



NEWS RELEASE

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PATERSON RESIDENT SENTENCED IN ROBBERY, WEAPONS, AND DRUG OFFENSES RELATED TO MARCH 29, 2017, NON-FATAL POLICE-INVOLVED SHOOTING IN PATERSON

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

August 22, 2017

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announces the sentencing of Ammir Ramos, age 16, of Paterson.

Mr. Ramos was initially charged as juvenile by the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office on March 29, 2017, with delinquency for committing acts, which if committed by an adult, would constitute robbery, weapons offenses, and drug offenses. The juvenile's complaints were referred to the Passaic County Family Part. Mr. Ramos was later waived as an adult to the Passaic County Criminal Division and he was ordered detained at a juvenile facility under the Criminal Justice Reform rules. On June 29, 2017, Mr. Ramos pleaded guilty to Accusation No. 17-06-00778-A before the Honorable Justine A. Niccollai, J.S.C. The accusation contained the following counts: three counts of first degree Robbery in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:15-1a against three civilians (Victims #1, #2, and #3); two counts of third degree Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4d against two Paterson Police Officers (Victims #5 and #6); and three counts of Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute within 1,000 feet of School Property in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7. Robbery in the first degree carries a maximum term of twenty (20) years in custody, and the third degree weapons and drug offenses each carry a maximum term of five (5) years in custody. Mr. Ramos pleaded guilty to all eight (8) counts of the accusation. On August 15, 2017, Mr. Ramos was sentenced by Judge Niccollai to a global custodial term of ten (10) years with 85% to be served before eligibility.

The investigation revealed that shortly after midnight on March 29, 2017, Mr. Ramos encountered Victim #1 in the area of Carroll Street in the City of Paterson. Mr. Ramos produced what appeared to be a handgun and demanded Victim #1's money and phone. Mr. Ramos also verbally threatened Victim #1, who surrendered belongings to Mr. Ramos. The weapon Mr.

Ramos produced was later determined to be a black revolver-style, blank firing gun. The particular weapon does not fire bullets or projectiles but does fire blanks that produce a flash and sound. This particular weapon does not meet the legal definition of a “firearm” in the State of New Jersey. Mr. Ramos then encountered a family consisting of an adult couple (Victims #2 and #3) with their two-year-old child (Victim #4). Mr. Ramos again produced the revolver-style weapon and pointed it at them while demanding the adults’ money. Victim #3 turned over money to Mr. Ramos who also took Victim #3’s phone. In another area of Carroll Street, Mr. Ramos again demanded money from Victim #2 who physically struggled with Mr. Ramos. Mr. Ramos again produced the revolver-style weapon and fired it towards Victim #2. At that time, Paterson Police Officers who had arrived on scene observed the struggle with Victim #2. Mr. Ramos then pointed the revolver-style weapon towards Paterson Police Officers (including Victims #5 and #6) and again fired the weapon towards them. Mr. Ramos then fled the area and was arrested by Paterson Police Officers in Roberto Clemente Park. Mr. Ramos was later found to be in possession of heroin, cocaine, and marijuana within 1,000 feet of Paterson Public School #11.

During the course of this incident, one on-duty Paterson Police Officer discharged a duty weapon in the area of Park and Carroll Streets. The investigation into the officer’s use of force is still pending presentation to the Grand Jury in accordance with the July 28, 2015, Supplemental Law Enforcement Directive Amending Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive 2006-5. No civilian or police officer was injured by the officer’s gunfire. Mr. Ramos sustained non-life threatening injuries during the course of arrest.

The investigation in this matter remains ongoing. At this time, further information will not be released so as not to jeopardize the safety of persons involved or to jeopardize the investigation in progress.

Media inquiries should be directed to Chief Assistant Prosecutor Mary Catherine Ryan at mryan@passaiccountynj.org.