



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
401 Grand Street
Paterson, NJ 07505
(973) 881-4800

UPDATE: Arrests Made in Paterson Double Homicide and Aggravated Arson

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

March 21, 2017

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Deputy Paterson Police Chief Troy Oswald announce that based upon an investigation by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office - Homicide Unit and the Paterson Police Department, Gerry Thomas, age 28, and Clarence Williams, age 26, both of Paterson, New Jersey, were arrested and charged for the March 17, 2017 homicides of Aaron Anderson, age 27, and Antonio Vega, Jr., age 25, also both of Paterson, New Jersey.

Gerry Thomas and Clarence Williams are both charged with two counts of Felony Murder, first degree; one count of Conspiracy to Commit Felony Murder, first degree; one count of Robbery, first degree; one count of Aggravated Arson, second degree; one count of Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose, second degree; and one count of Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, second degree.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment on each of the Felony Murder charges, and up to twenty years of imprisonment with an eighty-five percent parole disqualifier pursuant to the No Early Release Act on the Robbery charge; up to twenty years of imprisonment with an eighty-five percent parole disqualifier pursuant to the No Early Release Act on the Conspiracy charge; up to ten

years of imprisonment with an eighty-five percent parole disqualifier pursuant to the No Early Release Act on the Aggravated Arson charge; and up to ten years of imprisonment with a five-year parole disqualifier pursuant to the Graves Act on each of the Firearms charges.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Clarence Williams and Gerry Thomas are scheduled for first appearances before the Honorable John F. Meola, P.J.M.C. at 1:30 this afternoon in Courtroom 411 of the New Courthouse in Paterson.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office asks anyone with additional information about this incident to contact us on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO or tips@passaiccountynj.org.

Anyone with additional information may also contact the Paterson Police Detective Bureau 321-1120.

For media inquiries concerning this case, contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor Paul DeGroot of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit at PDegroot@passaiccountynj.org or at (973) 837-7671.



Photo (left) Gerry Thomas



Photo (right) Clarence Williams