

Newspaper deliveryman robbed, killed

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DETROIT -- A Detroit Newspaper Partnership deliveryman was robbed and shot to death Sunday morning on the city's east side while on his route, according to police.

Joel Winterhalter, 52, of St. Clair Shores was shot twice between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. near East Warren Avenue and Cope Street, police said.

Winterhalter had parked his truck near a party store to put newspapers in a dispenser when he was shot and robbed of his wallet, according to a police report. He died en route to St. John Hospital and Medical Center, according to the report.

"Right now, we don't know what the motive is," said Detroit Police Det. Sgt. Charles Clark. "We are just following up on leads."

Clark said they are looking for a dark-colored Ford van that may have been at the scene of shooting.

Winterhalter, a single-copy sales representative, had been with the Detroit Newspaper Partnership since 1995, said Susie Ellwood, the company's executive vice president and general manager. The partnership runs the business operations of The Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press.

Lifelong friend Paul Latorella grew up near **Winterhalter** in Harper Woods and said his friend was a decent guy who liked cars and worked hard.

"He was just a regular guy," Latorella said. "He just wanted to go to work."

Latorella said he was concerned for his friend on his early-morning route in the city, but said **Winterhalter** "wasn't afraid of nothing."

Latorella said **Winterhalter** was divorced and had no children. Funeral services haven't been set.

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