

MAN INDICTED IN CAR LOT HIT - AUTHORITIES SAY DETROITER KILLED DEALER TO KEEP HIM QUIET

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A federal grand jury has indicted a Detroit man in the killing of a used car dealer to prevent him from talking to investigators about cocaine trafficking.

The indictment, issued Tuesday, said Herman Norman Johnson, 38, of Detroit conspired to murder **Waad Murad**, 39, of West Bloomfield Township. **Murad** was shot in the head March 17 while sitting in a vehicle in his car lot, the Metro Car Company, near 7 Mile and Woodward in Detroit.

Murad was under investigation at the time, suspected of selling high-end cars to drug traffickers in a money-laundering scheme, the indictment said.

Agents searched the lot in November 2004 and found evidence linking **Murad** to a man identified as "Contractor." In March, Contractor offered to pay Johnson to kill **Murad**, suspecting that he was providing information to authorities, the indictment said.

On March 17, Johnson walked onto the lot to ensure **Murad** was there. Moments later, someone approached **Murad** and shot him point-blank in the head, the indictment said.

Eleven days later, police searched Johnson's home in the 14200 block of Strathmoor and found the .357 handgun used in the killing, the indictment said.

On April 6, a federal grand jury indicted Johnson as a felon in possession of a firearm, and he was held pending trial.

The latest indictment charges him with murder and conspiracy to commit murder to prevent someone from providing information about a federal crime to a federal law enforcement officer. That charge carries a maximum penalty of life in prison or death.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Lemisch said the Justice Department will review the case and decide whether to seek the death penalty.

Johnson's lawyer did not return calls.

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