

NEIGHBORS DESCRIBE FATAL STRUGGLE

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One of the police officers surrounding **Jesse White** asked him, "Why do you want to do the baby like that, man?" Then they "jumped him," according to a neighbor who said she witnessed the struggle on Detroit's far west side Monday night in which three people died.

Sherry Porter, who lived next door to **Jesse White**, said it was during the struggle with police that White and Officer Andre Barksdale, both 22, were shot and killed and Sgt. John Mitchell, 42, was wounded.

THE OFFICERS shot White in the leg and as he fell they grabbed the baby, six-month-old Mercedes Smith, and started beating White with flash lights and guns, Porter said. White disarmed one of the officers and started shooting, and the officers returned fire, she said.

"They shot him in the forehead, the chest and all over," said Porter, who watched the shooting from her front porch.

She said she saw White had just returned to the neat, newly painted white, one-story frame house with the baby when police surrounded it.

The police asked him to come out of the house and he did, holding the baby and a knife, she said.

"He came at the officers," and they backed up a little then one shot him in the leg, Porter said.

WHEN HE went down he cut the baby and it was unclear whether it was accidental or on purpose, Porter said.

As he fell, one of the officers grabbed for the baby, Porter said. Another witness, who was not identified, said: "When he got up the baby's head was laid back."

As an officer grabbed the child, other officers jumped White, Porter said, and in the struggle he managed to wrestle a gun from one of the officers and began firing.

The officer was rushed to the hospital immediately but White was left to lay there for 40 minutes, Porter said. "He just laid there and died," she said.

Police said White was pronounced dead at the scene.

Barksdale and the baby were dead on arrival at Mt. Carmel Mercy Hospital.

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