



MEDIA RELEASE – August 31, 2020

Acting Hunterdon County Prosecutor Michael J. Williams, Acting Chief of Detectives Frank R. Crisologo, and Clinton Township Police Department Officer in Charge Lieutenant Thomas A. DeRosa announce the arrest of two individuals for narcotics and weapons offenses.

Clinton Township, NJ – At approximately 1:30 am on August 31, 2020, officers from Clinton Township Police Department made contact with Christian Joel Cordero and Genesis Bertefabian, both of Brooklyn, NY, as part of a routine motor vehicle stop on Route 22 eastbound. As a result of the roadside investigation, probable cause was developed to arrest the driver, Mr. Cordero, and search the vehicle. While conducting a search of the suspect vehicle, officers located a loaded Glock magazine in the passenger compartment. When officers confronted Mr. Cordero about the illegal magazine and the location of the weapon, he denied knowledge of a gun, attempted to flee the scene, and subsequently resisted arrest. While other officers on scene were attempting to place Mr. Cordero under arrest, the passenger, Ms. Bertefabian, entered the suspect vehicle and drove away from the scene. Shortly thereafter, she crashed the vehicle into Chelsea’s Restaurant on Route 22 East and was later taken into custody by the New Jersey State Police. Both individuals were transported back to police headquarters for processing and lodged in the county jail awaiting a court appearance. Officers continued the investigation, eventually discovering information that led to the recovery of a loaded handgun behind Chelsea’s Restaurant where Ms. Bertefabian had attempted to secrete the evidence after crashing the suspect vehicle. Assisting agencies included the Hunterdon County Prosecutor’s Office, Town of Clinton Police Department, New Jersey State Police, Annandale Hose Company, Clinton Township Citizen’s Emergency Response Team, and the N.J. Department of Transportation.

Cordero is charged with: 2nd degree illegal possession of a handgun, 2 counts of 4th degree possession of high capacity magazines, 3rd degree Resisting arrest, possession less than 50 grams of marijuana, possession drug paraphernalia.

Bertefabian is charged with: 2nd degree illegal possession of a handgun , 2 counts of 4th degree possession of high capacity magazine, 4th degree tampering with evidence, 4th degree obstruction, 4th degree resisting arrest, 3rd degree possession of CDS, possession of less than 50 grams marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia

Both are detained and are awaiting a detention hearing.

The filing of a criminal complaint is merely a step in the criminal justice process. The defendant is presumed innocent until the matter is resolved in a court of law.

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-321-0010, going online at www.CrimeStoppersHunterdon.com, or through the free “P3 Tips” smartphone app. All tips are anonymous and kept confidential.