Two Men Arrested For Saturday Night Shooting Death

Two men arrested during the overnight hours in connection to the late Saturday night homicide of 31-year-old Sharone Stafford in New Bedford. Both men were arraigned in New Bedford District Court on Monday, November 25th.

Elito Mendes is charged with carrying an illegal firearm, armed robbery, and the obstruction of justice portion of the witness intimidation statute. He has plead NOT GUILTY and will be held on $150,000 cash bail or $1.5 million with surety.

Samir Baptista is presently charged with accessory to murder before the fact and is being held without bail. He has pleased NOT GUILTY.

Because the investigation is still extremely active and ongoing, the District Attorney's office will not be able to provide any further information on the facts of the case until the probe has been closed.

Police received calls reporting gunshots in the area of Winsor and Crapo streets around 11:45 Saturday night. Upon arrival at the scene, police and rescue personnel located a male victim lying in the street on Winsor Street, near where it intersects with Crapo Street. The male victim was later identified as Sharone Stafford, 31, of New Bedford.

Mr. Stafford was rushed to St. Luke’s Hospital, where he was pronounced dead shortly after midnight on Sunday morning.

The State Medical Examiner’s Office has taken custody of the deceased and will be perform an autopsy to determine an exact cause and manner of death. **UPDATE: The medical examiner determined the cause of death to be a homicide.**

Assistant District Attorney Dennis Collins will be handling the arraignments today in New Bedford District Court.