



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
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ARREST MADE IN CONNECTION WITH OCTOBER 31, 2019 SHOOTING INVESTIGATION

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

NOVEMBER 4, 2019

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Passaic Police Chief Luis A. Guzman announce that based upon an investigation by the Passaic Police Department, Francisco J. Martinez-Mendez, 21-years old, from Passaic, New Jersey, was arrested on November 2, 2019 in relation to a shooting investigation that took place October 31, 2019 in the area of Third Street Passaic, NJ. Mr. Martinez-Mendez is charged with Unlawful Possession of a Handgun, Second Degree; Possession of a Handgun for an Unlawful Purpose, Second Degree; Aggravated Assault, Third Degree; and Criminal Mischief (2 Counts), 4th Degree.

On October 31, 2019, members of the Passaic Police Department responded to the area of Third Street Passaic, NJ on a report of a shooting. Upon arrival members of the Passaic Police Department located evidence of a crime scene. During the initial investigation it was determined shots were fired in the direction of a residence, but no one was injured. Based on the investigation Mr. Martinez-Mendez was charged and arrested on November 2, 2019.

The sentencing exposure for Mr. Martinez-Mendez on Second Degree Unlawful Possession of a Handgun it is 5-10 years New Jersey State Prison with a minimum of 42 months before parole eligibility pursuant to the Graves Act; on Second Degree Possession of a Handgun for an Unlawful Purpose it is 5-10 years New Jersey State Prison with 42 months of parole ineligibility pursuant to the Graves Act; on Third Degree Aggravated Assault it is 3-5 years New Jersey State Prison; and on each count of 4th Degree Criminal Mischief it is up to 18 months New Jersey State Prison.

The State intends to file a motion for pretrial detention in this matter that will be heard by a Superior Court Judge.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office asks anyone with additional information about this incident to contact us on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO or tips@passaiccountynj.org or contact the Passaic Police Department at 973-365-3900.

For media inquiries concerning this case, contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor Seth Galkin of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office at sgalkin@passaiccountynj.org or at (973) 881-4849.



(Photo: Franciso J. Martinez-Mendez)