

Store deaths spur talk of law change

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DETROIT -- Michigan **law** should be changed to forbid **store** security guards from physically interfering with suspected shoplifters, an activist said.

Instead, guards should gather information, such as descriptions and license plate numbers, to pass on to police, the Rev. Horace Sheffield III, a Detroit minister and activist, said Sunday.

"You don't know what kind **of** (medical) condition these people are in," Sheffield said.

Sheffield was reacting to the **death** Friday **of** Alwanda Jackson-Person, 36, who died after she struggled with security guards at a Rite-Aid drugstore on Detroit's east side. When Jackson-Person left the **store** with \$200 worth **of** merchandise, a security guard followed her to a van and, with the aid **of** another employee, forced her back into the **store**.

Jackson-Person was handcuffed with plastic restrainers, but she broke free, police said. Her hands were then tied with an electrical cord and an employee sat on her while awaiting police.

She later died. Autopsy results are pending toxicology tests.

Jackson-Person's **death** was the third in less than a year **of** people who have struggled with security guards over suspected shoplifting incidents.

Sheffield and attorney Geoffrey Fieger, who represents families in the first two **deaths**, have scheduled a news conference today to discuss, among other subjects, proposed legislation.

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