

Burlington County Prosecutor's Office

NEWS RELEASE



Raymond E. Milavsky
First Asst. Prosecutor

Robert D. Bernardi
Prosecutor

John M. Angermeier
Chief of Investigations

January 30, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Joel Bewley
Public Information Officer
609-265-5777 c: 609-820-4407
jbewley@co.burlington.nj.us

FOUR CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTED MURDER OF TAXI-CAB DRIVER IN MOUNT LAUREL

Burlington County Prosecutor Robert D. Bernardi and Mount Laurel Police Chief Dennis Cribben announced that three adults and a juvenile were arrested today for the early morning robbery and knife attack of a cab driver on Forrest Court in Mount Laurel.

The following individuals were each charged with one count of Attempted Murder (First Degree), one count of Robbery (First Degree) and one count of Carjacking (First Degree): Breanna Pimienta, age 18, of 2995 Chapel Avenue, Cherry Hill, New Jersey; Miguel Mercado, age 21, of 2995 Chapel Avenue, Cherry Hill, New Jersey; Mahadi M. Robinson, Jr., age 21, of 220 South Lenola Road, Maple Shade, New Jersey; and a male juvenile, age 17.

The Hon. Michael J. Haas, J.S.C. set bail for each of the three adults at \$300,000 with no 10 percent option. A first appearance will be held tomorrow in Superior Court in Burlington County. The juvenile is being held in pre-trial detention.

The investigation revealed that the defendants were at Pimienta and Mercado's residence early this morning when they arranged to have a taxi-cab pick them up at a nearby pharmacy. They instructed the driver to take them to Mount Laurel. Upon arriving at Forrest Court at approximately 3 a.m., Robinson put the driver in a choke hold and the attack began. The driver exited the vehicle and fled to a nearby residence to seek help. Mercado then got into the driver's seat and drove a short distance before crashing into a tree.

The victim was taken by helicopter to Cooper Medical Center in Camden, where he is listed in critical condition after undergoing surgery to treat a severe laceration to his neck. The robbery yielded \$40 for the defendants. The victim, whose name is not being released at this time, is employed by the Five Star Cab Service in Camden, New Jersey.

Robinson and the juvenile were picked up by a Mount Laurel patrol unit that was responding to the crime scene. Pimienta and Mercado were apprehended at their residence at approximately 3 p.m. by the Cherry Hill Police Department's Tactical Response Team.

The investigation was conducted by detectives from the Mount Laurel Police Department, the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit and Crime Scene Unit, and the Willingboro Township Police Department's K-9 Unit.

All persons are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

End

2012-04