

U.S. MARSHALS OPERATION

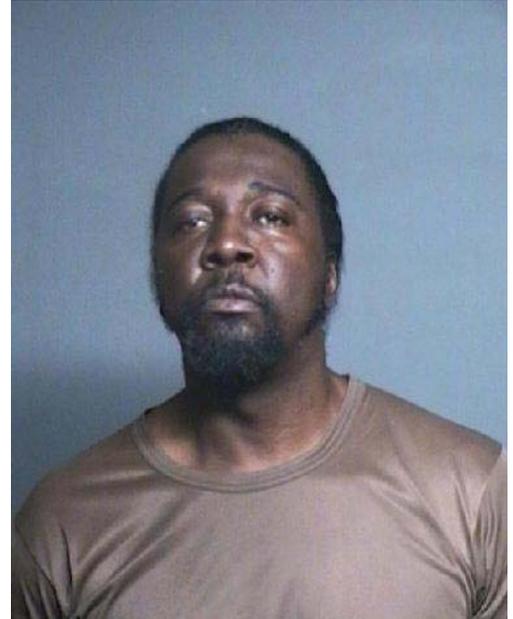


APPREHENDED

NAME: James FRANCIS

WANTED FOR: MURDER

DATE APPREHENDED: June 30, 2009



Members of the USMS Southern District of Texas Gulf Coast Violent Offenders and Fugitive Task Force arrested James Francis June 30 in his motel room at the Best Classic Suites in Houston. Francis was wanted in Lafayette, La., for the brutal murder of a grocery store owner Aug. 31, 2008. The murder took place after Francis' brother got into an altercation with the store owner over how the owner bagged his beer. As the store owner followed Francis' brother into the parking lot, Francis allegedly shot and killed the store owner. Because of the brutal nature of this murder, the USMS Western District of Louisiana Fugitive Task Force requested assistance from ***America's Most Wanted***. On June 13, Francis' fugitive case was featured on the "15 Seconds of Shame" segment of the broadcast. A tip received June 30 at the USMS Lafayette Office stated Francis had been seen at a Wal-Mart in Houston as well as in the parking lot of the Best Classic Suites. USMS investigators in the Lafayette office forwarded that information to FALCON team members in Houston, who immediately responded to the motel. Three separate interviews with personnel at the motel led investigators to believe Francis was at the motel. Members of the GCVOTF confirmed Francis' room and quickly arrested him. Francis had been named the Western District of Louisiana's FALCON 2009 Most Wanted fugitive.

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For more information about the U.S. Marshals Service, visit <http://www.usmarshals.gov>