



NEWS RELEASE

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STATEMENT ON PATERSON POLICE OFFICERS ARRESTED AND CHARGED BY FEDERAL AUTHORITIES

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

April 13, 2018

On Wednesday, April 11, 2018, Paterson Police Officers Jonathan Bustios, age 28, and Eudy Ramos, age 31, were arrested by federal agents and charged by complaint in the United States District Court, District of New Jersey. The federal complaint charged both officers with one count of conspiring to deprive individuals of civil rights under color of law. Bustios was also charged with one count of extortion under color of official right.

In an effort to preserve the integrity of the open federal prosecution, the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office (PCPO) will not comment on any details regarding this office's involvement with the federal investigation. During the federal investigation, the PCPO has provided support and assistance to federal authorities.

The PCPO will conduct a thorough review of the prosecutions handled by this office in which one or both of the officers signed complaints, handled evidence, testified in a judicial proceeding, or provided material information leading to arrest, complaint, or indictment. The charges and allegations against Bustios and Ramos are merely accusations, and they are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The PCPO must also honor its legal obligation to disclose to defense attorneys and the courts information that is exculpatory or information that affects the credibility of a material witness.

The PCPO fully supports the county's law enforcement agencies in their efforts to identify and address problematic police conduct on their forces. The PCPO is committed to implementing and advancing the objectives promoted by the new Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive No. 2018-3. This directive requires every law enforcement agency within the State of New Jersey to establish an early warning system "designed to detect patterns and trends in police conduct before that conduct escalates." Early warning systems "serve to not only increase public safety and public confidence in law enforcement, but also to assist officers through early intervention."

Any member of the public who wishes to make a complaint to this office regarding police misconduct may contact the Public Integrity Unit of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office or the PCPO tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO or tips@passaiccountynj.org.

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