

Man pleads guilty in gunfire

Could face life in prison for May 21 shooting on Rivermont Ave.

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A Lynchburg man pleaded guilty Monday in the shooting of another city man in the Miles Market parking lot on Rivermont Avenue.

James Edward Payne, 23, pleaded guilty to aggravated malicious

wounding, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, said Chuck Felmlee, Lynchburg deputy commonwealth's attorney.

Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 14. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison plus eight years.

Payne was charged after police

found Franklin Maurice James Jr., 30, lying on the sidewalk near the intersection of Rivermont Avenue and Cabell Street at 11:30 p.m. May 21. James had been shot in the abdomen.

Felmlee told the court that James and two others stopped their car to talk to four or five men standing at the intersection, at the Miles Market

Convenience Store. He said one of James' friends had been ripped off in a prior drug purchase.

"After exchanging words with the men on the corner, Franklin James and his two friends drove off," Felmlee said.

Then, about 30 minutes later,

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