



## **NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

*Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police*

# **PRESS RELEASE**

*July 26, 2010*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SUBJECT: Two Charged After Shooting and Pursuit**

Two people have been charged in a shooting incident that occurred around 4:00 a.m. on Sunday July 25. The two victims had been walking in the areas of Delaware Avenue, Main Street, Chapel Street, and Cleveland Avenue when a tan Chevy Blazer passed by them several times. A verbal confrontation took place between the occupants of the Blazer and the victims, including the use of a racial slur by a person in the vehicle.

Shortly after the confrontation the victims went toward their car, which was parked on Creek View Road. While there, the Blazer again drove by and three shots were fired from the vehicle toward the victims. One of the bullets grazed one of the victims on the abdomen, causing a laceration to the skin. That victim, who was armed with a handgun, then fired several shots toward the Blazer as it drove away. One of the bullets hit the Blazer; none of the occupants of the vehicle were struck.

As officers were on the scene and in the area of the shooting still investigating the incident, a vehicle matching the description of the Blazer was seen on Cleveland Avenue. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but it proceeded onto Barksdale Road and into Maryland. Newark Police officers continued their pursuit of the Blazer, which was not traveling at excessive speed but was refusing to stop. The chase went onto several Cecil County, MD roads for about 15 minutes until a deputy from the Cecil County Sheriff's Office was able to deploy spike strips on Newark Avenue near North Bridge Street. The suspect vehicle then pulled into a parking lot and stopped.

The driver (Cerasari), who is the owner of the Blazer, was taken into custody by Cecil County deputies. During a search of the vehicle, a .45 caliber handgun, additional ammunition, and a large combat-style knife were found. However, it was determined that while Cerasari was a member of the group involved in the confrontation, he was not the person who shot at the victims. A warrant was obtained charging Cerasari with Carrying a Concealed Deadly Weapon, Failure to Stop at the Command of a Police Officer, and other traffic charges. He is being held at the Cecil County Detention Center pending his return to Delaware.

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## PRESS RELEASE, Continued

The investigation then turned to a known associate of Cerasari, who matched the physical description of the shooter. That associate (James) was found at a house in the 900 block of Harmony Road, outside of Newark. The contact with James resulted in him being identified as the shooter, and the recovery of the .357 Magnum revolver that was used in the shooting. James was charged with Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Reckless Endangering 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited, and Possession of Ammunition by a Person Prohibited. After an initial court appearance, he was released on \$10,000 unsecured bond.

The defendants:

Jeremy James (aka Ricky Schmid)	12/7/1981 (28 years)	9 Kullen Dr. Brookside, Newark
Charles Cerasari	9/27/1983 (26 years)	963 Harmony Rd, Newark, DE

The victim who was injured is a 24 year-old male. His laceration was treated at Christiana Hospital and he was released.

The second victim is a 20 year-old male who was not injured. Neither lives in Newark.

Information related to this incident can 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 also be anonymously reported to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333, where a reward may be available.

Anonymous text tips: Text 302NPD and your info to TIP411 (847411).

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