

MAN CLEARED IN DRUG DEATH JAILED IN SHOOTING

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Lodrick Parker, acquitted three weeks ago in the slaying of reputed drug dealer Richard (Maserati Rick) Carter in a Detroit hospital, was arrested Saturday after the drug-related shooting of a Detroit man near Gary, Ind., police said.

Parker was not charged in connection with the shooting in Merrillville, but remained in custody Monday, police said.

Parker and companion Maurice Harris were arrested Saturday night after a man identified as Patrick Wilson, 18, was shot and wounded outside a house near the Merrillville-Gary boundary.

Parker and Harris both gave Dayton, Ohio, addresses when they were arrested.

Based on witness accounts, Harris, 21, is being held on two counts of attempted murder in the shooting, police said.

But **Parker** does not face such charges because no witnesses said they saw him firing a weapon, said Lt. Joe Guzik of the Merrillville Police. He said **Parker** was being held in connection with the investigation pending possible charges.

Wilson, who was wounded in the hip, is wanted on a drug charge in Detroit, according to a warrant issued by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Merrillville police said **Parker** and Harris were taken into custody near the shooting scene after they allegedly discarded four guns and two bulletproof vests. The guns had the serial numbers drilled out, police said.

Rene Cooper, **Parker**'s lawyer in the Carter trial, said, "It's truly uncanny how this young man can get into these unfortunate situations."

Merrillville Police Chief Jerry McCorry said the shooting is being investigated as a drug-related slaying attempt.

A Recorder's Court jury acquitted **Parker** on Dec. 21 of killing Carter at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital in September. Carter was recovering from gunshot wounds.

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