



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

March 30, 2011

OFF-DUTY PATERSON POLICE OFFICER SHOOTS GUNMAN

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announced the arrest of Jermaine Eason, 21 years old of Paterson, on weapons charges in connection with an incident involving a shooting by an off duty Paterson Police officer on March 30, 2011.

At approximately 2:20PM on this date, an off duty Paterson police officer was receiving a haircut at a barber shop located on Market Street in Paterson when he observed Eason speaking with a civilian while in possession of a hand gun. The officer immediately exited the shop to approach Eason, who was walking down the street. The officer spoke to the civilian who informed the officer that the suspect did have a gun in his possession. The officer entered his motor vehicle to meet up with the suspect. As Eason approached the intersection of Summer Street and Park Avenue, the officer displayed his badge and identified himself as a police officer. As Eason removed the weapon from his waistband area, the officer discharged four rounds from his service weapon, striking Eason in the left shoulder and left bicep. The injuries do not appear life threatening, and no one else was hurt during the incident. A CO2 pellet gun modeled after a Glock 9MM hand gun was recovered on scene. Also recovered from Eason was a ski-type mask and latex gloves. Members of the Passaic County Prosecutors Office along with members of the

Paterson Police Department conducted the investigation which led to the arrest of Eason and the recovery of the handgun.

Eason was formally arrested on the charges of Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, a crime of the second degree and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, a crime of the third degree. Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, while Unlawful Possession of a Weapon carries a maximum sentence of 5 years in prison. It is anticipated that this matter will be presented to a Passaic County grand jury for their consideration.

The case is being handled by Senior Assistant Prosecutor Robert C. Pringle. Assistant Prosecutor Pringle may be reached at 973-837-7640 or RPringle@passaiccountynj.org.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.