

## **FERNDALE: DEATH LEAVES MANY QUESTIONS - POLICE: SHOOTING MAY BE TIED TO PRISON**

Detroit Free Press (MI) - Thursday, April 12, 2007

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Retribution was the likely motive in the fatal shooting of a 48-year-old Detroit man, police say.

Charles E. Hardaway was shot four times in the leg Tuesday in a parking lot off 9 Mile in Ferndale, just blocks away from Police Department headquarters. Police said one of the bullets struck an artery.

Hardaway had been released less than two weeks ago from federal prison, where he was serving a 17-year sentence for charges tied to organized crime, Ferndale Police Lt. Norm Raymond said Wednesday.

Hardaway was charged in Ohio with conspiracy to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine, according to federal Bureau of Prisons records.

He was living in a halfway house in Detroit, Raymond said. He had been in prison in Leavenworth, Kan., and Milan.

There was no evidence the shooting was a robbery or part of a drug deal, Raymond said. No drugs were found at the crime scene or on any of the men involved.

"We believe it was retribution and has something to do with his time in prison or why he was there," Raymond said.

"It could be gang activity. It could be drugs. It could be anything organized crime-related. There is a lot of investigating to be done."

Two Detroit men, ages 28 and 27, were arrested Tuesday and are in the Oakland County Jail. Their names were not released.

Police say they expect the men will be charged with murder as early as today.

The 28-year-old slaying suspect was captured in a residential storage shed, off Spencer Avenue, about two hours after the shooting. Police say the 27-year-old drove a getaway vehicle.

Hardaway's cousin, a 50-year-old Detroit man, was at the shooting and drove Hardaway partway to Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak before police stopped him.

Hardaway was taken by ambulance the rest of the way to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

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PRINTED ARTICLE

Edition: METRO FINAL

Section: NWS; NEWS

Page: 3B

Index Terms: homicide; shooting; Ferndale; man victim; Charles E. Hardaway

Record Number: dfp0000415299

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