

## DRUG SUSPECT SLAIN FOLLOWING SNITCH RUMORS

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Joseph (DoDo) Foster -- hailed by some as the Pope of the Cass Corridor and indicted by federal grand jurors as a key player in a well-entrenched dope ring -- was gunned down outside his delicatessen amid **rumors** he might be ready to cooperate with authorities, investigators said Monday.

A gunman killed Foster, 56, Saturday outside the F & J Deli on John R at Adelaide. The gunman then fled in a gray car -- possibly a late model Chrysler.

"He was just walking into the deli and somebody popped him," his attorney William Bufalino II said Monday. "He fell right there in the doorway."

Wayne County Prosecutor John O'Hair said the killer will be found and the **drug** investigation will continue. "If they eliminate No. 1, we'll go after No. 2," O'Hair said. "The Lord took care of one and we'll take care of the other."

Foster was among 13 people indicted last week on charges of running a heroin and cocaine ring in the Cass Corridor and Brush Park areas just north of downtown Detroit. Officials said the ring had been a canker in the neighborhoods for years, and also dealt in black-market food stamps.

But Bufalino said that Foster, who owned numerous properties in the neighborhoods -- including a bar, a theater, apartment buildings and vacant lots -- was an upright businessman who earned the nickname of Pope for his generosity.

Investigators say they believe that Foster may have been killed to keep him from cutting a deal with authorities at the expense of others.

Lt. William Rice, a Detroit police homicide detective, said that theory is being investigated, as are other possible motives.

Robbery does not appear to be a motive.

Bufalino denied that Foster was going to turn **snitch** .

"Absolutely not, and he had no intention of cooperating," Bufalino said. "He maintained his innocence. He had nothing to fear."

O'Hair noted that residents steadily pressured authorities to shut down Foster, and that the **drug** investigation involving local and federal agencies will not be derailed by the killing.

Several pieces of Foster's real estate holdings were marked in the indictment for forfeiture for alleged links with criminal activities.

Police are searching for the gunman, described as a black man in his early to mid-30s. The **suspect**, police said, has a medium complexion and short hair and was wearing light denim jeans and a jacket with green sleeves.

Anyone with information can call the Detroit Police homicide section at 1-313-596-2260 anytime.

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