

Subject: Suspect Identified from the March 2015 Homicide Investigation

Date: 12/23/15

Narrative

Gulfport, FI – The Gulfport Police Department has identified and charged a suspect with murder in the March 2015 homicide that occurred in the 1400 block of 52nd St S.

The suspect has been identified as Jeffrey Stephens, DOB 07/14/90, who was also a drug dealer that sold illegal narcotics to the deceased, Michael Dayton. The 8.5 month long investigation has directly connected Stephens to Dayton. Witness statements have corroborated physical evidence linking Stephens as the shooter.

Stephens is currently serving prison time for unrelated felony charges. Gulfport police detectives have officially charged Stephens with murder on 12/21/15 for this homicide.



Previous release below:

Subject: Homicide Investigation

Date: 3/29/2015

Narrative

Gulfport, FL--The Gulfport Police Department is currently investigating a homicide in the 1400 block of 52nd Street South.

Officers responded to the area shortly before 2:00 am reference shots fired and found a 41 year old male, conscious and breathing, complaining of a gunshot wound. He was immediately transported to Bayfront Medical Center where he succumbed to his injuries.

The victim has been identified as Michael A Dayton, DOB of 06/06/73. Next of kin has been notified.

Preliminary evidence indicates that Dayton was killed following an attempt to set up a transaction to purchase crack cocaine from an as-yet-unidentified drug dealer. Dayton's Department of Corrections photograph is attached; he was on probation for robbery with a deadly weapon.

Crime Scene Investigators from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office responded to scene to provide assistance under the terms of a longstanding agreement between Gulfport PD and the sheriff's office. Detectives from Gulfport are overseeing the investigation.

If anyone has any information regarding this incident, please contact the Gulfport Police Department dispatch at 727-582-6177.

Media representatives seeking interviews should contact the office of Chief Robert Vincent (727-893-1049) on Monday, 3/30, after 8:30 AM. Investigators will not be prepared to give interviews prior to that time; however, any new information will be posted on the police department website under the "News" section.

