**POLICE STORY**

**Editors: Trim this down to 6-7 paragraphs. Edit for AP style, content, wordiness, taste, transition, spelling etc. Note that the fatal shooting occurred more than two weeks before this story about the arrest came out. The arrest, charges and possible motive are the NEW NEWS here – not the shooting. No one is convicted here; make sure to look over the presentation slides referring to crime story legal concerns.**

**At the end, list holes in the story (if any), unanswered questions, where the story should run in our imaginary greater Houston newspaper and what visuals (photos, graphics) could run with it if room allows.**

**Hed order: 2-30-2 (two lines; 18 counts per line, count range of 15-20)**

**Rival Rapper Arrested**

**In “Rap Battle” Killing**

**Associated Press** (DATELINE)

HALTOM CITY, STATE — ~~A rhyming contest between two rival aspiring rappers lead to one of the contestants fatally shooting the other in the head.~~

~~Christopher Smith, 17, DO NOT USE THE NAME OF A JUVENILE was shot last month after a "rap battle" escalated into a fistfight and then the shooting, according to an arrest warrant affidavit released Monday by the Haltom City police. His body was found partially nude in a field.~~

~~Samuel Raynard Jones, 18, was arrested Friday and is being held on a murder charge for the shooting. The Haltom City homicide investigation unit said they believe Jones is the only suspect at this time.~~

NEW LEAD: Samuel Raynard Jones, an 18-year-old rapper of LIST AN ADDRESS SO HE IS NOT CONFUSED WITH ANYONE ELSE WITH THE SAME NAME was arrested Friday on suspicion of murder in connection with a Sept. 15 ~~fight~~ shooting in which a fellow male rapper was killed, according to an arrest warrant affidavit released Monday by the Haltom City ~~police~~ Police Department.

The male rapper was shot in the head last month after a rhyming contest between two rival aspiring rappers led to a fist fight and escalated to a shooting, according to an arrest warrant affidavit released Monday by the Haltom City ~~police~~ Police Department.

According to the ~~affidavid,~~ affidavit ~~Smith~~ NO NAME BECAUSE HE IS A JUVENILE the slain rapper had filed a police report ~~about~~ a week before his death accusing Jones of threatening his life. ~~Strayer~~ Sgt. Terry Stayer, spokesperson for Haltom City ~~police~~ Police Department

said, ~~police~~ the department pursued the ~~the~~ report but ~~didn't~~ did not find enough evidence to charge Jones.

~~Witnesses told police the two teens met late Sept. 15 for a "wrap battle" in an open field in Haltom City, a suburb north of Fort Worth.~~

"[The two rappers] ~~They~~ were involved in these impromptu raps that took place in parking lots, at someone's house,” said Sgt. Terry Stayer, spokesperson for Haltom City ~~police~~ Police Department.

"They knew each other, and they had an ongoing rap battle," said Sgt. Stayer. She added, “They didn't like each other."

~~“They had ongoing back-and-fourth issues, and they didn't like each other."~~

~~According to the affidavit, the slain man rapped first. , and then Jones rapped next and pointed a handgun at the man. Jones then handed his gun to a bystander, After Jones’s rap, the man and Jones had a fistfight fist fight. When the fight ended, the man was collecting his personal belongings when Jones shot the man in the head, witnesses said. Smith’s body was found partially nude in the field.~~

Jones was serving ~~8~~ eight years’ probation on drug and deadly conduct charges at the time of the shooting, according to ~~Tarrantt~~ Tarrant County Criminal Court records.

~~Smith, a high school junior, had just recorded his second rap album and hoped to be a professional musician, family members said.~~

(NOTE: Take care with the chronology of events; it’s now the first week of October. The shooting was on Sept. 15. The arrest occurs on a Friday *two weeks after* the shooting. On the following Monday, police released documents that give details on the shooting and hint at a motive. Smith had filed a complaint against Jones *a week before* the fatal shooting. So the “new news” here is the information in the documents released by police.)

**COMMENTS / QUESTIONS / SUGGESTIONS:**

The article does not follow the chronology of events. Minors should not be named in articles. No address was given for Jones. He has a very common name. Witness statements that turn out to be false can be considered libel. Family statements are not important to the story. This story should run in the region section. Photos could include a mug shot, or picture of the scene.