



# NEWS RELEASE

**Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes**  
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office  
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## **ARREST MADE IN CONNECTION WITH DECEMBER 1, 2022 CARJACKING INVESTIGATION**

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PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

December 5, 2022

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes, Acting Paterson Police Chief Bert Ribeiro, and Bloomfield Police Director of Public Safety Samuel A. DeMaio announce that based upon an investigation by the Paterson Police Department, Juan Montero-Pena, a 30-year-old male from Paterson, New Jersey, was arrested in relation to a carjacking investigation that took place on December 1, 2022, in the area of Jackson Street and Washington Avenue in Paterson, New Jersey. Juan Montero-Pena is charged with Carjacking, First Degree; Two Counts of Kidnapping, First Degree; Robbery, Second Degree; Terroristic Threats, Third Degree; and Simple Assault, a Disorderly Persons Offense.

On December 1, 2022, at approximately 10:00 p.m. members of the Bloomfield Police Department contacted members of the Paterson Police Department regarding a possible kidnapping that had occurred earlier in Paterson, New Jersey. Based upon the investigation by the Paterson Police Department, it was determined that on December 1, 2022, at approximately 8:00 p.m., several men approached a motor vehicle in the area of Jackson Street and Washington Avenue in Paterson, New Jersey. The actors threatened a 38-year-old female Paterson resident and a 47-year-old male Central Islip, New York resident, and carjacked the motor vehicle. The victims were then forcibly restrained against their will.

At approximately 9:40 p.m., members of the Bloomfield Police Department located the carjacked vehicle in the area of Arlington Avenue and Watsessing Avenue in Bloomfield, New Jersey, which was being operated by Juan Montero-Pena. Members of the Paterson Police Department determined that Juan Montero-Pena was one of the actors who participated in earlier carjacking and kidnappings, and he was placed under arrest. Neither victim sustained serious injuries as a result of the incident.

The sentencing exposure for Juan Montero Pena on First Degree Carjacking is 10-30 years New Jersey State Prison with 85% of the term to be served before parole eligibility pursuant to the No Early Release Act and 5 years parole supervision upon his release; on each count of First Degree Kidnapping it is 10-20 years New Jersey State Prison with 85% of the term to be served before

parole eligibility pursuant to the No Early Release Act and 5 years parole supervision upon his release; on Second Degree Robbery it is 5- 10 years New Jersey State Prison with 85% of the term to be served before parole eligibility pursuant to the No Early Release Act and 3 years parole supervision upon his release; on Terroristic Threats it is 3-5 years New Jersey State Prison; and on a Simple Assault it is up to 6 months in jail.

The State has filed a motion for pretrial detention for Juan Montero-Pena that will be heard by the Hon. Imre Karaszegi, Jr., J.S.C. on December 7, 2022.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. Despite this accusation, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Passaic County Prosecutor's Office asks anyone with additional information about this incident to contact us on our tips line at 1-877-370-PCPO or [tips@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:tips@passaiccountynj.org) or contact the Paterson Police Major Crimes Division at 973-321-1120.

For media inquiries concerning this incident, contact Assistant Prosecutor Stephanie Faloyin of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office at [sfaloyin@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:sfaloyin@passaiccountynj.org) or at 973- 881- 4818.



(Photo: Juan Montero- Pena)