

3 to be charged in shootout

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Men who police say were involved in drug bust will be arraigned; one suspect is hospitalized, one died.

By Tanveer AliThe Detroit News

WESTLAND — Arraignments are scheduled for 9 a.m. today for three of the four suspects arrested in a shootout with police Tuesday at the Merri-Warren Shopping Center, Westland Police said.

Benjamin Pringle, 32; Joseph Boldizar, 49; Demond Sanders, 29; and Roberto Reed, 32, all of Detroit, were charged Thursday afternoon for their role in the shootout, said Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Maria Miller.

A wounded suspect remains in the hospital and will not be arraigned. Miller would not say which one.

Another suspect, Brian Thomas, 28, died in the shootout of multiple gunshot wounds through his lower extremities, according to the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.

One of the men surrendered late Wednesday night, Westland Police said Thursday, while another who fled the scene was picked up the night before.

The five men, who police say were targeted in a drug bust, shot it out with Romulus Police officers conducting the sting.

The men were being set up to purchase 3 kilos of cocaine from an informant but instead planned to rob the seller, Romulus Public Safety officials said.

Up to 100 shots were exchanged, witnesses said. No officers or bystanders were injured, but Randy Hermiz, owner of Cafe Fire on Ice, said a patron sitting outdoors said she was 18 inches away from a bullet that shattered the front window of the business.

Two suspects were arrested at the scene, including one who ran into the Bob's of Canton-Westland supermarket where he ran in holding a gun and was wounded, police said.

Police arrested another man Tuesday night, when they tracked him to Detroit based on license plate information from the green Chevrolet Lumina he was driving.

Westland Police are expected to announce the litany of charges after the arraignments.

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