



NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police



PRESS RELEASE

August 1st, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Two Charged in Knife Assault

The Newark Police Department has arrested two defendants following an early morning assault on July 31st, 2011. The incident began when Victim 1, a 26 year old male from Newark, and Victim 2, a 21 year old female from Middletown were looking for a parking space in the parking lot of the Deer Park Tavern located at 108 West Main Street. Victim 1 and three males (including Defendant 1 and Defendant 2) exchanged words for an unknown reason which prompted a verbal argument in the parking lot. The two groups parted and both went into the establishment. Throughout the evening the two groups continued to exchange words inside the establishment.

Shortly after 1 am both groups exited the establishment and a fight ensued in the parking lot between Victim 1 and the three subjects. During the fight, Victim 1 punched one of the subjects, a 31 year old white male from Newark, and knocked him unconscious. The fight then broke up and the two groups parted ways. Victim 1 began to leave the area in a vehicle with Victim 1 driving and Victim 2 in the front passenger seat. As Victim 1 was leaving the area, Defendant 1 and Defendant 2 went to a vehicle where they both retrieved large knives from the trunk. They then confronted Victim 1 who was seated in the drivers seat. Both Defendants then began swinging their knives at Victim 1 causing several severe lacerations to both arms and hands. Victim 2, who was seated in the passenger seat, was also struck by the swinging knives causing a laceration to her left arm.

Victim 1 then fled the attack in the vehicle and was later stopped by a UDPD officer who observed the vehicle driving erratically on East Delaware Avenue. Both victims were then transported via ambulance to Christiana Hospital.

Victim 1 sustained severe lacerations to both arms and had two fingers severed off of his left hand.

Victim 2 sustained a minor laceration to her left arm.

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Defendant 1: Kyle J. Fletcher WM 20 DOB 4/16/91
Unit Block of Carnegie Court
Newark, DE 19713

Charges: 2 counts - Assault 1st Degree
1 count - Possession of a Deadly Weapon During Commission of a Felony
1 count – Conspiracy

- Committed to Howard R. Young Correctional in lieu of \$62,500 bail.

Defendant 2: Richard T. Burke WM 21 DOB 07/31/90
Unit Block of Carnegie Court
Newark, DE 19713

Charges: 2 counts – Assault 1st Degree
1 count – Possession of a Deadly Weapon During Commission of a Felony
1 count - Conspiracy

- Committed to Howard R. Young Correctional in lieu of \$62,500 bail.

Anyone with additional information about this incident should contact Det. Michael Szep at 302-366-7110 ext. 136 or michael.szep@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.



