Local DJ killed in car jacking

BY JASON MICHAEL

DETROIT - Popular DJ Kenny Heron was fatally shot during a botched car jacking on Detroit's West Side Sept. 26. Heron, 33, was making a quick run to the gas station for cigarettes at about 11:50 p.m. when a man approached him while stopped at a light and ordered out him out of his car.

Instead, Heron tried to flee in his 1995 burgundy Ford Escort. The escape attempt, however, cost him his life. He was shot through the car window three times.

According to Officer Woods of the Detroit Police Department, Heron drove until he hit a pole, at which time he abandoned the car and made it to the gas station on foot. Once there, however, the station attendant would not let him.

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Heron then drove back to the crime scene, where he collapsed sometime before EMS arrived on the scene. Taken to Grace Hospital, Heron died shortly after arrival.

Best known for his Wednesday night sets at Off Broadway East, where he had spun for nearly five years, Heron had also worked at the Michigan Humane Society for several years.

"He was an outgoing person, very relationship oriented, always trying to do for other people," said friend DeShawn Dozier. "He loved his music, loved deejaying, and he loved the gay community."

Several friends and family members gathered at OBE last Wednesday as news of Heron's passing spread throughout the community. DJ John Jammin' Collins paid tribute to Heron before asking the crowd for a moment of silence in remembrance, which was followed by a lengthy round of applause in Heron's honor.

"He'd want everyone to party so we played 'Release All the Pressure,' which was one of his favorites," said Collins.

"It's sort of a slap in the face and a wake-up call about being honest and saying what you need to say to people," said Chris Jones, a longtime friend and former co-worker. "Fortunately Kenny didn't have any enemies. But there were people who had things to say to him that now they won't be able to."