

**DEPARTMENT of  
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**PUBLIC  
INFORMATION  
OFFICE**



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**For Immediate Release**

**June 16, 2021**

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## **Suspects Arrested in Wakeman Avenue Shooting**

Newark Public Safety Director Brian A. O'Hara reports that members of the Newark Police Division's Shooting Response Team and Fugitive Apprehension Team apprehended Luis A. Aponte, 34, of Belleville, NJ and a 17 year old juvenile from Newark, NJ in connection with a shooting that occurred on Wakeman Avenue.

"I am thankful for the diligence and professionalism of our Major Crimes Shooting Response Team detectives. They worked around the clock to ensure these suspects were swiftly brought to justice", Public Safety Director O' Hara said.

On June 11, 2021, at approximately 7 p.m. officers were dispatched to a shots fired on the 100 block of Wakeman Avenue. On arrival, officers were met by a 13 year old with gunshot wound to his right leg and immediately administered aid by applying a tourniquet to the wounded area. The victim was stable and transported to a local hospital for treatment.

During the investigation, detectives from the Shooting Response Team were able to identify Luis A. Aponte and a 17 year old juvenile as suspects. Additionally, intelligence gathered during the course of the investigation placed Mr. Aponte at an address in a neighboring jurisdiction.

The Fugitive Apprehension Team and Shooting Response Team were able to apprehend Mr. Aponte in the early morning hours on today's date. The other suspect was taken into custody at a different address in Newark, NJ. The suspects face charges of aggravated assault, unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, conspiracy, receiving stolen property, and endangerment.

The charges are merely allegations. Both suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Director O'Hara urges anyone with information about any crime to call the Division's 24-hour Crime Stopper tip line at 1-877-NWK-TIPS (1-877-695-8477). All anonymous Crime Stopper tips are kept confidential and could result in a reward.



Luis A. Aponte