



BCPO News

Scott A. Coffina, Prosecutor



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Homeless Man Indicted for Sexually Assaulting Two Women at Knifepoint

Burlington County Prosecutor Scott Coffina announced that a 29-year-old homeless man has been indicted on charges of sexually assaulting two women last summer after threatening to harm them with a knife if they resisted.

A Burlington County Grand Jury returned two separate indictments against Shawn Midgette charging him with two counts of Aggravated Sexual Assault (First Degree), Robbery (First Degree), Aggravated Assault (Second Degree), Aggravated Criminal Sexual Contact (Third Degree), two counts of Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose (Third Degree), two counts of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon (Fourth Degree), and two counts of Certain Persons Not to Possess Firearms (Fourth Degree).

The indictments were returned on June 24 and June 29 and signed by Prosecutor Coffina. Midgette will be scheduled for an arraignment in the near future in Superior Court in Mount Holly.

The investigation began July 24, 2020, after an elderly woman was sexually assaulted in her vehicle by a man who asked for a ride as she exited a pharmacy in the 100 block of Springside Road in Westampton. The assailant forced her to drive to the Garfield East section of Willingboro, where he assaulted her and took cash from her purse before fleeing on foot.

Midgette was immediately identified as a suspect, and patrol units in Willingboro, Mount Holly and Westampton began an active search for him. An alert was issued to law enforcement agencies in Burlington and neighboring counties, and investigators began checking area homeless shelters to determine where he had been staying.

On July 25, Mount Holly police were contacted by a homeless woman who said she was threatened with a knife and sexually assaulted in Monroe Park. The victim was acquainted with Midgette.

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He was taken into custody two days later by Willingboro police at the McDonald's restaurant on Beverly Rancocas Road. The knife believed to be used during the assaults was found on his person.

Midgette is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecutor Stephen Eife, supervisor of the BCPO Major Crimes Unit – Special Victims Section.

The investigation was conducted by the Willingboro Township Police Department, the Mount Holly Township Police Department and the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office, with assistance from the Westampton Township Police Department.

The lead investigators are Willingboro Detective Elijah Hart, Mount Holly Detective Nicholas Dell-Priscoli and BCPO Detective Sgt. Tony Luyber.

*An indictment is an accusation.
Defendants are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty.*

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