

**DEPARTMENT of  
PUBLIC SAFETY**

**PUBLIC  
INFORMATION  
OFFICE**



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

**Ras J. Baraka, Mayor  
Fritz G. Fragé, Public Safety Director  
Raul Malave, III, Assistant Public Safety Director  
Emanuel Miranda, Chief of Police  
Rufus L. Jackson, Chief of Fire**

**For Immediate Release**

**December 21, 2022**

**For Further Information, Contact:**

**Catherine Adams, Lieutenant David Dos Santos, or Barry Carter**

**Email: [pio@ci.newark.nj.us](mailto:pio@ci.newark.nj.us)**

## **Newark Police Arrest Five Men, Two Juveniles for Armed Business Robberies**

Newark Public Safety Director Fritz G. Fragé reports that Police have arrested five men and two juveniles in connection with business robbery incidents that occurred between November 25, 2022, and December 18, 2022.

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, Devin Negrón, 18, of Newark, and James Preston, 18, of Irvington, were arrested along with a 16-year-old male and a 15-year-old male following an armed gas station robbery at McCarter Highway near Clark Street. Two male suspects robbed the station's two attendants at gunpoint of approximately \$530.00 in cash. The suspects fled in a gray, 4-door, 2021 Mazda 6 that was occupied by two additional males. Police apprehended the four suspects following a brief pursuit and collision involving the vehicle at the 100 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Police recovered two firearms from inside the suspect vehicle, which had been reported stolen out of Pequannock Township on December 15, 2022.

Negrón faces charges of robbery, conspiracy, unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, and receiving stolen property. Preston is charged with unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a prohibited weapon (defaced firearm), unlawful taking of a means of conveyance, and hindering apprehension or prosecution. The 16-year-old is charged with receiving stolen property, unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a prohibited weapon (defaced firearm), possession of CDS (heroin), and eluding. The 15-year-old faces charges of unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a prohibited weapon (defaced firearm), and unlawful taking of a means of conveyance.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, Alexander Tasayco-Quevedo, 26, of Newark, was arrested in connection with an armed business robbery that occurred in the 700 block of Mount Prospect Avenue. The suspect entered the business at approximately 2:05 p.m. and left after making a purchase. He returned at approximately 2:15 p.m., brandishing a handgun, and demanding that the two store employees give him everything they had. The suspect fled the store with approximately \$31,000.00 in cash and checks.

Tasayco-Quevedo was arrested after he was observed by Police in the area of Peabody Place near Chester Avenue. He faces charges of robbery, unlawful possession of a weapon, aggravated assault, and possession of CDS (cocaine).

Tasayco-Quevedo is also charged with robbery, conspiracy, unlawful possession of a weapon, and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose in connection with an armed business robbery that occurred on December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 300 block of Bloomfield Avenue. Two suspects entered the business, pointed a handgun at the head of a customer, and stole \$7,500.00 in cash before fleeing. Joel Gonzalez, 29, of Newark, was also arrested in connection with this incident and is charged with robbery, conspiracy, unlawful possession of a weapon, and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

Tasayco-Quevedo also faces a robbery charge in connection with an armed business robbery in the 100 block of Bloomfield Avenue. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, the suspect brandished a handgun and demanded that workers open the store's cash register. The suspect stole over \$10,000.00 from the business.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, Luis A. Mejia-Paniagua, 31, of Newark, was arrested in connection with an armed business robbery in the 100 block of Bloomfield Avenue. The suspect entered the store and made a purchase. He then returned to the store, pointed a handgun at the workers, and stole \$21,000.00 in cash before fleeing on a blue and silver mountain bike. He was arrested after he was observed by Police in the area of Peabody Place near Chester Avenue. Mejia-Paniagua faces charges of robbery, unlawful possession of a weapon, and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

Mejia-Paniagua also faces charges of robbery, conspiracy, unlawful possession of a weapon, and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose after being identified as a suspect in an armed business robbery that occurred on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Bloomfield Avenue near Crittenden Street. At approximately 5:40 p.m., a man entered the business, took a bottle of water, and said he wanted to pay for it. He followed a worker to the register, brandished a handgun, and demanded the store's cash. The suspect fled, heading eastbound on Crittenden Street. Joel Gonzalez, 29, of Newark, is also charged in this incident with robbery, conspiracy, unlawful possession of a weapon, and possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose.

Mejia-Paniagua further faces charges of robbery, conspiracy, unlawful possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, and involuntary criminal restraint, in connection with an armed business robbery that occurred on December 2, 2022, at the 100 block of Park Avenue. The hands of two store employees were zip-tied during an armed robbery in which two male suspects stole \$300.00 from the store's cash register before fleeing, heading west on Park Avenue.

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



**Devin Negron     James Preston**



**Alexander Tasayco-Quevedo**

**Joel Gonzalez**

**Luis Mejia-Paniagua**