

**DEPARTMENT of
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**PUBLIC
INFORMATION
OFFICE**



**480 Clinton Avenue, 2nd Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07108
(973) 733-6008**

**Ras J. Baraka, Mayor
Brian A. O’Hara, Public Safety Director
Raul Malave III, Assistant Public Safety Director
Lee Douglas, Chief of Police
Rufus L. Jackson, Chief of Fire**

**For Immediate Release
July 26, 2021**

**For Further Information, Contact:
Catherine Adams, Sergeant David Dos Santos or Barry Carter
Email: pio@ci.newark.nj.us**

Police Recover 445 Illegal Firearms this Year with 15 Recovered this Weekend

Newark Public Safety Director Brian A. O’Hara reports that Newark Police have recovered a total of 445 illegal firearms this year, with 15 handguns recovered this past weekend.

“Less guns on the street equals less violence,” Director O’Hara said. “And 15 illegal handguns removed in one weekend means lives were certainly saved as the presence of that many illegal guns can quickly turn minor quarrels into murders. I am pleased by the vigorous commitment of Newark Police and our federal and state law enforcement partners in keeping our neighborhoods safe.”

Year-to-date, 2021 gun recoveries represent a 64 percent increase over the same period in 2020, when police recovered 271 illegal firearms.

On Saturday, Darrell Cheeks, 22, of Newark, was arrested after he was observed with a firearm in the area of Hayes Street and 15th Avenue. During the arrest, police recovered a loaded 9MM handgun. Cheeks was also found in possession of 39 glassine envelopes containing suspected CDS heroin and \$5,197.00 of suspected proceeds from drug sales. Cheeks faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, CDS distribution within 1,000 ft. of a school, CDS distribution within 500 ft. of a housing complex and certain persons prohibited from weapon possession.

On Friday, Malcolm T. Jones-Carter, 26, of East Orange, was arrested after he was observed with a firearm in the 200 block of Fairmount Avenue. Police recovered a loaded .40 caliber handgun during the arrest. Jones-Carter faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a prohibited weapon (large capacity magazine), resisting arrest, obstruction of the administration of the law and certain persons prohibited from weapons possession. Police recovered a second handgun in the same area of Jones-Carter’s arrest and are seeking a suspect in connection with that weapon.

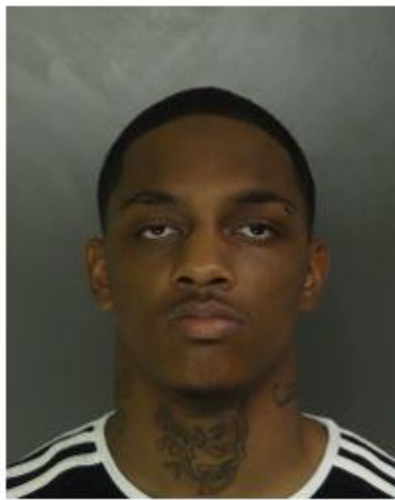
These charges are merely accusations. Each suspect is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

“At least one of the weapons recovered this weekend was facilitated by a caller to our Crime Stoppers tip line,” Director O’Hara said. “I cannot over-emphasize enough the importance of our residents calling

in tips, voicing outrage, and making a concerted push back against any potential gun violence in our neighborhoods.”

Director O’Hara urges anyone with information about this suspect to call the Department'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.

He also welcomes people who want to turn in illegal weapons to do so and receive as much as \$250 per weapon for up to three weapons, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, August 7th at Prudential Center, 25 Lafayette Street in Newark. This gun buy back event, sponsored by New Jersey Acting Attorney General Andrew J. Bruck and county prosecutors in Essex, Passaic and Atlantic counties, will allow individuals to anonymously turn in up to three guns “no questions asked.”



Darrell Cheeks



Malcolm Jones-Carter