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THREE MEN CHARGED FOR NINE ROBBERIES OF 7-ELEVEN STORES IN MONTGOMERY, BUCKS AND PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES



Nazear Newton



Quentin Archie



Phillip Coleman, Jr.

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (April 10, 2017) —Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Upper Dublin Township Police Chief Lee Benson and Whitpain Township Police Chief Kenneth Lawson, with the aid of the FBI and law enforcement agencies from Bucks and Philadelphia counties, announce the arrest of Nazear Newton, 18, of Huntington Valley; Quentin Archie, 19, of Philadelphia; and Phillip Coleman, Jr., 19, of Philadelphia for a series of armed robberies of 7-Eleven convenience stores in Montgomery, Bucks and Philadelphia counties that occurred Jan. 21 to Feb. 21, 2017.

The investigation into these robberies was a multi-agency effort involving the FBI, Montgomery County Detective Bureau's Violent Crime Unit, and police from Philadelphia, Bensalem Township, Bristol Township, Springfield Township, Warrington Township, Upper Dublin Township and Whitpain Township. The investigation revealed that Newton, Archie and Coleman targeted a multitude of 7-Eleven convenience stores in the city of Philadelphia and in Montgomery and Bucks counties.

The investigation began when the defendants were apprehended following an armed robbery of a 7-Eleven store in Ambler in Upper Dublin Township on Feb. 21, 2017. Upper Dublin Police broadcast a description of the two robbers and their accomplice, who was called "Q" during the robbery, over police radio. Whitpain Township Police Officer Francis Rippert III heard the description and headed toward the robbery scene when he observed a car that was being driven as if the vehicle operator was lost. The officer executed a traffic stop after the driver failed to signal a turn. The officer noticed the occupants matched the robbery suspects' descriptions and he noticed there was a lot of cash visible in the car. Following a positive identification by the store clerk who was brought to the traffic stop location, the three men were arrested. The defendants were arraigned and held on \$100,000 bail, which they failed to post.

Following their arrests, detectives gathered and analyzed surveillance footage from previous robberies of 7-Eleven stores, conducted interviews, executed search warrants, recovered stolen property, recovered physical evidence, analyzed cellular telephones and analyzed cellular telephone records. Through the investigation, it was determined that the defendants also committed eight additional robberies of 7-Eleven stores in Bensalem Township, Bristol Township and Warrington Township in Bucks County; in Philadelphia at Welsh Road, Ridge Avenue, Broad Street and Frankford Avenue; and in Glenside in Springfield Township in Montgomery County, in addition to the Ambler location.

The defendants are charged as follows:

Newton: Criminal Conspiracy, Robbery, Possession of a Firearm with Altered Manufacturer's Number, Theft by Unlawful Taking, Receiving Stolen Property, Firearms Not to Be Carried without a License, Criminal Use of Communications Facility and other related charges;

Archie: Criminal Conspiracy, Robbery, Theft by Unlawful Taking, Receiving Stolen Property, Kidnapping, Criminal Use of Communications Facility and other related charges;

Coleman: Criminal Conspiracy, Robbery, Theft by Unlawful Taking, Receiving Stolen Property, Kidnapping and other related charges.

The defendants were arraigned today on the new charges stemming from the other eight robberies in front of Magisterial District Judge Patricia Zaffarano. Bail was set at \$1 million each. The defendants failed to make bail and are in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing was set for 10:45 a.m., April 27, 2017, in front of Judge Zaffarano.

Assistant District Attorney Laura Bradbury will prosecute the case.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.