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DOTHAN EAGLE

Teen to be tried as adult in murder

Now 16, boy charged in shooting death of Ozark 17-year-old one year ago

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The second suspect charged in the shooting death of an Ozark teenager will be charged as an adult.

Dale County District Attor-



Rodgers

ney Kirke Adams confirmed Joseph Martinez Rodgers, 16, of Ozark, now will be charged as an adult for the felony murder charge filed against him.

Adams said the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed the juvenile court's decision to transfer Rodgers' murder case to circuit court, charging him as an adult.

Rodgers became the second person charged as an adult in the shooting death of 17-year-old Christian Alexander Markoff on Feb. 2, 2014.

Adams also said Rodgers' arraignment hearing originally scheduled for today was delayed after Rodgers apparently submitted a request Monday for youthful offender status.

Adams said the YO request would be heard by the court sometime next month. Rodgers, who was 15 years

old at the time of the murder, initially was taken to the Southeast Alabama Juvenile Diversion Center. He was transferred to the Dale County Jail, where he's held on \$250,000 bail.

Investigators with the Ozark See **MURDER**, Page 3A

Murder

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Police Department arrested 19-year-old Quashawn Marquise Knight the day after the shooting, charging him with felony murder.

Knight applied for youthful offender status last No-

vember, which was denied by Circuit Court Judge William Filmore. He has been scheduled for trial in Dale County Circuit Court on Feb. 23.

Knight remains held at the Dale County Jail on \$250,000 bail.

Ozark police said Markoff was shot to death within a

block of his Ozark home. The shooting happened just after 10 p.m. on Young Avenue near Yancey Street, less than a mile from Carroll High where Markoff attended school.

Police investigators found and seized what they believe to be the murder weapon, a 9 mm handgun.