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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2021

BETHLEHEM MAN CHARGED IN MARCH 5 ROBBERY, ATTEMPTED SEXUAL ASSAULT IN EASTON

Today, Northampton County District Attorney Terence Houck announces charges against 34-year-old Clement Swaby, of Bethlehem, in connection to an attempted sexual assault in Easton.

Swaby is charged with Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse and Burglary, both felonies of the first degree. He is also charged with Indecent Assault, Theft by Unlawful Taking, and Terroristic Threats.

At 6:42 a.m. on Friday, March 5, Easton Police responded to the area of 417 McCartney Street for the report of a male armed with a knife, who entered an occupied residence and attempted to sexually assault two females.

The two 22-year-old female victims told police the male entered their bedroom armed with a knife, demanding the two perform oral sex on each other. They described the person as a dark-skinned black male, approximately 5'10 tall, and wearing dark clothing. They reported the male fled the residence after the attempted assault.

Investigators obtained surveillance footage from nearby residences on Cattell Street, Parsons Street, and McCartney Street to review. The video showed a male walking to the rear of 417 McCartney Street at 6:19 a.m. and looking through the kitchen window, checking the rear door to the residence. The male then entered the residence by climbing through a bedroom window. Video showed the male moving around the first floor apartment, and then exiting the apartment and walking into the common area of the building. He was then seen entering the second floor apartment, and fleeing from the residence through the front door a short time later.

One of the victims advised police on Monday, March 8, that she realized \$500 was stolen from her purse during the course of the crime. On Wednesday, March 10, one of the victims contacted police to say she was alerted her Starbucks gift card was used by someone else at a store in Oakland, New Jersey, and then again the next day in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

During the investigation, police also reviewed in-car camera video from marked Easton Police cruisers that were being used on the morning of the incident. The footage showed a white Mazda SUV parked in the 400 block of Cattell Street, which appeared to be the same SUV shown in the surveillance video previously obtained and viewed from nearby residences on Cattell Street. It was determined this vehicle was rented by Swaby on Nov. 3, 2020 from Avis rental company, and was supposed to be returned by Feb. 16, 2021. The Philadelphia Police reported the vehicle as stolen on Thursday, March 9, and obtained an arrest warrant for Swaby for charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, theft, and receiving stolen property on Thursday, March 11.

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Police learned on Saturday, March 13, Swaby returned the white Mazda SUV to Avis Rental Company and attempted to rent another vehicle.

Later that day, at 1:12 p.m., City of Bethlehem Patrol Officers and Easton Police CID personnel proceeded to Swaby's address at 638 Hayes Street, where Swaby was taken into custody.

Police obtained a search warrant for 638 Hayes Street, where police recovered dark colored moccasins and dark colored draw string pants. During this time, Swaby's significant other recovered a dark colored Lehigh University soccer jacket, which contained black gloves and a dark colored facemask. All items appeared consistent with what the male was wearing in the obtained video footage from the day of the attempted assault.

Swaby was interviewed by police at Bethlehem Police headquarters where he admitted to utilizing the Starbucks credit card at both locations and to driving the white Mazda SUV. He also admitted to stealing the Starbucks card from a wallet in the first floor apartment. He stated that he encountered two females in a bedroom after he made his way to the second floor apartment. Swaby told police he was armed with a knife and ordered the women to perform oral sex on each other, before fleeing.

Swaby was arraigned today by Magisterial District Judge Robert Weber and bail was set at \$300,000 cash.

Houck recognizes the around-the-clock and tireless efforts of the Easton Police Department in this investigation and arrest.

This investigation remains ongoing.

As in every criminal case, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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