



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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SUSPECTED SHOOTER IN DAVID ORTIZ INVESTIGATION WANTED FOR 2017 ARMED ROBBERIES IN CLIFTON

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

JUNE 13, 2019

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Clifton Police Chief Mark P. Centurione announce that Rolfi Ferreira-Cruz, 25-years-old from Reading, Pennsylvania was recently arrested in the Dominican Republic on charges of the attempted murder of retired baseball player David Ortiz.

On January 5, 2018, Mr. Ferreira-Cruz was identified and charged on warrant complaints for multiple counts of Armed Robbery, First Degree, Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose, Second Degree, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Second Degree, Receiving Stolen Property, Third Degree, Possession of Prohibited Weapons, Hollow point bullets, Fourth Degree, Unlawful possession of a Weapon, BB Gun, Third Degree, Possession of an Imitation Firearm, Fourth Degree, Employing a Juvenile in the Commission of a Crime, First Degree, and Aggravated Assault, Fourth Degree.

Mr. Ferreira-Cruz had never been apprehended on those charges and a bench warrant without geographic limitations had been issued by a Superior Court at the request of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. Subsequently, a Grand Jury returned an Indictment against Mr. Ferreira Cruz for the above charges.

On December 22, 2017, members of the Clifton Police Department responded to the area of 297 Hope Avenue Clifton NJ on a report of two armed robberies with handguns that had occurred in the area of Hope Avenue and in the area of Lake Avenue and Van Winkle Avenue Clifton NJ. Upon arrival the police located a crime scene and two victims, a 26-year-old Passaic resident and a 41-year-old Clifton resident. Based on the investigation Mr. Ferreira-Cruz was identified as one of the robbers.

The sentencing exposure for Mr. Ferreira-Cruz on each count of First Degree Armed Robbery is 10-20 years New Jersey State Prison with 85% of those terms to be served before parole pursuant to the No Early Release Act and 5 years parole supervision; on each count of Second Degree Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose it is 5-10 years New Jersey State Prison with 5

years of parole ineligibility pursuant to the Graves Act; on Second Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm it is 5-10 years New Jersey State Prison with 42 months of parole ineligibility pursuant to the Graves Act; on Third Degree Receiving Stolen Property it is 3-5 years New Jersey State Prison; on Fourth Degree Possession of Prohibited Weapons, Hollow point bullets it is 18 months New Jersey State Prison; on Fourth Degree Unlawful possession of a Weapon, BB Gun it is 3-5 years New Jersey State Prison; on Fourth Degree Possession of an Imitation Firearm it is 18 months New Jersey State Prison; on First Degree Employing a Juvenile in the Commission of a Crime it is 10-20 years New Jersey State Prison and 5 years parole supervision; and on Fourth Degree Aggravated Assault it is 18 months New Jersey State Prison with 18 months of parole ineligibility pursuant to the Graves Act.

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 Clifton Police Department at 973-470-5900.

For media inquiries concerning this incident, contact Senior Assistant Prosecutor Nubar Kasaryan of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office at nkasaryan@passaiccountynj.org at (973) 881-4475.



Photo: Rolfi Ferreira-Cruz