

## **DETROIT: BUST AT CAR WASH YIELDS \$3 MILLION IN COCAINE, CASH**

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A Detroit Police drug bust netted about \$3 million in cocaine and cash Wednesday night from a **car wash** in southwest Detroit.

The amount of drugs and cash found - six kilograms of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$2.4 million and \$605,000 in cash - signals the **Omni Hand Car Wash** on West Vernor Highway near Clark was a distribution spot for dealers, the city's police chief said.

"Eliminating every drug house within the city limits is the ultimate goal of our department, but just as significant is choking the narcotic pipeline that supplies the dealers," Detroit Police Chief James Barren said.

Investigators arrested Gabriel Payano-Vasquez, 29, of Detroit, the only person at the **car wash** during the raid, Detroit Police spokesman James Tate said.

Payano-Vasquez was arraigned Thursday on one charge of possession with the intent to deliver more than \$1,000 in drugs and a felony firearm violation after police also said they found a handgun, Tate said.

Undercover investigators were tipped off about the stash during other drug raids in the city. Tate said the investigation is continuing.

So far this year, drug seizures in Detroit have netted an estimated \$8.2 million in narcotics and \$861,000 in cash proceeds from drug transactions, according to the department. Overall in 2008, the department netted an estimated \$83.3 million in drugs and \$3 million in drug proceeds.

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: Gabriel Payano-Vasquez

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