



# NEWS RELEASE

**Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes**  
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office  
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## ARREST MADE IN RELATION TO A HOMICIDE AT 79 UNION BOULEVARD IN TOTOWA

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TOTOWA, NEW JERSEY:

May 20, 2018

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Totowa Police Chief Robert Coyle announce that based upon an investigation by the Totowa Police Department, in conjunction with the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Damien Edwards, 33 years old, from Totowa, was arrested early this morning in relation to a homicide that took place outside of the Quick Check convenience store located at 79 Union Boulevard in Totowa. Mr. Edwards is charged with Murder, first degree; Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, third degree; and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, fourth degree.

At approximately 3:30, a.m. on May 20, 2018, an on duty Totowa Police officer was at the Quick Check convenience store and observed Mr. Edwards attack the victim, Justin Parker, 35 years old from Paterson, outside of the entrance to the store. The officer immediately called in the assault in progress and attempted to take Mr. Edwards into custody. Mr. Edwards fled the scene but was apprehended a short distance away by assisting patrol units. Mr. Parker suffered apparent stab wounds to the torso, and was pronounced deceased at the scene at approximately 4:00 a.m.

Damien Edwards is scheduled to appear at Central Judicial Processing on May 21, 2018 at 1:30, p.m. The State will file a motion for pretrial detention in this matter that will be heard by a Superior Court Judge.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, 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](mailto:tips@passaiccountynj.org) or contact the Totowa Police Department at 973-790-3700.

For media inquiries concerning this case, contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor Jason Statuto of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office at [jstatuto@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:jstatuto@passaiccountynj.org) or at (973) 837-7733.



Damien Edwards