

SWORN AFFIDAVIT
IN
THE COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA
IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

I Marzell Black, Solemnly swear and affirm that the following information is true.
I'm coming forward with this information on my own recognizance and have not been
~~threatened or coerced in any way by any party mentioned in this affidavit.~~

I am willing to testify in open court under oath before any Magistrate/Judge or
district attorney involving this information.

The firearm the Detroit Police found at the time of Searcy's arrest belonged to my
co-defendant Vincent Smothers. This firearm was used in the homicide that took
place on Sunday September 5th, 2005, at the city airport.

Vincent Smother's a.k.a Vito gave this firearm to his co-defendant in this case,
name Jefferey a.k.a J.Baby.

I know about the Skinnyman case because Vito told me about this case and the
Lavontae Sanford case, while we were going to court for the killing of a Detroit
Police officer's wife named Rose Cobb.

I know for sure that Skinnyman didn't commit this murder because he confessed to
me , and gave me too much information about the murder.

I devolved this information to Skinny man in detail on (3-16-2017).

Signed by: Marzell Black # 771579

On: March 17th, 2017

In The County Of Chippewa

Before: _____

D. PLUMM *D. Plumm*
Notary Public, State of Michigan
County Of Chippewa
My Commission Expires 08-07-2023
Acting in the County of Chippewa



Photos by Brandy Baker / The Detroit News

Vincent Smothers, right, and Marzell Dixon are charged in Rose Cobb's killing. Smothers told police he killed Cobb's wife.

Hit man tells how he killed Detroit cop's wife

■ Two men face murder trial, but husband accused of hiring them hasn't been charged.

BY GEORGE HUNTER
The Detroit News

DETROIT — Self-professed hit man Vincent Smothers described to police the last horrifying seconds of Rose Cobb's life as she sat in the passenger seat of her minivan in the parking lot of an east side drug store.

"I broke out the window, and demanded her purse. She was screaming," Smothers said in his April 19 confession, which was read aloud Monday by Detroit Police Investigator Ira Todd during Smothers' preliminary hearing in 36th District Court.

"She was afraid. I wanted to take her purse so it wouldn't look like a contract kill, but she was panicking; moving around too much. To keep from any further delay, I shot her in the head," Smothers told police of the Dec. 26 murder. "She fell across the console toward the driver's seat."

Please see Hit man, Page 5B



Taneeka Gary, left, and Elizabeth Latham, relatives of victim Rose Cobb, listen to testimony in court Monday.

EXHIBIT #1

Hit man

Continued from Page 1B

Cobb was shot four times in the ice at close range.

Smothers, 27, and Marzell lack 20, the man who allegedly elped set up Rose Cobb's hit, ere bound over for trial Monday y 36th District Judge Mark Ran on. The two men face a May 27 rraignment in 3rd Circuit Court n first-degree murder charges.

Meanwhile, Detroit Police Sgt. avid Cobb, who was arrested pril 20 in connection with his ite's slaying and released a day ter, is still under investigation y the Police Department's Inter- al Affairs Unit and the Wayne ounty Prosecutor's Office.

Although Smothers' confes- on was enough for the judge to ind the case over, University of etroit Mercy Law Professor Lar- r Dubin said it isn't enough to plicate Cobb.

"The only way (Smothers') ac- sations would stand up is if he ere to go into court and offer at statement under oath," Du- in said. "That way, the police offi-

cer's attorney would be able to cross-examine him about the alle- gations. Otherwise, to allow that statement would be a violation of (Cobb's) Sixth Amendment right (which guarantees a defendant the right to confront an accuser)."

Cobb was suspended without pay April 24 for conduct unbecoming an officer, pending the outcome of an internal affairs investigation. When he was arrested, police officials said Cobb hired Smothers to kill his wife, and that Black, the son of Cobb's girlfriend, Sheila Black, acted as a go-between in the murder plot and drove the getaway car on the night of the killing.

But Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy's office said there wasn't enough evidence to charge Cobb, and he was released from jail.

Approached at his home last week by Detroit News reporters, Cobb said, "I can't say anything except that there's a side to this that no one in the media has asked me about at all." He declined to elaborate.

Smothers told police that Black introduced him to David Cobb in November 2007. The

three men met in a Coney Island restaurant on Gratiot a few weeks before the murder, Smothers told Todd, the investigator.

Cobb told Smothers during that meeting that he should expect to be questioned about the murder, Smothers said.

"He said, 'As long as they don't have the gun, they don't have nothing,'" Todd said, quoting from Smothers' statement. "He said Cobb told him five times: 'Make sure you get rid of the gun.'" Smothers also told police, "(Cobb) said I wouldn't get any less time if I said he hired me. And he said (investigators) would play good cop/bad cop to try to confuse me."

Smothers said he had no problem performing hits on drug dealers — but the Rose Cobb killing was too much for his conscience to take.

When asked how he felt after killing the 47-year-old woman, Smothers told police, "My stomach was in knots. I thought she was innocent."

Smothers said he took on the job because he owed \$5,000 to Black. "He was on my back," Smothers said of Black.

Vincent Smothers / Marzell Black

1 **16** **17**

Vincent Smothers
 27-year-old Shelby Township man who police say confessed to these killings in Detroit.

Marzell Black
 20-year-old Detroit man who police say aided Smothers in the killing of Rose Cobb.

2 **17**
 12:00 p.m. at Stassburg, Va.
 Victim: Carl Thornton, 29, a wounded 22-year-old woman survived.
 7:25 p.m.

3 **24**
 5:00 p.m. at 5900 block of Jos. Conroy, two Chicago-area men shot dead.
 Victims: Marshall White Jr., 26 and Johnny Marshall, 64.
 11:50 a.m.

4 **21**
 11:00 a.m. at Detroit Tech. Center.
 Victims: Clarence Gaudreault, 16, an 18-year-old woman survived.
 6:15 p.m.

5 **26**
 12:00 p.m. at Jefferson (CVS) bank in Valley.

DETROIT

7 Mile
 Outer Dr.
 Hoover
 Van Dyke
 Conner
 Warren
 Mack
 Jefferson
 8 Mile

VICTIMS SURVIVED

East-side hits

These are the locations where suspect Vincent Smothers told police he carried out contact killings. Smothers is charged with first-degree murder in three of the killings. The other embourgeois investigation.