

## DEATH ANGERS FAMILY BRUTALITY ALLEGED AS MAN DIES IN MALL SCUFFLE WITH GUARDS

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The family of a 32-year-old Detroit man who died in the custody of store security in a Dearborn mall parking lot said he was brutally choked to death by overzealous guards.

But Dearborn police said Friday they must wait for the results of an autopsy report before determining how **Frederick Finley** died on Thursday afternoon outside the Lord & Taylor department store at the Fairlane Town Center in Dearborn.

An autopsy was performed Friday but the doctor was unable to determine the cause, according to the Wayne County medical examiner's office.

Details of what happened vary between the family and police reports. But the incident appears to have involved a \$4 bracelet.

The family said this was a case of unnecessary force. They said that plainclothes security guards wrestled **Finley** to the ground, twisted a gold chain he was wearing around his neck, and then knelt on his throat until he died.

Attorney Geoffrey Fieger held a news conference Friday, calling the incident an "outrage." He said he plans to file a suit against Lord & Taylor next week.

Lord & Taylor did not return calls for information about its security.

Tracy LaCrosse, a spokeswoman for Nordstrom, which is not affiliated with Lord & Taylor, said she would not comment on security procedures at their stores. Calls to other stores either went unreturned or security officers declined comment.

**Finley**, along with his wife and other family members, were shopping at the Dearborn mall when they stopped at Lord & Taylor to buy some kids' clothing, according to family members. His stepdaughter, Teera, 11, wanted to buy a bracelet and slipped one on. Family members said they intended to pay for it when they finished shopping.

But Dearborn police said that security cameras showed family members were shoplifting. They took tags off jewelry and appeared to be working as a group. When they left the store, four security guards followed them to the parking lot, police said.

Police Chief Ron Deziel said Lord & Taylor security personnel asked the family to come back and talk about the jewelry. The family then attacked the security guards, punching and scratching them, Deziel said.

**Finley** was the main aggressor, said Deziel, and resisted apprehension. He was eventually handcuffed and then at some point became unresponsive, police said.

The rest of the family got into their car and tossed the bracelet out of the window, police said.

Family members say, however, that **Finley** merely was trying to protect his family members from an attack by plainclothes security guards who never identified themselves.

One security guard called Teera an expletive, "" said family members, and others "literally pounded" on her, according to Fieger. When **Finley** saw the guards allegedly harassing his daughter, he went out of his car to confront them.

Fieger said that after **Finley** was taken down, family members heard a security guard say: "You can do it the easy way, or I'll make you unconscious."

Dearborn police took three male security guards into custody and held them overnight. They were released Friday afternoon pending further investigation. Fairlane officials said their cameras did not record the incident. But Lord & Taylor may have caught the alleged shoplifting on film.

**Finley**, a construction worker who doted on his children, often stayed home to care for his children, a family member said. He grew up in southwest Detroit and has been with Carla for 10 years. Family members said he would do anything for his wife, including getting up at 1 a.m. to buy her cigarettes.

Said Mora Killebrew, **Frederick Finley's** mother-in-law:

"It's still unbelievable, in my mind, that he got taken away for something like a \$4 bracelet."

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Caption: Photo GABRIEL B. TAIT/Detroit Free Press

Carla **Finley**, left, and stepdaughter Teera Walker, 11, are escorted by attorney Geoffrey Fieger on Friday. **Finley's** husband, **Frederick**, died during an incident with store security at a Dearborn mall. **Frederick Finley** died in this parking lot outside Lord & Taylor. The trouble started over the alleged shoplifting of a \$4 bracelet. **Frederick Finley**

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