



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

Sergeant Frank Sousa
Public Information Office
(954) 828-6433
FSousa@fortlauderdale.gov

May 6, 2009

ARMED ROBBERS CAUGHT

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department, in conjunction with the Broward Sheriff's Office, is pleased to announce the arrest of two violent felons who committed a series of armed robberies within the City of Fort Lauderdale and various areas of Broward County.

During the month of April 2009, four armed robberies occurred. Three armed robberies occurred at convenience stores and another was committed at a gas station. The City of Fort Lauderdale had their first robbery at the Shop & Save located at 427 West Sunrise Boulevard and the second robbery occurred at the Rainbow Supermarket at 101 Southwest 31 Avenue. During both of these robberies, the culprits entered the stores armed with a handgun and demanded money. In each of these robberies the victims complied, fearing for their lives, and the culprits fled the area to an unknown location.

Detectives from the City of Fort Lauderdale were contacted by detectives from the Broward Sheriff's Office Robbery Unit. Information was received on a possible suspect and his whereabouts. Surveillance was established by Fort Lauderdale Police, Broward Sheriff's Office, and members of the FBI Fugitive Task Force on April 30, 2009. After a period of time, authorities were able to arrest Jeffrey Sturridge, B/M, 09/01/1988, and a Fort Lauderdale resident. Sturridge was charged with four counts of armed robbery.

Subsequent to this arrest, detectives from Fort Lauderdale were able to develop probable cause on Ernest Washington, B/M, 04/11/1988, and a Fort Lauderdale resident. Washington was taken into custody on May 5, 2009 by members of the FBI Fugitive Task Force. Washington has been charged with 3 counts of armed robbery and one count of burglary.

Through the hard work, dedication, and the spirit of cooperation amongst the Fort Lauderdale Police Department and the Broward Sheriff's Office, two violent offenders have been removed from our streets. The citizens of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County are safer because of this.



Jeffrey Sturridge



Ernest Washington

###