



NEWS RELEASE

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police

January 18th, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Newark Police Investigate Two Strong Arm Robberies

The Newark Police are investigating two strong arm robberies which occurred in the early morning hours of January 18th in the City of Newark.

The first incident occurred at approximately 1:40am at the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Kershaw Street. During this incident the victims, a 21 year old female from Newark and a 21 year old male University of Delaware exchange student from Portugal, were walking on the sidewalk of Cleveland Avenue when they were approached by three black male suspects. One of the suspects, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt with red lettering, grabbed the female and then forcibly removed her small clutch style purse. The female victim attempted to retain her clutch during the incident and suffered a minor cut to her finger. A second suspect removed the male victim's wallet from his pants pocket. All three suspects then ran to a vehicle parked on Kershaw Street and fled the scene.

The three suspects were all described as black males 18 to 25 years of age, wearing black clothing with hoods over their heads. One suspect, as described above, had red lettering on his black hooded sweatshirt. The vehicle was described as an older model tan boxy style vehicle, possibly a Cadillac. There was no tag displayed on the vehicle.

The second incident occurred several minutes later at approximately 2:00am at 700 Scholar Drive, University Courtyard Apartments. During this incident a 21 year old female University of Delaware Student from Dumont, New Jersey had just entered into the apartment building which is a controlled access building. Upon entering the building lobby she heard a knock at the door and observed a black male wearing a black or grey hooded sweatshirt with red lettering standing outside the door. She opened the door for the suspect and then turned her back to walk away. The suspect immediately grabbed her from behind, forced her to the ground, and then removed her purse before fleeing out of the apartment building. The victim was uninjured during the incident.

The suspect in this incident is described as a black male 18 to 25 years of age, wearing a black or grey hooded sweatshirt with red lettering.

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PRESS RELEASE, Continued

Investigators are working to determine if the two incidents were committed by the same individuals and are asking for the public's assistance in identifying the suspects.

Anyone with additional information about these incidents should contact Detective Michael Szep 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.