

**DEPARTMENT of  
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**PUBLIC  
INFORMATION  
OFFICE**



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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Police Arrest Suspect Seen Firing a Weapon and Fleeing in Carjacked Vehicle**

Newark Public Safety Director Brian A. O'Hara reports the arrest of Rodney Burch, 28, of Newark, in connection with an incident of shots fired that occurred today.

"I commend the patrol officers for their courage in confronting and apprehending a suspect seen brazenly firing a weapon on our streets," Director O'Hara said. "Had it not been for their brave and swift actions, this senseless, violent incident could have resulted in tragedy."

Just before 3:40 a.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct officers patrolling the 600 block of Summer Avenue observed a male standing outside a black Nissan Sentra raise a firearm and discharge multiple rounds in the air. Upon becoming aware of police presence, the suspect, Burch, fled in the vehicle, which had been reported carjacked out of Jersey City. After crashing into a parked vehicle at Summer Avenue and Kearney Avenue, Burch then fled on foot, tossing a handgun into the backyard of a residence in the 100 block of Summer Avenue. He was apprehended in the area of Kearny Street, near Summer Avenue, where he spit at arresting police officers.

Police recovered the handgun and found Burch in possession of 34 glassine envelopes of suspected heroin. He faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, discharging a weapon within the city limits, eluding, obstruction of the administration of the law, aggravated assault against a police officer, and possession of CDS.

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



**Rodney Burch**