

OFFICE OF DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY
JAMES C. BACKSTROM
COUNTY ATTORNEY



Dakota County Judicial Center
1560 Highway 55
Hastings, Minnesota 55033-2392
Phillip D. Prokopowicz, Chief Deputy
Jay R. Stassen, First Assistant
Monica Jensen, Community Relations Director

Telephone
(651) 438-4438
FAX: (651) 438-4479 (Civil Division)
FAX: (651) 438-4500 (Criminal Division)
FAX: (651) 438-4499 (Admin Division)
E-mail: attorney@co.dakota.mn.us

October 12, 2018

NEWS RELEASE

**TWO ADULTS AND ONE JUVENILE CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH
ARMED ROBBERY SPREE IN DAKOTA COUNTY**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that two adults **Daiquawn Michael Burrell-Smith**, age 21 of St. Paul, and **Jared Otha Washington**, age 27 of Minneapolis, and a **17-year-old male of Minneapolis*** have been charged** with multiple felonies in connection with an armed robbery spree that took place in Apple Valley, Eagan and Burnsville in Dakota County on October 10, 2018. A motion has been filed to certify the juvenile as an adult for purposes of prosecution.

Each of these individuals has been charged with three counts of Aggravated Robbery in the 1st Degree***; one count of Attempted Robbery in the 1st Degree***; four counts of Assault in the 2nd Degree; and one count of Burglary in the 1st Degree. Washington was also charged with one count of Theft (involving use of a motor vehicle without consent) and one count of a Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle. The juvenile was also charged with one count of Possession of a Firearm of an ineligible person under the age of 18. All of these charges are felony level offenses.

Below is a summary of the allegations set forth in the criminal complaints:

On October 9, 2018, a white car was stolen at gunpoint in Minneapolis by persons who have not yet been identified. On October 10, 2018, this stolen vehicle was involved in a series of armed robberies, which occurred in the cities of Apple Valley (two separate incidents), Eagan and Burnsville. In all four of these incidents, guns were pointed at the victims.

In the first of these incidents, which occurred at 4:56 p.m. in Apple Valley, two armed men entered the victim's car while it was parked, pointed handguns at the victim, and fled in a white car after stealing his cellphone, keys and wallet.

In the second incident, which occurred at 6:10 p.m. in Eagan, a white car with three males in it pulled next to a victim who was walking at the time. Two males exited the back seat of the vehicle, pointed their guns at the victim, and knocked the victim to the ground. The armed individuals then fled after stealing the victim's cell phone and wallet.

In the third incident, which occurred at 6:25 p.m. in Burnsville, the victim who was inside of her vehicle was approached by two men who attempted to open the car doors, which were locked. One armed individual tapped on the driver's window with a handgun and told the victim he would kill her if she did not get out. The victim then honked her horn and the armed individuals fled in a white car.

In the fourth incident, which occurred at 6:40 p.m. in Apple Valley, the victim was followed to his home by a white car. After the victim parked his car in his garage, he was approached by two armed males who pointed their guns at him and took his cell phone and keys. However, these items were returned to the victim after a third male entered the garage and told the two armed individuals to return the items before all three individuals fled the scene.

The victim in the second incident was able to assist police by activating the tracking application on his stolen cell phone, allowing law enforcement to track the suspect vehicle which was located at 7:02 p.m. in a parking lot in Apple Valley. At that time, the suspect vehicle attempted to flee, accelerating down the wrong way of traffic where it struck head on a marked patrol car attempting to block the vehicle's escape.

All three individuals in the suspect vehicle were arrested. One loaded handgun fell out of the waistband of the juvenile at the time of his arrest. A subsequent search of the suspect vehicle located three additional handguns, one of which had the hammer cocked back and five bullets in the magazine. Two of these three recovered handguns had been reported stolen on September 22, 2018 in Nashville, Tennessee. Washington lived in Nashville during the past year. Police also recovered the stolen items from the first two victims.

The second victim was transported to the arrest location where he positively identified Washington and Burrell-Smith as the two individuals who robbed him at gunpoint. The third victim was also transported to the arrest location where she positively identified Burrell-Smith and the juvenile, as the individuals who attempted to gain entry to her car with handguns. When shown photographs of the suspects, the fourth victim identified all three males as the individuals who confronted him in his garage.

Additional facts can be obtained from the criminal complaints filed in connection with this matter, which are located online at: <http://extwebpub/LawJustice/CriminalComplaint/Pages/default.aspx>

Backstrom commented: *"This was a series of violent crimes which terrorized four separate victims. We are thankful that none of these victims were physically injured and that the police were able to make these arrests as quickly as they did."*

Backstrom thanked the Apple Valley, Eagan and Burnsville Police Departments for their investigation into this matter (which was led by the Apple Valley Police Department) and other responding law enforcement agencies.

Burrell-Smith and Washington made their first court appearance on these charges this afternoon and Judge Mark C. Vandelist set bail in both cases in the amount of \$500,000 without conditions (\$250,000 with conditions). Their next court appearance was set for November 8, 2018 in Hastings.

The juvenile charged in these incidents made his first court appearance in juvenile court this morning. Judge Joseph Carter ordered his continued secured detention and an initial appearance on the motion to certify this juvenile as an adult and a detention review is scheduled for October 16, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. in Hastings.

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4438.

**It is the policy of the Dakota County Attorney's Office not to release the names of juveniles charged with felonies until they are certified to stand trial as adults.*

***Criminal charges are not evidence of guilt. A defendant/suspect is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

****An error was made in the criminal complaint of Jared Otha Washington. He was mistakenly charged with one count of Aggravated Robbery in the 1st Degree in connection with the third victim. This charge should have been Attempted Aggravated Robbery in the 1st Degree. This error has been corrected in this News Release and the criminal complaint will be amended.*