

POLICE RECOVER MAN FROZEN IN ICE IN DETROIT WAREHOUSE

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Author: BEN SCHMITT, ZACHARY GORCHOW AND TAMMY STABLES BATTAGLIA,
Free Press staff writers

Detroit police searched a vacant **warehouse** for about 30 minutes after receiving a call from a newspaper that a body was **frozen in** an elevator shaft inside, according to documents obtained by the Free Press.

On Tuesday, **police** logged a call of a "body **in** elevator shaft **in** mid of bldg," according to **police** reports. They took the call around 4:46 p.m. and officers dispatched at 4:47 p.m. to an old **Detroit** Public Schools **warehouse** on 14th street and Michigan Avenue.

At 5:18 p.m. **police** reported that they entered the cavernous building and at 5:45 p.m. logged **in** that they did not find a body.

Detroit News reporter Charlie LeDuff called back Wednesday and **police** and firefighters found the body of an unidentified **man**, using saws to extricate him. His name and cause of death are still not known.

The building is owned by Manuel Moroun, who also owns the vacant Michigan Central Depot, an 17-story train station that has been vacant since 1988. Moroun also owns the Ambassador Bridge.

Detroit Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr. said his office is working with the **police** and fire departments to determine whether 911 functioned properly.

"Certainly it's a tragedy and it's not something that we want to see become standard operating procedure by any stretch," he told reporters. "Before I comment further, I'm more focused on trying to find out exactly what happened and why it happened and where there may or not have been a breakdown."

Cockrel said the building probably should be torn down, but large abandoned structures can cost millions to raze -- and the city is looking into whether any of the expected federal stimulus money could be put to that use. Ideally, Moroun would level the building or redevelop it, but the city doesn't have the money to front the cost of demolition and then bill him as it does to owners with smaller blighted structures, Cockrel said.

"Economically, it's always been an issue for the city to go after buildings of that size," he said.

Councilman Kwame Kenyatta said he faults Moroun for the situation more than 911 and questioned how Moroun could still leave the building unsecured.

"It lays at the doorstep of Matty Moroun," he said. "This **man** is the richest person **in** the state. ... He more than anybody else has the capacity to resolve that issue."

Dan Stamper, president of Moroun's **Detroit** International Bridge Co., has not yet returned a call.

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