



“For Immediate Release”

## ***Auburndale Police Department News Release***

9/8/2008

**Media Contact:**

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### **Follow up Release of Information**

#### **Auburndale Police Seek Suspect In Saturday Morning Shooting**

Investigators have named a suspect in the Saturday morning shooting of Gerardo Francisco “Frankie” Gafford W/M DOB 2/18/1980.



Eddie James Laster Jr.

Eddie James Laster Jr. B/M 6-20-1976 of 310 Green Street in Auburndale is being sought for the shooting. A warrant has been issued for Laster Jr. for attempted murder, possession of a firearm during a felony and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Investigators are still looking into a motive for the shooting. Laster Jr. and Gafford are acquaintances.

On 9/6/2008 at approximately 5:30am police were dispatched to the area of Ernest Drive located in the

Wellington Apartment Complex in Auburndale. Callers advised of hearing several shots fired in the area.

Police arrived and discovered Gafford laying in the street. He had been shot three times in his legs with a .45 caliber handgun. Gafford is listed in stable condition at Lakeland Regional Medical Center.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Laster Jr. is asked to contact Detective Carin Ketcham or Detective Andrew Moore at the Auburndale Police Department, (863) 965-5555. Those who wish to remain anonymous may call the Auburndale Police Department Criminal Activity TIP Line at (863) 968-5200.

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