

POLICE IDENTIFY FROZEN BODY - FAMILY SAYS MAN WASN'T HOMELESS

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Author: CECIL ANGEL and BEN SCHMITT, FREE PRESS STAFF WRITERS

The man whose body was found frozen inside an elevator shaft in a vacant, rundown Detroit warehouse was identified Friday as 56-year-old **Johnnie Redding** of River Rouge.

On Thursday, authorities speculated that **Redding** was likely homeless, but his brother told the Free Press on Friday that was not the case.

"That's what I don't understand. They are saying he was homeless," said Homer **Redding**, 59, of River Rouge. "He had too many places he could live."

Homer **Redding** said his brother was a graduate of River Rouge High School and worked years ago at now-closed Detroit Steel. He said **Johnnie Redding** then worked as a handyman.

He said the last time he saw his brother was in September on **Johnnie Redding's** birthday.

"He was going out to celebrate his birthday, and I was going to work," he said.

Johnnie Redding lived at various places, including the family home on Holford, as well as with friends and a sister in Georgia.

Redding's cause of death had not been determined Friday by the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.

Only his legs protruded from a pool of frozen water where his body was found Wednesday inside the warehouse on 14th and Michigan.

Homer **Redding** said funeral arrangements are incomplete. **Johnnie Redding** is survived by a daughter, Tamika.

ILLUSTRATION: Photo

CAPTION: **Johnnie Redding** is joined by his cousin Patricia **Redding**.

CAPTIONWRITER: **Redding** family photo

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