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Detectives seek witnesses in Saturday shooting

By **Matt Rocheleau** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT JUNE 03, 2012

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Police said Sunday they are seeking help from potential witnesses in investigating a shooting reported in Dorchester on Saturday afternoon.

Responding to a call for a person shot inside a motor vehicle at 389 Columbia Rd., officers found a man in his 30s suffering from an apparent gunshot at about 3:50 p.m. Saturday, Boston Police said.

The man remained in critical condition Sunday at Boston Medical Center, police spokeswoman Officer Nicole Grant said.

She said no suspects have been identified and no arrests have been made.

Authorities asked anyone with information to call detectives at 617-343-4335. Information can be provided anonymously by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1-800-494-TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463).

On Saturday, a man at the scene near the intersection of Columbia Road and Quincy Street identified himself as a cousin of the victim. He said the shooting must have been a mistake.

"He works hard," the man said. "He's not into this kind of stuff."

A black car was stopped in the middle of the intersection with the passenger side door ajar, and what appeared to be a pool of blood next to the driver side door. The window on the driver's side was shattered.

Small orange cones sat next to several items, including a sneaker and a sweatshirt.

Denny Ortiz, who lives in an apartment complex nearby, said Saturday that he saw officials take a man out of the car and put him into an ambulance.

Another man, Sam Randolph, whose girlfriend lives nearby, said he saw a woman with a small child exit the passenger side of the black car and saw a man "staggering" up Quincy Street.

"This here is a tough area," Randolph said Saturday. "Columbia Road is tough, especially in the summertime."

But Carlos Matos who also lives nearby, said the area is normally safe.

"It's a nice place," he said the day of the alleged shooting.

No other information was immediately available from police.

MGlobe correspondent Amanda Cedrone and Meghan Irons of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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