



WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Honor, Integrity, Pride.



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WESTFIELD POLICE CHIEF ANNOUNCES SEVERAL ARRESTS RESULTING FROM SEPARATE MINDOWASKIN PARK INCIDENTS

WESTFIELD – NOVEMBER 16, 2020 – Westfield Police Chief Christopher Battiloro has announced several arrests resulting from two (2) separate incidents recently occurring in Mindowaskin Park.

Joseph Young, age 18, of Cranford, was arrested on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at approximately 4:41 PM for Possession of Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, 2C:39-4D, and Harassment, 2C:33-4A, this after he reportedly threatened five (5) juveniles while brandishing a charged stun gun.

Police learned of the incident when responding to a report of an erratic driver on Park Drive and were flagged down by the distressed juveniles.

Young was located by Officer Richard Gill, who observed him operating the vehicle in question on E. Broad Street in the central business district shortly after the incident was reported.

Pursuant to an investigation conducted by Officer Gill, assisted by Officer Andres Jaramillo and Detective Sergeant Keven O’Keefe, Young was determined to be in possession of the weapon. He was subsequently arrested and transported to the Westfield Police Department, where he was processed, served with a complaint-summons, and then released on his own recognizance pending a future court date.

Following the investigation of another incident that reportedly occurred on Saturday, November 7, 2020, at approximately 7:25PM, a 15-year old male juvenile from Springfield was arrested the following day at his residence and charged with Robbery, 2C:15-1A, Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, 2C:39-4A(1), and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, 2C:39-5B(1).

It was reported the arrested juvenile brandished a firearm towards another 15-year old juvenile present in the park, asked to ride his scooter, and then, after being denied such by the victim, stole a beanie from his head.

It was further reported the arrested juvenile was accompanied by five other (5) other juveniles, one of whom also brandished a pocket knife and insisted the victim let them ride his scooter.

As a result of a joint investigation conducted by the Westfield Police Department’s Detective and Juvenile/Community Policing Bureaus, a 16-year old male juvenile from Springfield was also identified and subsequently arrested at the Westfield Police Department on Monday, November 16, 2020. He has been charged with Robbery, 2C:15-1A, Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful



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Purpose, 2C:39-4A(1), and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, 2C:39-5B(1).

“The on-going situation occurring in Mindowaskin Park, particularly during hours of darkness, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated,” stated Chief Battiloro. “We will aggressively investigate any and all such reported criminal acts, and seek to identify, charge, and prosecute all of those persons involved to the fullest extent of the law,” he added.

The arrested juveniles were both served with juvenile delinquency complaints and have been committed to the Essex County Juvenile Detention Center in Newark. They remain there in custodial confinement at this time.

Anyone with any additional information related to either one of these incidents is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Lauren Maloney by telephone at 908-789-6086 or by e-mail at lmaloney@wpdnj.org.



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