



## **NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police*

# **PRESS RELEASE**

*December 14, 2009*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUBJECT: Four Arrested in University Courtyard Home Invasion**

The Newark Police Department has identified and arrested the four suspects responsible for the November 30 home invasion robbery in the 500 building of University Courtyard Apartments, Scholar Drive, Newark. A lead developed from a tip propelled the investigation to a successful conclusion.

The defendants are:

<b>Dustin J. Hults</b>	<b>11/17/1989 (20 years)</b>	<b>109 Roosevelt Ave, Newport, DE</b>
<b>Michael A. Ortiz</b>	<b>6/8/1989 (20 years)</b>	<b>1526 Dilworth Rd, Wilmington, DE</b>
<b>Joel M. Ortiz</b>	<b>4/16/1988 (21 years)</b>	<b>1526 Dilworth Rd, Wilmington, DE</b>
<b>Vincent J. Baiocco</b>	<b>6/18/1988 (21 years)</b>	<b>2317 N. Washington St, Wilmington, DE</b>

A search warrant was executed at the home of Hults, where some of the property stolen during the robbery was recovered. A search warrant was also executed on a car belonging to Michael Ortiz, which was used as the get-away car from the robbery. Some of the stolen property and an Airsoft gun used in the robbery were found inside the car.

All four defendants were taken into custody at their homes on December 12. Each was charged with six counts of Robbery 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, in addition to Burglary 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, weapons offenses, and other related charges. All were committed to Young Correctional Facility in default of bail.

The investigation has confirmed that the defendants were actually targeting another apartment where they believed they would find drugs and/or drug money, but mistakenly entered the victims' apartment. A police investigation into the intended apartment is ongoing. The investigation has also determined that none of the three guns displayed by the defendants were actual handguns, but rather Airsoft or BB guns.

*The Newark Police Department affirms that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.*

**Media Contact: Lt. Brian Henry, Public Information Officer, 302-366-7110 ext 125 or [brian.henry@cj.state.de.us](mailto:brian.henry@cj.state.de.us).**



## **NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police*

# **PRESS RELEASE**

*December 1, 2009*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUBJECT: Armed Home Invasion of University of Delaware Students**

A home invasion style robbery occurred on Monday November 30, around 1:20 a.m. in an apartment in the 500 building of University Courtyard apartments, Scholar Drive, Newark. The four suspects made noises in the hallway, which prompted a resident of the apartment to slightly open the door. Upon the door being ajar, the suspects pushed it open and entered the apartment. The four residents and two guests were gathered in the living room, where their hands were bound and their mouths covered with duct tape. Two of the assailants were armed with black pistols, and another had a knife. The suspects searched the apartment and repeatedly asked questions about the location of illegal drugs and cash within the residence.

The suspects removed a safe and other personal items from the apartment. They fled carrying two dark colored back packs, one camouflage backpack, and a pillowcase. They are believed to have gotten into a silver four door, newer model car with dark windows that was parked south of the complex. After the suspects left, one of the victims was able to free himself and call for help.

There is no indication that illegal drugs are sold from the apartment. However, it is now known that marijuana is openly used within the apartment. Based on the suspects demand for drugs and money, two investigative scenarios are developing: 1) the suspects are aware of the drug use and assumed drug sales were occurring, or 2) the suspects intended to rob an apartment other than the victims', but got the wrong location.

The same apartment was burglarized between Wednesday November 25 and Saturday November 28 while none of the residents were at home. During that crime, the apartment appeared to have been searched for specific items. Nothing of great value was taken, and property that is typically stolen during burglaries was left behind. A relation between the two incidents is being investigated.



## PRESS RELEASE, Continued

The suspects in the robbery are described as three white males and one black male, all 20 to 25 years of age, 5' 10" to 6' tall, average build, wearing baggy blue jeans. One was wearing a Phillies hat; one had a bandana covering the lower portion of his face. There are no known suspects in the burglary.

All six victims are students at the University of Delaware. Four are males who reside at the apartment; three are 19 years of age, the other is 20. The two other victims were 18 year old female guests of the residents who do not live in the complex. One female was struck with the door when it was pushed open, causing bruising near the eye. No other injuries occurred during the incident.

Information about these crimes should be reported to Det. Michael Watson at 302-366-7110 ext 133 or [Michael.Watson@cj.state.de.us](mailto:Michael.Watson@cj.state.de.us). Information can be reported anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 800-TIP-3333, where a reward may be available.

*Text 302NPD and your tip to TIP411 (847411)*

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