

From: "MSP MediaRelations" <MSP.MediaRelations@pol.state.ma.us>
Date: July 2, 2012 2:29:36 PM EDT
Subject: **THIRD UPDATE--Investigation into Non-Fatal Shooting on Rt 495 in Merrimac**

**MASSACHUSETTS STATE POLICE
OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIRD UPDATE

The 16-year-old girl who was shot yesterday while inside a car on Route 495 in Merrimac has been released from Anna Jacques Hospital in Newburyport and is home with her family in Maine. To reiterate, Massachusetts State Police do not release the names of juvenile victims.

The investigation into the shooting by Troop A of the Massachusetts State Police, with the assistance of the Essex County State Police Detective Unit, the State Police Crime Scene Services Section, and the State Police Ballistics Unit, remains active.

Preliminary investigation suggests the shooting followed a road rage altercation between the driver of the sport utility vehicle in which the girl was a passenger and the suspect's vehicle, which we continue to seek. The suspect's vehicle is described as a white Honda Accord with tinted windows and a license plate containing the colors white, red, blue – possibly a Massachusetts plate. The suspect vehicle was operated by a white female who was wearing sunglasses. The passenger in the suspect vehicle, who is alleged to have fired the shots at the victim's vehicle, is described as a light-skinned African-American or Hispanic male with short hair who was wearing a gray t-shirt and sunglasses.

The sequence of events that preceded the shooting remains under investigation, but may have included one or both cars cutting the other off at some point.

The photo below shows the white 2002 Nissan XTerra in which the shooting victim was a passenger. The XTerra was also occupied by

three of the victim's family members. The left side second-row window shows an area of glass that has been shot out.

We believe traffic was heavy on Route 495 at 12:17 p.m. yesterday, the time of the shooting incident. **If anyone saw the white Honda Accord suspect vehicle, or if anyone saw the sport utility vehicle pictured below, in that area at that time, they are urged to call the Massachusetts State Police Barracks in Newbury at (978) 462-7478.** We do not anticipate releasing any further information today unless there is a significant development.



David Procopio
Massachusetts State Police
Office of Media Relations
470 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01702

(508) 820-2623