

**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 III, Chief of Police
Rufus L. Jackson, Chief of Fire**

**For Immediate Release
May 3, 2022**

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

Newark Police Recover Nine Illegal Firearms, Charge Seven Individuals with Weapon Possession

251 Illegal Guns Recovered by Police Year-to-Date

Newark Public Safety Director Brian A. O'Hara reports that police recovered nine illegal firearms and arrested seven individuals for illegal possession of a weapon since Friday, April 29, 2022.

"I commend our officers for their vigilance in removing illegal guns from our streets, but I especially want to thank the community for their assistance in reporting people with illegal weapons to police," Director O'Hara said. "In two of these cases, Crime Stoppers tips were made to police by concerned residents who are committed to keeping our streets safe. The nine illegal handguns, recovered since Friday, bring our total gun recoveries this year to 251, a 54 percent increase over the same period a year ago."

On Monday, May 2, 2022, police arrested Darrell Hodges, 27, and James Hailey, 41, both of Newark, in separate incidents. Police received a Crime Stoppers tip about a man with a firearm in area of Bergen and West Runyon streets. Based on the description provided, police located Hodges, who was found in possession of a .9MM defaced and loaded handgun. Hodges faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of prohibited weapon (defaced), and certain persons prohibited from weapon possession. Hailey was arrested at Aldine Street near St. James Place after he was observed by police with a handgun, which was loaded. He faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of prohibited weapon (large capacity magazine), and certain persons prohibited from weapon possession.

Quashon Sullivan, 27, of Newark, and Divine Zion, 48, of Elizabeth, were arrested on Sunday, May 1, 2022 in separate incidents. Sullivan was observed with a handgun in the area of 16th Avenue and South 6th Street. The handgun was found to be loaded. He is charged with unlawful possession of a weapon and certain persons prohibited from weapon possession. Divine was arrested after police received a Crime Stoppers tip about a man armed with a handgun in the 200 block of Chadwick Avenue. Upon becoming aware of police presence, Divine dropped a bag containing a loaded .9MM handgun and ran. He was quickly apprehended and faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, resisting arrest, and obstruction of the administration of the law.

On Friday, April 30, 2022, Zaheer Collier, 24, and Taheerah Ross-Mayers, 40, both of Newark, and Patrick Woodyard, 25, of Matawan, were arrested in separate incidents. During a motor vehicle stop, police observed a .9MM ghost gun inside a vehicle driven by Collier in the area of Voorhees and Fabyan streets. Collier was also found in possession of 80 glassine envelopes of suspected CDS heroin and \$1,021.00 in suspected proceeds from narcotics sales. He faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of prohibited weapon (large capacity magazine), possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, and possession of CDS. Ross-Mayers was arrested after police responded to a domestic violence incident in the area of Kent and Brenner streets. It was

reported to police that Ross-Mayers had a gun. She was found in possession of a handgun that was reported stolen from Wake County, North Carolina in February 2020. Ross-Mayers is charged with unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, simple assault, terroristic threats, and receiving stolen property. Woodyard was arrested during a motor vehicle stop in the 500 block of South 18th Street. Police observed him with a handgun that was loaded. He is charged with unlawful possession of a weapon and possession of a prohibited weapon (large capacity and hollow point ammunition).

Two additional handguns were recovered by our law enforcement partners yesterday at St. James Place. One of the recovered weapons was a ghost gun.

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



Darrell Hodges

James Hailey

Quashon Sullivan

Divine Zion



Zaheer Collier

Taheerah Ross-Mayers

Patrick Woodyard