

## REPUTED DRUG FIGURE SHOT DEAD DOWNTOWN

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**Demetrius Holloway** , a reputed drug dealer who once staged his own kidnapping and assassination to disappear for several months, was killed for real Monday in a late afternoon shooting at a downtown clothing store.

**Holloway** , 32, was shot twice in the back of the head about 4 p.m. at the Broadway, 1247 Broadway, just two blocks from Detroit Police headquarters.

"It took someone with a hell of a lot of nerve to hit him in the Broadway in broad daylight," said Steven Fishman, the lawyer who had been defending **Holloway** against federal efforts to seize his property as drug profits. "In the Broadway -- I just can't believe it."

**Holloway** , who told a family member he was going to buy some socks, was carrying \$17,000 and a handgun when he was shot, investigators said. Robbery is not considered to be a motive.

"It was a definite setup," an investigator said.

The shooting may be the latest episode in what some authorities believe is a battle for control of the city's drug trade.

Police were told that two young men in casual dress arrived in a late-model black BMW and pulled into a lot just north of the store before the shooting. They told the attendant not to park the car because they would only be a couple of minutes.

The men didn't return for about 45 minutes. Walking calmly to the lot -- one of them singing -- they paid the attendant \$10 and left.

Less than five minutes later, police arrived at the clothing store.

Police said **Holloway** was dead at the scene. No one else was harmed.

Relatives and friends of **Holloway** arrived at the store shortly after the shooting. They said they were notified of the shooting by a man who was supposed to meet **Holloway** at the store.

Archie Moore, 32, a former employee of the Broadway, said that **Holloway** was a regular customer.

"He was a nice guy as far as I was concerned. I never knew about his personal life," Moore said.

Other friends and **Holloway** 's wife, Wanda Jean, declined to comment. They waited outside the store after police declined to allow them to view the body.

Later, a federal agent came to the store and spent several minutes inside with Detroit police.

Chaton Hardaway, 17, who identified himself as **Holloway** 's son, said he last saw his father Monday morning, when **Holloway** said he was going to get some socks.

**Holloway** had been a target of a "major investigation" under way for several months, said Johnnie Granados, spokesman for the Detroit office of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

**Holloway** , who described himself in court testimony as a professional gambler, was an associate and childhood friend of Richard (Maserati Rick) Carter, the drug kingpin slain in a hospital bed in 1988.

**Holloway** was one of the first people Carter's family called after Carter was killed, **Holloway** once testified.

In the last month, Carter's older brother, Clyde, and several associates have been shot to death on Detroit's east side. A 39-year-old woman also was wounded last week when she was shot as she drove on I-75 after being called before a federal grand jury investigating **Holloway** .

"We've got a war going on there," said one local law enforcement official who has tracked **Holloway** 's career. He spoke on condition he wasn't named.

Fishman, who has represented **Holloway** since 1985, said he does not know if warfare has erupted among east side drug dealers.

"I'm just a lawyer," he said. "I have absolutely no idea what's going on out on the streets."

**Holloway** 's alleged drug career spanned several generations of drug-dealing organizations. His death ended a life filled with near-misses and elaborate ruses to throw pursuers on both sides of the law off his trail.

"He's got a lot of history," said a senior federal law enforcement official. "There are few people on the street who have as much as he did."

Beside the lifelong association with Carter, **Holloway** also was close to James (Red) Freeman, a convicted drug dealer who predated the rising domination of youth-based dope gangs in the late 1970s.

Investigators also believed **Holloway** , who had federal convictions for interstate transportation of stolen goods and drug violations, had significant ties to major east side drug rings during the 1980s.

In the late 1980s, authorities seized a Mercedes-Benz from his mother and two sporting goods stores, saying they were financed with drug proceeds.

As his legal troubles were growing, rivalries on the east side escalated in a series of shootings, reaching a peak with the dramatic hospital room slaying of Carter. Carter was killed as he recovered from gunshot wounds suffered in an attempt on his life.

The day after Carter was killed, **Holloway** testified on behalf of Freeman in a Recorder's Court drug and gun trial.

In his testimony, **Holloway** said he was a successful and legitimate gambler who frequented Las Vegas and Atlantic City. He said he always filed federal tax forms on his winnings.

**Holloway** 's tax records from the late 1980s report earnings from \$288,000 to more than \$780,000 annually.

But soon after his testimony for Freeman, **Holloway** disappeared in a blast of gunfire and squealing tires.

Customers and employees at an east side hamburger stand were astonished when gunshots rang out and a man's limp body was dumped into the trunk of a red car that roared into the night.

Police were told the man was **Holloway** . Investigators found empty shell cases but no blood at the scene, opening a debate whether **Holloway** was kidnapped and murdered or merely distancing himself from both enemies and authorities.

Meanwhile, Lodrick Parker was charged with the Carter killing, but was acquitted by a Recorder's Court jury.

Ten days after the acquittal, shots were fired into a Merrillville, Ind., home and police arrested Parker at a nearby market as he stuffed a bulletproof vest into a frozen food case.

The house in question was owned by **Holloway** , but he was not at home at the time of the attack.

After several months, **Holloway** returned to Detroit. During his absence he had married Wanda Jean Hardaway, sister of another reputed drug figure Charles (Chuckie) Hardaway, in a Las Vegas ceremony.

Caption: Photo

: **DemetriusHolloway**

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