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Gunman wounds brother before killing himself, Denver police say

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Article Text:

A gunman apparently critically wounded his brother and killed himself when a police officer arrived at his house late Friday and fired a bullet at him, authorities said.

The man who died, who was in his 40s, committed suicide in the 2000 block of South Clay Street at about 11:30 p.m., said Sonny Jackson, Denver police spokesman. He was found dead inside the house.

Authorities are not releasing the names of the officer or the men involved in the first shooting.

Detectives are investigating the motive for the initial shooting, Jackson said.

When police arrived at the white, one-story adobe home with a "Beware of Owner" sign on the porch, they found the wounded man inside and searched for the shooting suspect, he said.

The male victim was taken to Denver Health Medical Center, where he was in critical condition Saturday.

Jackson said an officer fired a shot at the shooting suspect. But preliminary autopsy results indicate that the man committed suicide, he said.

Neighbors said two brothers and an uncle lived in the home. The men were friendly and eagerly helped with building projects, said Louann Welbourn, 52.

"I was sound asleep until I heard my dogs barking," Welbourn said.

The men were mostly quiet, but on Friday nights, they would play loud music, neighbors said.

Welbourn said she sometimes heard them arguing.

One of the men recently showed Welbourn his .357-caliber short-barrel pistol and urged her to get one for protection.

"He's a macho kind of a guy," she said.

The Denver district attorney's office and police monitor Richard Rosenthal were called to the scene to investigate the shooting, Jackson said.

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