



Thomas E. Brown, Sheriff

NEWS RELEASE

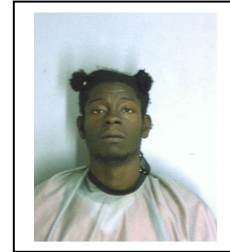
DeKalb County Sheriff's Office
4415 Memorial Drive
Decatur, GA 30032

October 23, 2009

DEPUTIES ARREST SUSPECT IN MURDER OF 22-YEAR-OLD LITHONIA RESIDENT

DeKalb County Sheriff's Office Fugitive Squad deputies arrested 26-year-old Lithonia resident Robert Cooper Thursday, October 22, 2009, for the murder of Joshua Cortell Franklin, age 22, of Lithonia.

Cooper allegedly shot Franklin with a handgun on October 20, 2009, near 5653 Saint Thomas Drive in Lithonia. About one hour prior to the shooting, the two men were involved in an altercation at Petite Lane and Young Road, according to official reports.



Witnesses transported Franklin to a nearby hospital where he was said to be in critical condition. DeKalb County police charged Cooper with aggravated assault. Franklin later died as a result of his wounds, and Franklin's charge was changed to murder.

Deputies arrested Cooper without incident at Panola Road and Covington Highway. He is housed in the DeKalb County Jail without bond.

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