

Harold McCormick murdered in Royal Oak Township apartment

By *CHERYL ZUPAN*

ROYAL OAK TOWNSHIP – Police are on the lookout for a man (pictured on the front cover of this issue) in connection with a murder of a Royal Oak Township gay man. A video store camera photographed the suspect with the victim shortly before the victim was murdered. The suspect may also be questioned in connection with three other murders that occurred in the last three months in the Detroit area.

Harold McCormick, 65, was killed late May 10 or early May 11 in his Royal Oak Township apartment, police said.

Neighbors said that they didn't hear any screams and that they didn't see anything unusual. So it was not until 9:40 p.m. May 11 that Donnell Johnson discovered his uncle's body at the Northgate Apartment complex on Greenfield Road. Johnson was a regular visitor.

Police say they believe McCormick knew his killer because there were no signs of forced entry. And because the apartment was clean and its contents orderly, police believe the killer was a strong man. McCormick was 6 feet 1, 190 pounds.

"Because of the condition of his apartment, it's someone he knows," Royal Oak Township Police Detective Robert Aeillo told the media.

"This was not a random act. Robbery is not a motive because nothing was taken but his rental car."

Detroit Police found the rented Pontiac Grand Am at 1:30 p.m. May 11, eight hours before McCormick's body was discovered in his living room. Michigan State Police searched the car for evidence and fingerprints.

McCormick was the CEO of a Detroit-based



Harold McCormick, 65, was killed late May 10 or early May 11 in his Royal Oak Township apartment, police said.

Quality Human Service. He was a social worker mostly with poor, elderly and disabled people.

He spent his life fighting for civil rights. He traveled across the country alongside Martin Luther King Jr. And in the Ebenezer AME Church in Detroit, he prayed for peace and acceptance.

When Johnson, 26, walked into his uncle's unlocked apartment May 11, it looked as pristine as always, he said. The proclamations awarded by Louisiana and Michigan politicians were hanging straight. The stacks of photos, all images of McCormick with high-profile leaders such as King, Jesse Jackson, former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young and current Mayor Dennis Archer were in order.

"All of that was basically his life," Johnson said.