

**DEPARTMENT of
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**PUBLIC
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Police Recover 8 Guns, Arrest 7 Individuals on Weapons Charges in Overnight Violence Reduction Operation

Newark Public Safety Director Brian A. O'Hara reports that police have recovered 8 illegal weapons and made 7 weapon possessions arrests as part of an intense violence reduction operation involving Newark Police and its law enforcement partners.

“We are deploying expanded resources to address the recent spike of violence on our streets,” Director O'Hara said. “Our major crimes detectives, with the assistance of our federal, state and county law enforcement partners, are diligently working to remove illegal guns from our neighborhoods to ensure the safety of our residents.”

Newark Police, in a joint operation with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, Essex County Prosecutor's Office, New Jersey State Police, FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Essex County Sheriff's Office, increased deployment into Newark hotspots after four non-fatal shooting incidents left eight victims injured by gunfire on Tuesday.

Last night's and today's operation yielded 8 illegal weapons and 7 weapons possession arrests.

Sabir Williams, 25, Mahdee S. Johnson, 24, and Safiatou Dieng, 23, all of Newark, were arrested yesterday in the 100 block of Goodwin Avenue. Police observed a hand-to-hand narcotics transaction between Williams and Dieng from a vehicle registered to Johnson. Officers observed Williams in possession of a loaded handgun, 42 glassine envelopes of heroin and \$584.00 of suspected proceeds from narcotics sales. Johnson was found in possession of 13 glassine envelopes of heroin, 8 plastic jugs containing suspected crack cocaine and \$257.00 of suspected proceeds from narcotics sales. Approximately 185 grams of marijuana was also recovered by police. Dieng was found in possession of one plastic jug of cocaine. Williams is charged with unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, CDS possession, CDS distribution and distributing CDS within 1,000-ft. of a school. Johnson faces charges of CDS possession, CDS distribution, and distributing CDS within 1,000-ft. of a school. Dieng is charged with CDS possession.

Naji Starling, 27, of Hillside, was arrested yesterday in the 100 block of Livingston Street yesterday after police observed him with a semi-automatic weapon loaded with hollow point bullets. Police also found Starling in possession of heroin. He faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, possession of prohibited weapons (hollow point bullets), CDS possession, CDS distribution, and certain persons prohibited from weapon possession.

Michael Thomas, 30, of Newark, was arrested yesterday in the 100 block of Isabella Avenue after police observed him with a handgun loaded with ball point bullets. Thomas was also found in possession of an unlabeled prescription bottle containing seven oxycodone pills. He is charged with unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a prohibited

weapon (large capacity magazine), CDS possession, resisting arrest and certain persons prohibited from weapon possession.

Samaad Allah, 25 of Newark, was arrested today at Bradley Court on North Munn Avenue after he was observed by police with a loaded firearm. He faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful possession of a weapon and certain persons prohibited from weapon possession.

Tishawn Scovil, 31, of Newark, was arrested today after police observed him with a handgun in the area of Gladstone Avenue and South Orange Avenue. Police found Scovil in possession of a loaded ghost gun, which is a gun that does not have a serial number. He faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a prohibited weapon (large capacity magazine and ghost gun).

Nazir Cook McDougald, 22, of Newark, was arrested in the 200 block of Bergen Street after police conducted a motor vehicle stop and observed a loaded handgun inside a vehicle he was driving. He was also found in possession of four bottles of promethazine hydrochloride and codeine phosphate oral solution. He faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of legend drugs.

With the assistance of FBI agents Newark Police recovered another weapon in the 100 block of South 9th Street. Police also recovered a loaded weapon inside an iron gate in the 100 block of Chelsea Avenue and a bag containing multiple glassine envelopes of heroin and multiple plastic jugs of cocaine.

“The majority of the suspects arrested for gun possession in this operation are convicted felons,” Director O’Hara noted. “That means they are absolutely prohibited from carrying a weapon. Because the courts have been backlogged due to the pandemic, the accountability previously imposed on repeat criminals is no longer in place. I trust that the criminal justice system will partner with law enforcement to keep re-offenders off our streets.”

Director O’Hara credits Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey Rachael A. Honig; Acting Essex County Prosecutor Theodore N. Stephens, II, of the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office; Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police Colonel Patrick J. Callahan; Special Agent in Charge of the FBI-Newark George M. Crouch, Jr.; Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration’s New Jersey Division Susan A. Gibson; Special Agent in Charge of the Newark Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Jeffrey L. Matthews; and Sheriff Armando B. Fontoura of the Essex County Sheriff’s Office for their assistance with this operation.

The total number of illegal guns recovered by Newark Police year-to-date is 712, up 33 percent from the same period last year. Police also recovered 34 ghost guns so far in 2021, as compared to 7 in 2020, reflecting a 357 percent increase.

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



Newark Police Gun Recoveries, November 18 and 19, 2021