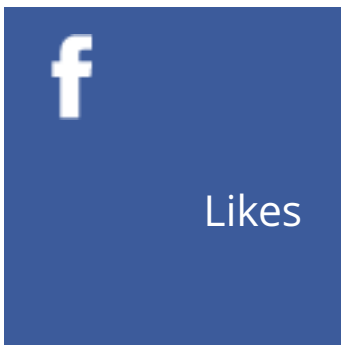
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protection order, she wrote that Carter pushed her and, when she tried to call 911, he “snatched the phone out the wall and pushed me again, and went to pull his gun out of his pants.”

The same year, Carter was convicted on two separate occasions of unlawful possession of a controlled substance, but avoided jail time. In early 2005, police found cocaine and guns in his car during a traffic stop. He was convicted and sentenced to up to 18 months in prison.

When he was released 11 months before Williams’ murder, friends and family described Carter as a changed man. He said he was told he fathered a child and was trying to take care of the baby and stay out of the “toxic” gang environment.

Hubley said her brother “did the right thing”: He got a job at Raceway Technology working with PVC pipe; he opened a bank account and started saving money. She said she did not see him as a threat and regularly let him spend time with her children.

Miesha Carter, Irvin’s little sister, said the family was “shocked” by the transformation. “I was really proud of him,” she said.

Although he said he had distanced himself from gang life, he lived in the Hilltop neighborhood in a home where police found several guns during the SWAT raid, which Carter said belonged to his grandma. And while his family said they were impressed by his efforts to leave gang life behind, he said his reputation among those in the Hilltop was harder to shake.

“People think they know you ... That’s not me no more,” he said.

Carter said he keeps to himself in prison. In 2009, he said he converted to Islam, and he said he socializes primarily with other Muslims. Carter said his faith has helped him overcome the anger he felt over what he said is a wrongful conviction. He said though he doesn’t have faith in the justice system, he trusts Allah to reveal the truth.

To read part one of the Justice Project investigation into the case click [HERE](#)




(Above) Carter, pictured in a booking photo from the time of the murder.


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