



NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

November 20, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: 5 Charged in Residential Burglaries

The Newark Police Department has charged five people in connection with numerous residential burglaries that began in August and continued until this month. During the investigations, it became apparent that a string of burglaries taking place in Newark were being committed by an organized group. In early October, the Newark Police Department initiated a recorded telephone message to city residents advising of the burglaries and reminding citizens to report any suspicious activity or vehicles in their neighborhoods.

Through investigation and evidence, it was learned that members of the Hamm family and their associates were unlawfully entering houses in the daytime and early evening hours, when residents were not at home. In some instances, they entered through unlocked doors or windows, in others entry was forced. Their primary targets of theft were cash, jewelry, and electronics, although other items were also stolen. The burglaries were not concentrated in a specific area, taking place throughout Newark and in neighboring areas of Maryland.

The defendants:

Kimberly Hamm	July 12, 1985 (23 years old)	52 Vista Dr. Elkton, MD
Charged October 28 with Burglary 2 nd Degree (2 counts), Conspiracy 2 nd Degree (2 counts), Felony Theft, Conspiracy 3 rd Degree, Misdemeanor Theft, Unlawful Use of Credit Card, and Criminal Mischief (2 counts). She was released on unsecured bail.		

Rodney Hamm	October 2, 1981 (27 years old)	371 Appleton Rd. Elkton MD
Charged November 3 with Burglary 2 nd Degree (6 counts), Conspiracy 2 nd Degree (5 counts), Felony Theft (4 counts), and Misdemeanor Theft (2 counts). He was committed to the Howard Young Correctional Facility in default of \$41,500 bail.		

Danielle Rau	September 14, 1977 (31 years old)	371 Appleton Rd. Elkton MD
Charged November 3 with Burglary 2 nd Degree (4 counts), Conspiracy 2 nd Degree (3 counts), Felony Theft (3 counts), Misdemeanor Theft (2 counts), and Criminal Mischief (3 counts). She was committed to Baylor Women's Correctional Facility in default \$29,000 bail.		

Media Contact: Lt. Brian Henry, Public Information Officer 302-366-7110 ext. 125 or
Brian.Henry@cj.state.de.us

Roger Sheetz	January 5, 1979 (29 years old)	2B Queen Circle, Newark
Charged November 6 with one count each of Burglary 2nd Degree, Conspiracy 2nd Degree, Theft, Conspiracy 3rd Degree, Unlawful Use of Credit Card, and Criminal Mischief. He was committed to Howard Young Correctional Facility in default of \$6,000 bail, but has since been released after bail was posted.		

Jennifer Hamm	July 12, 1985 (23 years old)	52 Vista Dr. Elkton, RD
Arrested and held in Cecil County, MD on November 18. Awaiting her return to Delaware to be charged with the same offenses as her co-conspirators.		

Jennifer Hamm and Kimberly Hamm are twin sisters. Rodney Hamm is the brother of Jennifer and Kimberly. Danielle Rau is the girlfriend of Rodney. Roger Sheetz is an associate of the twin sisters.

Locations of the burglaries in which the defendants have been charged include Patrick Henry Court, Country Club Drive, Vassar Drive, Pennwood Street, Saw Mill Drive, Wrangler Road, Wynwyd Drive, and Minquil Drive.

This investigation is ongoing, and it is anticipated that additional charges will be brought as other burglaries are connected to these defendants. The same defendants are under investigation by agencies in Maryland for burglaries occurring in Cecil and Harford counties.

Information related to this investigation can be reported to Det. D'Elia at 302-366-7110 ext 132 or Greg.Delia@cj.state.de.us or to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 where information can be left anonymously and a reward may be available.

The text of the recorded phone message follows on the next page.

Media Contact: Lt. Brian Henry, Public Information Officer 302-366-7110 ext. 125 or Brian.Henry@cj.state.de.us

Hello, this is the City of Newark, City Watch System with a Community Awareness Message from the Newark Police Dept.

Due to a series of residential daytime burglaries that have been occurring in and around Newark, the Newark Police Department reminds residents to be aware of suspicious activity and unfamiliar vehicles in your neighborhood. Any person or activity thought to be suspicious should be immediately reported to the police department.

Beginning in the last week of August and continuing to the present, there have been 17 residential burglaries in neighborhoods throughout the City. Jewelry appears to be the primary target, but other items of value, including cash, electronics, and medication have been stolen. The houses have been entered through both doors and windows, locked and unlocked. These crimes are occurring mostly in the daytime to early evening hours, when residents are not at home.

The Newark Police Department asks you to be our partner in preventing and detecting crime. Call 911 immediately to report possible criminal behavior in your neighborhood.

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