

SLAIN MAN IS IDENTIFIED AS A TENNESSEE DRUG DEALER

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A man found shot to death in **a** car in northeast Detroit was identified by police Tuesday **as** William Battle, **a** well-known **Tennessee drug dealer** .

The 53-year-old **man** , using the name William Caruthers, apparently had completed **a drug** transaction here over the weekend, police said. His body was found Monday.

POLICE GAVE this account:

Battle purchased **drugs** in Detroit for sale in **Tennessee** , where he has **a** long police record on narcotics charges.

He was the subject of **a** 12-hour search after **a man** was reported shot in the 17200 block of Mackay at 9 p.m. Sunday.

Officers found blood in the area but did not find **a** body or any evidence from hospital records that anyone answering the **man** 's description had sought treatment.

Area residents reported that **a** wounded **man** came to their homes seeking help Sunday night but that they were too frightened to let him in. They called police instead.

LATER, WOMEN saying they were Caruthers' wife and sister called police and said they had been told by **a** friend in Detroit that Caruthers had been shot and driven away in **a** white car.

Officers from the 11th (Davison) Precinct, sent to investigate **a man** slumped over the wheel of **a** car Monday morning, found Battle in **a** white car on Victoria near Anglin on the near northeast side. Nashville, Tenn., police helped to identify Battle.

Anyone with information about the victim may call the Detroit Police homicide section at 224-4280 anytime.

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