

Ozark

Teen denied youthful status in murder case

BY MATT ELOFSON

meloatson@dothaneagle.com

A Dale County judge denied the youthful offender request for a 16-year-old Thursday in connection with the shooting death of an Ozark teenager.

Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams said Circuit Court Judge William Filmore denied a request for youthful offender status made by 16-year-old Joseph Martinez Rodgers. Rodgers, of Ozark, is being charged as an adult with felony murder in the shooting of 17-year-old Christian Alexander Markoff on Feb. 2, 2014. Adams said Rodgers' trial

date has been specially set for May 4, and will be held in front of Filmore.



Rodgers

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

Investigators with the Ozark Police Department also arrested 19-year-

old Quashawn Marquise Knight the day after the shooting, charging him with felony murder. Rodgers became the second person charged as an adult in the slaying.

Rodgers, who was 15 years old

Knight applied for youthful offender status last November, which was denied by Filmore.

He has been scheduled for trial 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, which is located less than a mile from Carroll High, where Markoff attended school.