

NEWS RELEASE



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Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor

NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP MAN INDICTED FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY ATTEMPTED MURDER

On July 19, 2010, a Monmouth County Grand Jury returned an indictment charging Carlos Piper, 20, of Neptune Township, N.J., with first degree Attempted Murder, first degree Armed Robbery and second degree Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose. The charges stem from a shooting which occurred on January 1, 2010, in Neptune Township.

The indictment additionally charges Piper, Caran Gladden, 19, of Asbury Park, N.J., and Ryshon Venable, 19, of Neptune Township, each with two counts of third degree Receiving Stolen Property, second degree Unlawful Possession of a Handgun and fourth degree Possession of a Prohibited Weapon. The indictment also charges Piper and Gladden with fourth degree Obstructing the Administration of Law or Other Governmental Function and with third degree Resisting Arrest. The additional charges relate to a January 2, 2010 motor vehicle stop in Asbury Park, N.J.

At approximately 7:41 p.m. on January 1, 2010, Neptune Township police received several calls reporting that shots had been fired in the vicinity of The Cove, a convenience store which is located at 1231 9th Avenue. Police immediately responded to the location and commenced an investigation.

While the investigation into the Neptune Township shooting was ongoing, at approximately 4:35 p.m. on January 2, 2010, Asbury Park police conducted a lawful motor vehicle stop of a motor vehicle which they believed was stolen. The motor vehicle which was stopped was occupied by Piper, Gladden and Venable. During the course of the motor vehicle stop, a stolen handgun loaded with hollow point bullets was lawfully recovered from the vehicle. Gladden and Piper fled on foot during the motor vehicle stop. They were apprehended by police after brief pursuits.

Piper's bail was set at \$50,000 by Asbury Park Municipal Court Judge Mark T. Apostolou, on the charges relating to the January 2, 2010, motor vehicle stop. Piper was lodged in the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of bail until he posted bail on January 27, 2010, at which time he was released. Gladden and Venable were released on their own recognizance.

Neptune Township police continued their investigation into the New Year's Day shooting at The Cove convenience store. The investigation revealed that Piper shot at the victim at least two times from point-blank range while he and the victim were outside of the store. Piper was arrested in connection with the New Year's Day shooting on March 7, 2010. Piper's bail on the shooting charges was set at \$400,000 by Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Eugene A. Iadanza. Piper was returned to the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of the additional bail.

If convicted of the first degree crimes of Attempted Murder or Armed Robbery, the maximum potential custodial sentence is a State Prison term of up to 20 years. Attempted Murder and Armed Robbery are subject to the No Early Release Act ("N.E.R.A."), which means that a defendant would have to serve 85% of any custodial sentence imposed for those crimes before becoming eligible for release on parole. If convicted of either second degree Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose or second degree Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, the maximum potential custodial sentence is a State Prison term of up to 10 years, and pursuant to the "Graves Act" there is a mandatory period of parole ineligibility of between one third and one half of the custodial sentence imposed for those crimes, or 3 years, whichever is greater. If convicted of any of the third degree crimes contained in the indictment, the maximum potential custodial sentence is a State Prison term of up to 5 years. The maximum potential custodial sentence for a fourth degree crime is 18 months.

Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated, "Piper's arrest is the direct result of a thorough police investigation which could not have reached a successful culmination without the cooperation of the public."

Despite these charges, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and State law.

The case is assigned to Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Decker. Piper is represented by William Wackowski, Esquire, of Freehold, N.J. Gladden is represented by Joanna Boretti, Esquire, of Freehold, N.J. Defense counsel has not yet entered an appearance with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office on behalf of Venable.

Released: July 19, 2010