

## **Shooting suspect has history of violence - Man in police custody for firing at five people in Detroit spent time in prison, was depressed and angry.**

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DETROIT -- A 26-year old ex-convict with a **history of** using guns and drugs is the **suspect** police are holding in connection with the **shooting of** five persons Thursday on the city's west side.

While homicide detectives have not fully established a motive for the **shootings** that took the lives **of** two people on Linwood, police sources told The Detroit News that the man -- who was released from a federal prison in July -- said he was angry, depressed and fed up. He could not get a job, his grandmother had recently died **of** AIDS, and another family member was robbed and beaten last week.

The man, whose name **has** not been released pending arraignment, also comes from a family steeped in **violence** , guns and drugs, according to Michigan Department **of** Corrections Records.

He was identified by one **of** his victims Thursday evening in a police line-up. A second line-up was held Friday afternoon. Detectives are expected to ask Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy on Saturday to issue warrants charging the man with the slaying **of** Ophelia Fry, 58, and Arthur James Smith, 49, and the wounding **of** Elton Ash, 51, Dennis Anderson, 49, and James Brown, 51.

"We are glad they have someone in custody, and we hope there is enough evidence to convict him. We would love to congratulate the Police Department for tracking him down," said Kim Higgins, Smith's sister-in-law. "Someone shouldn't get killed if they leave their house to take a walk, that's what people do on an everyday basis. People shouldn't have to look over their shoulder every time they leave the house."

Late Friday police were still seeking a second **suspect** , said Sgt. Omar Feliciano **of** the Public Information Unit.

Records show that the **shooting suspect** was released from the federal penitentiary in Milan on July 3 after serving a 50-month sentence for selling narcotics in a case filed in Lexington, Ky., in December 2001. Two counts **of** violent crime with involving drugs and machine guns and unlawful transport **of** firearms were dropped in exchange for the plea on the drug charge.

Michigan Corrections records show the man was convicted **of** carrying a concealed weapon in September 2000 and was sentenced to three years probation. He violated his probation by not reporting to his probation officer just before he was arrested in Kentucky.

State Corrections records also show that his 45-year-old mother and 50-year-old uncle are on parole for armed robbery and drug trafficking, respectively. She was released from prison last September.

In addition to armed robbery, she **has** been convicted **of** felony firearm, retail fraud and larceny from a building. Her record lists 13 different aliases.

The **suspect** 's uncle was paroled in December 2005 from a five- to 30-year sentence for drug trafficking. His record includes another drug conviction, felonious assault, unarmed robbery and malicious destruction **of** property.

Detroit City Council President Kenneth Cockrel Jr. said more police officers might not have prevented Thursday's incident, but getting more officers on the street must be part **of** the solution to Detroit's crime problem.

"I hear from citizens more frequently than I would like to that they are calling on the police and the police are not getting there in a timely fashion, and on certain property crimes not getting there at all," he said.

"There are a lot **of** citizens in the city who feel like they're living in the wild, wild, west."

Cockrel said the mayor, council and police chief need to talk about ways to improve police service given the city's budget crunch.

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