

**DEPARTMENT of  
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**PUBLIC  
INFORMATION  
OFFICE**



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**For Immediate Release**

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**VIDEO:**

**Newark Police Arrest Shooting Suspect, Make Seven Gun Arrests  
This Weekend in Ongoing Violence Reduction Operation**

***45 Percent More Firearms Recovered Year-to-Date vs. 2021  
with 16 Percent Fewer Shootings This Year***

Newark Public Safety Director Brian A. O’Hara reports that police arrested Jose Soto Vargas, 39, of Newark for the discharge of a firearm Monday and made seven arrests this weekend as part of the Violence Reduction Initiative, aimed at removing firearms and apprehending gun possession suspects.

“I commend our officers for running toward danger and safely apprehending an armed suspect who recklessly discharged a firearm in front of a business,” Director O’Hara said. “A loaded and defaced handgun was recovered from this suspect, bringing the total number of firearms recovered so far this year to 205, representing a 45 percent increase over the same period last year. Our officers are working incredibly hard to achieve these results, even though we are working with 10 percent fewer officers than we had last year,” he added.

At approximately 10:45 a.m., April 18, 2022, Soto Vargas engaged in a physical altercation with a man in front of a business at 102 Market Street. During the fight, Soto Vargas attempted to remove an object from his pocket and a shot was fired. No injuries have been reported. The suspect was taken into custody without incident and a loaded and defaced handgun was recovered. Soto Vargas faces charges of aggravated assault, unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

Over the weekend, Police arrested seven suspects for weapon possession, beginning with two men and a male juvenile on Sunday in separate incidents. Terry J. Rice, 25, of East Orange, was arrested Sunday at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and South 18<sup>th</sup> Street following a motor vehicle stop. Rice was observed with a loaded handgun. He faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of prohibited weapons (large capacity magazine).

Tyrese Naraine, 21, of Newark, was also arrested Sunday in the 200 block of Irvine Turner Boulevard following a motor vehicle stop. Police observed a handgun, which was loaded, in the vehicle’s door panel. Naraine is charged with unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of prohibited weapons (large capacity magazine and hollow point ammunition).

A 17-year-old male was taken into custody Sunday following a motor vehicle stop in the area of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and South 20<sup>th</sup> Street. Police recovered a loaded ghost gun from the juvenile, who faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of prohibited weapons (large capacity magazine and machine gun capacity).

On Saturday, Police arrested Quasin S. Lee, 21, of Newark, following a ShotSpotter notification in the area of Brookdale Avenue near Arbinger Place. After Lee arrived at St. Barnabas Hospital in Livingston for treatment of a gunshot wound, Major Crimes detectives identified him as a suspect in the shooting and he was arrested. Lee faces a charge of unlawful possession of a weapon.

Davon West, 18, of Newark, was also arrested on Saturday after he was observed with a handgun in the area of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue West and North 14<sup>th</sup> Street. West ran from police and tossed the handgun in the 400 block of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He was located hiding in a basement stairwell in East Orange, where he was arrested without incident. The loaded weapon was recovered. West faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, resisting arrest and obstruction of the administration of the law.

On Friday, Police arrested Qualee Jones, 19, of Newark after he was observed with a handgun in the 200 block of Irvine Turner Boulevard. Upon becoming aware of police presence, Jones fled and tossed the handgun. He was apprehended and the loaded weapon was recovered. He is charged with unlawful possession of a weapon, resisting arrest and obstruction of the administration of the law.

Haywood Covington, 29, of Irvington, was also arrested on Friday after he was observed with a handgun in the 100 block of Alexander Street. Upon becoming aware of police presence, Covington ran, tossing the handgun, which was recovered and found loaded. Police also recovered 81 plastic jugs containing suspected CDS cocaine and one glassine envelope containing suspected CDS heroin in Covington's possession. He faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of prohibited weapons (hollow point ammunition), certain persons prohibited from weapon possession, CDS possession, CDS distribution and distribution of CDS within 1,000 ft. of a school.

“Keeping Newark neighborhoods safe for our residents and visitors is our number one priority,” Director O’Hara said. “These arrests should inform people who carry illegal weapons that both Newark Police and concerned community members will remain vigilant about removing illegal firearms from our streets.”

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

VIDEO LINK: <https://youtu.be/06G94JY1CrM>



**Jose Soto Vargas Terry Rice Tyrese Naraine**



**Quasin Lee Davon West Qualee Jones Haywood Covington**