



NEWS RELEASE

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

MONTCLAIR DELI UPDATE

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

MARCH 29, 2017

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Deputy Paterson Police Chief Troy Oswald announce that based upon an investigation by the Paterson Police Department's Cease Fire Unit, in conjunction with the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Raheem Thomas, 36 years old, from Paterson, New Jersey has been charged with Armed Robbery, first degree, in addition to the charges that were filed on March 26, 2017. During the arrest on the Armed Robbery Charge, he was found to be in possession of a handgun and hollow point bullets. Based on this he was also charged with Unlawful Possession of a Weapon (Handgun), second degree; Certain Persons not to have Weapons, second degree; receiving stolen property, third degree; and possession of hollow point bullets, fourth degree.

On March 26, 2017, Raheem Thomas was initially charged with Aggravated Assault, third degree; Unlawful Possession of a Weapon (Handgun), second degree; Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, second degree; and Certain Persons not to have Weapons, second degree; regarding an incident that occurred inside of the Montclair Deli in Paterson, N.J. Officers became aware of this incident due to a separate investigation regarding shots fired outside of that location. The shooting occurred approximately one hour after the Armed Robbery involving Raheem Thomas. If convicted of Armed Robbery, the Defendant faces up to 20 years imprisonment with the No Early Release Act (NERA) to apply.

Raheem Thomas appeared at Central Judicial Processing before the Honorable John F. Meola on March 27, 2017. Pre-trial services recommended Raheem Thomas be released with monthly reporting in accordance with New Jersey's Bail Reform Law.

Raheem Thomas is due to appear at Central Judicial Processing on March 29, 2017 in regard to the current charge.

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

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 at 973-321-1120.

For Media inquiries concerning this case, contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor Jason Statuto of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office at jstatuto@passaiccountynj.org or at (973) 881-4807.



(Photo: Raheem Thomas)