

## COPS STRUCK TRYING TO SUBDUE MAN AT CRIME SCENE

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Two Detroit police officers were struck in the face early Thursday while trying to subdue a man at a crime scene on West Warren, just a few blocks from where Malice Green was fatally beaten, police and witnesses said.

Officers have said they are being more cautious since Green died after a police beating Nov. 5 in the 3400 block of West Warren. Officers at the 3rd (Vernor) Precinct, in which Green was killed, have been told at roll calls to avoid patrolling the area of West Warren between West Grand Boulevard and the Jeffries Freeway.

It was unclear whether the two injured officers held back Thursday in trying to arrest the suspect.

Here's what police and a witness said happened:

About 12:45 a.m., **Michael Christian**, 21, and Larry Sanders, 38, were standing in front of the Clark Yellow Apple Food Store at 3888 W. Warren when two men pulled up in a car. An argument began.

A man who had been in the car fired shots at Christian and Sanders. Christian was hit in the chest and died at Henry Ford Hospital. Sanders was struck in the leg and was in temporarily serious condition at Ford.

A store employee, who asked not to be named, said police and an ambulance converged on the scene. A 26-year-old man, who officials said may have been related to Christian, began interfering with the ambulance workers, and 4th (Fort-Green) Precinct Officers Sylvia Ellison and Cedric Harris asked him to leave.

The man "beat the two cops," the store employee said, either punching or pushing them.

About 15 other officers arrived, some with shotguns, and a gathering crowd urged the officers not to hurt the suspect, who was arrested without further problems.

Ellison and Harris suffered minor injuries to the mouth and face. The 26-year-old man was arrested for assaulting the officers.

In a related development, former Los Angeles Police Chief Darryl Gates, appearing Thursday night in Ann Arbor, criticized Detroit officials for condemning officers in the Green beating, saying the officials did "what they thought was politically correct . . . but I thought it was wrong."

Gates said he hopes Malcolm X's positive message reaches the public -- that "you take rage and you use it to get control of your life and take responsibility for your life." Added Gates, "Rioting serves no useful purpose."

About 100 protesters tried to disrupt Gates' appearance. One man was arrested for disorderly conduct.

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