



NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police



PRESS RELEASE

May 24th, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Cell Phone App Leads Police to Armed Robbery Suspects

The Newark Police Department has credited a mobile phone application with leading police to the location of four suspects following an armed robbery in Newark on May 21st, 2011.

At approximately 2:20 am on that date a group of fifteen subjects were attending a small party in a detached garage in the unit block of Annabelle Street when they allowed the four defendants to enter. Shortly after, the defendants closed the garage doors and one defendant, later identified as Joseph Thomas, displayed a handgun. The defendants then forced ten of the victims to turn over property including wallets, cell phones and cash. One subject was repeatedly punched and kicked by the defendants after he failed to turn over property. The four defendants then fled the garage on foot. None of the victims, all college age, were hurt during the incident.

Shortly thereafter, responding officers learned that one of the stolen phones was equipped with a GPS tracking device. Using computer software officers were able to track the movement of the phone and the four defendants were located travelling in a vehicle in the University Plaza Shopping Center. All four were then taken into custody without incident. Stolen items, including the GPS equipped phone, were found in the vehicle linking the four to the robbery and officers also recovered a loaded .38 cal. handgun used during the robbery.

Officers determined that the four in custody and their vehicle matched the description of a car jacking incident several hours earlier in New Castle County Police jurisdiction and they were later linked to that crime. Contact NCCPD Corporal John Weglarz, Sr at (302) 395-8005 for further information on the car jacking incident.



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Defendant 1: Joseph Thomas DOB: 04/24/92 (19 years old)
40 Bohemia Drive
Bear, DE

Charges: 10 Counts Robbery 1st
15 Counts Unlawful Imprisonment
15 Counts Aggravated Menacing
15 Counts Conspiracy 2nd
1 Count Offensive Touching
1 Count Carrying Concealed Deadly Weapon
1 Count Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of Felony

- Committed to Howard R. Young Correctional on \$62,000 secured bond.

Defendant 2: Matthew A. Travers DOB: 03/10/92 (19 years old)
115 E. Cedarwood Drive
Middletown, DE

Charges: 10 Counts Robbery 1st
15 Counts Unlawful Imprisonment
15 Counts Aggravated Menacing
15 Counts Conspiracy 2nd
1 Count Offensive Touching

- Committed to Howard R. Young Correctional on \$56,000 secured bond.

Defendant 3: Brett A. Chattin DOB 2/8/92 (19 years old)
526 Blackbird Drive
Bear, DE

Charges: 10 Counts Robbery 1st
15 Counts Unlawful Imprisonment
15 Counts Aggravated Menacing
15 Counts Conspiracy 2nd
1 Count Offensive Touching

- Committed to Howard R. Young Correctional on \$63,000 secured bond.



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Defendant 4: Jerry S. Hopkins DOB: 7/24/93 (17 year old juvenile)

**1413 Lore Avenue
Wilmington, DE**

**Charges: 10 Counts Robbery 1st
15 Counts Unlawful Imprisonment
15 Counts Aggravated Menacing
15 Counts Conspiracy 2nd
1 Count Offensive Touching**

- Committed to New Castle County Detention Center on \$56,000 secured bond.

(Page 3 of 3)

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.



Chatting



Hopkins



Thomas



Travers