

CONVICTED DRUG DEALER HUNTED

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Detroit police launched an extensive manhunt Wednesday for convicted drug dealer and accused murderer **Curtis Napier** who they say shot at one police officer and threatened to kill others.

Wednesday's search extended to Lathrup Village, where **Napier** has been known to stay with friends, police said.

THE MANHUNT began after homicide Inspector Gilbert Hill received a death threat Wednesday morning purported to be written by **Napier**.

Some investigators speculated the letter might have been sent by a **Napier** enemy hoping police would remove him from the leadership struggle of the Young Boys Inc. drug trafficking organization.

Napier, indicted in a federal drug sweep earlier this year, pleaded guilty but became a fugitive June 14 when he failed to appear for sentencing.

Napier's attorney, W. Otis Culpepper, was attending a funeral in Trinidad and was unavailable for comment, his office said.

Hill said: "I've received maybe 50 death threats in the 14 years I've been a homicide investigator. I've only taken three or four of them seriously. This is one I'm taking seriously."

THE SCRAWLED, unpunctuated, profane and ungrammatical four-page letter on lined paper warned Hill:

"In the event of my arrest which I doubt anyway but if it does happen I have already informed some of my boys to take care of you and kill you as the same as if I was there doing it my self.

"So don't be no dam fool. Remember if you every try to take me you or your boys will have to kill me first or be killed in the worst way to.

"So you and your boys better back off cause I will kill anybody who comes between me and the things I want."

It was signed, "Your worst enemy Mr. Curt McGurk."

NAPIER, a 19-year-old known as Curt McGurk, still faces sentencing in the drug case and faces a murder charge as well as two other charges for assault with intent to commit murder.

He was charged in June with murdering Joseph (Wamp) Brown the day after he testified on behalf of Raymond Peoples, who claims to have been a founder of Young Boys Inc.

Investigators believe Brown might have been a victim of a power struggle within Young Boys Inc.

Napier also was charged in a warrant Tuesday with assault to commit murder for using a sawed-off shotgun to shoot at a police officer trying to arrest him Thursday.

IN THE LETTER to Hill, the writer also seemed to claim credit for a June 21 gangland-style shooting on the east side that left four men wounded.

"P.S." the writer said , "I wonder who did that shooting on the eastside on June 21 on Holcomb and Mack don't you."

In that case, a man wearing a black ski mask stood up through the sunroof of a car and opened fire with a semiautomatic rifle outside a party store.

The man who said he was Curt McGurk said in the letter he normally carries a sawed-off shotgun, two .45 caliber guns and a semiautomatic rifle.

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