



NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police



PRESS RELEASE

February 18th, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Home Invasion Robbery with Arrests – University Courtyard Apartments

A drug related home invasion style armed robbery occurred at an apartment in the 500 building of the University Courtyard Apartments on Tuesday, February 15th, 2011 at approximately 7:55pm. During this incident, Victim 1 answered a knock at the door. Upon answering the door he was confronted by three masked male suspects, one armed with a baseball bat and another armed with a handgun. Victim 1 was struck with the bat and a struggle ensued with two of the suspects while the third suspect held the other five occupants of the apartment at gunpoint. The suspects demanded cash and a safe from Victim 1. During the struggle Victim 1 removed the mask of one of the suspects and identified him as an acquaintance. During a subsequent police investigation detectives identified all three suspects along with a 4th juvenile suspect who acted as the get-away vehicle driver. Investigators also recovered the weapons used in the robbery along with the stolen safe.

Victim 1 was transported from the scene by ambulance to Christiana Hospital where he was treated for a broken orbital socket.

The investigation has confirmed that illegal drug activity was conducted at this residence and believe the suspects were searching for drugs and/or drug proceeds.

This home invasion is not related to the February 9th home invasion on Kershaw Street.

Charges (all defendants):

**Robbery 1st Degree
Assault 1st Degree
Possession of a Firearm During Commission of a Felony
6cts Aggravated Menacing
Wearing a Disguise During Commission of a Felony
Conspiracy 2nd**

(Continued)



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- Defendant 1:** James Elliot 09/27/91
705 Bent Lane
Newark, DE 19711
-committed to Howard Young Correctional on \$112,000 cash bail
- Defendant 2:** James Zimkowski-Wheatley 08/23/92
2403 Scholar Drive
Newark, DE 19711
-committed to Howard Young Correctional on \$112,000 cash bail
- Defendant 3:** Joseph Murach 11/11/88
2403 Scholar Drive
Newark, DE 19711
-committed to Howard Young Correctional on \$112,000 secured bail
- Defendant 4:** Lauren Hudson 11/4/93
10 Timber Creek Lane
Newark, DE 19711
-committed to the New Castle County Detention Center on \$68,000 bail

Anyone with additional information about this incident should contact Det. Greg Delia at 302-366-7110 ext. 132 or greg.delia@cj.state.de.us. You can send an anonymous text message tip by texting 302NPD and your message to TIP411. Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at www.tipsubmit.com where a reward may be available.

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

Media Contact: Lt. Mark A. Farrall, Public Information Officer, 302-366-7110 ext 125 or mark.farrall@cj.state.de.us.







