

Elizabeth man dies of wound from gunshot
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An Elizabeth man who was shot during an assault in the city last week succumbed to his injuries yesterday, police said.

John Zephirin, 29, was at University Hospital in Newark where he died at 6:56 a.m., said Elizabeth Detective Thomas Koczur.

Zephirin had been hospitalized since the attack at 11 a.m. Thursday, when he was allegedly shot by a man he knew. Abdul Griggs, 32, of Piscataway has been charged with murder and weapons offenses. He was still being held yesterday in the Union County jail on \$800,000 bail. The incident at 11 a.m. occurred at 350 Irvington Ave., on the grounds of Oakwood Plaza, a six-building complex where residents have repeatedly called for more security.

While officials would not comment on the motive for the shooting, "both the shooter and the victim are known to each other and apparently had an ongoing dispute," Koczur said.

"It appeared there was a conversation before shots were fired," the detective said. Griggs allegedly was the only one who opened fire, possibly with a handgun. The weapon has not yet been recovered. Zephirin was shot in the back.

Griggs left the scene, but was later arrested at the intersection of Westfield and Elmora avenues, Koczur said.

Koczur is investigating the case along with Detective Harvey Barnwell of the Union County Prosecutor's Office. Anyone with information is asked to contact Koczur at (908) 558-2048.

Zephirin becomes the 26th slaying victim in Union County this year. Last year, there were 36 homicides in the county.