

EX-CON: COP HIRED ME TO KILL HIS WIFE - DETROIT SERGEANT ARRESTED IN PARKING LOT SHOOTING

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A man who says a Detroit police sergeant **hired him to kill his wife** is expected **to** be arraigned today in 36th District Court in Detroit.

Vincent Smothers, 27, was arrested Saturday night in Shelby Township after police received a tip from an informant.

He told officers of the multijurisdictional Violent Crimes Task Force that Sgt. David Cobb **hired him to kill** Rose Cobb, 47, on Dec. 26 while she was sitting in a vehicle in a CVS parking lot on East Jefferson and Dickerson on Detroit's east side.

Smothers confessed **to** killing Rose Cobb and nine other people, police said.

Officers from the Detroit police special response team arrested Cobb, 38, of Detroit without incident around 6 a.m. Sunday at **his** home. He remains in police custody.

Detroit police spokesman James Tate confirmed Cobb's arrest. "Sgt. Cobb's arrest is part of an ongoing investigation," Tate said.

Police said Smothers told officers that David Cobb, who was inside the store at the time of the shooting, paid him **to kill his wife** .

Details weren't immediately available on all of the other slayings he said he's responsible for.

Cobb works with the department's Eastern District. **His** status with the department is unclear today. A spokesperson at the Southwest District confirmed Cobb is being held and will likely be arraigned on felony charges Tuesday and that Smothers would be arraigned at 8 a.m. today.

Police wouldn't disclose what the charges would be. Maria Miller, spokeswoman for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, would not comment.

An arrest warrant was issued April 11 by the 36th District Court for Smothers on charges of first-degree murder, felony murder, assault with intent **to** murder and firearm offenses stemming from a June 21 shooting in the 17000 block of Gravier in Detroit in which he and an accomplice allegedly shot three people, killing two at an apartment complex.

The accomplice has been convicted of the crimes, according **to** a sworn affidavit filed April 15 by the FBI with the U.S. District Court in Detroit.

Smothers has two arrests, both in 1999. He was arrested in Wayne County for carrying a concealed weapon. He also was arrested in Oakland County for carrying a concealed weapon and for possessing stolen property. Smothers was sentenced **to** 1 year in prison for the Wayne County offense and 2 years, 8 months for the Oakland County crimes. He was discharged from **his** parole in 2003, according **to** Michigan Department of Corrections records.

Neighbors near Cobb's home on Edlie Circle off East Jefferson said they saw police take Cobb away. They said he walked out of the house without shoes, but police later went inside **his** home **to** get them.

Rose Cobb was shot multiple times in the head through a side window of the couple's minivan, police said at the time.

Cobb also had been a Wayne State University Law School student.

Mike Taylor, a third-year law student, said he had shared a class with Cobb the last four semesters and noticed Cobb stopped coming **to** class about a month ago. Taylor, 24, said he and Cobb sometimes talked about class, but not their personal lives.

Taylor said he knew Cobb's **wife** had been slain, but said Sunday's arrest surprised him.

"He seemed **to** be levelheaded," he said. "He seemed **to** be insightful. He seemed **to** be well-reasoned."

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: Vincent Smothers, 27, left, told police he killed 10 people, including Rose Cobb, **wife** of Detroit Sgt. David Cobb, 38, right. Police arrested Smothers on Saturday and Cobb on Sunday.

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