



ERIC R. LINHARDT  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KENNETH A. OSOKOW  
FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

LYCOMING COUNTY  
OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY

LYCOMING COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
48 WEST THIRD STREET • WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701  
TELEPHONE: (570) 327-2456 • FAX: (570) 327-2324

TROY D. SELLERS  
ADULT VICTIM WITNESS COORDINATOR

LAURA L. BOWER  
JUVENILE VICTIM WITNESS COORDINATOR

Prepared Remarks  
District Attorney Press Conference  
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With me today are Police Chief Gregory Foresman, Captain Mike Orwig, Sergeant Jody Miller, and Agents Ray Kontz and Marlin Smith, of the Williamsport Bureau of Police; Chief County Detective William Weber; Commissioners Tony Mussare, Jeff Rauff and Ernie Larson; Sheriff Mark Lusk; and representatives of our Lycoming County Probation Office. I want to thank you all for being here.

Yesterday morning at approximately 10:24 a.m. officers were dispatched to the Williamsport Regional Medical Center after a victim of a shooting contacted the Lycoming County Emergency 911 Center advising that he had been shot and was driving himself to the hospital. The victim, identified as ANTWAN M. McCLAIN, arrived at the hospital with a single gunshot wound to his left shoulder and was immediately treated within the emergency unit.

Agents from the Williamsport Bureau of Police arrived at the hospital and conducted an interview with Mr. McCLAIN. Mr. McCLAIN stated that he was northbound on Grier Street approaching Park Ave. when a white Chevy Impala, which was west bound, turned in front of his vehicle cutting him off and bringing Mr. McCLAIN to a stop. This white Impala pulled alongside of him and the driver's side window, which was tinted, began to lower. Mr. McCLAIN stated that he then saw the black male driver pointing a large semi-automatic handgun out of the window towards him. Mr. McCLAIN reacted to seeing the gun, turning his body away from it and began to accelerate the vehicle trying to pull away. Mr. McCLAIN stated that the suspect fired at him several times hitting his vehicle and striking him in the left shoulder.

Mr. McCLAIN described the vehicle to police and stated that it had a "spotlight" on the driver's side like the police cars do. A vehicle fitting this description was located parked near an abandoned residence on Apple Street. The vehicle was secured at that time. The vehicle was registered to JOYCE MECCA MASON of 647 Wildwood Blvd. Williamsport, PA 17701.

Mr. McCLAIN's vehicle was at the hospital and Agents observed three bullet holes in the vehicle, two through the driver's side window and one just to the rear of the driver door. Mr. McCLAIN was interviewed a second time at the hospital after he was treated. Mr. McCLAIN stated that he recognized the shooter's vehicle as being one that was sold recently by Penn State Auto located at 501 Arch St. Williamsport, PA 17701. This would correspond to the vehicle that police had located and seized near the abandoned residence.

Agents spoke with the owner of Penn State Auto who indicated that the person that bought the car is known to him as "Mickey." He stated that "Mickey" had put the vehicle into his mother's name when he bought the car approximately a month ago. Using this information police were able to identify a possible suspect as WILLIAM MICHAEL BLACKWELL.

A photo array was constructed by Lt. Arnold Duck of the Williamsport Bureau of Police Criminal Investigation Unit. The photo array was shown to McClain and he immediately and without hesitation identified Blackwell as the person who had pulled alongside his vehicle and shot him.

Thanks to the excellent work of the Agents and Patrol Officers of the Williamsport Bureau of Police, last night I approved charges of Attempted Homicide, Aggravated Assault, Persons not to Possess Firearms, Carry Firearms without a License, Propulsion of Missiles into an Occupied Vehicle, Possessing Instruments of Crime, and Reckless Endangering another Person, against William Michael Blackwell aka "Mickey" and a warrant for his arrest has been issued.

We are requesting the public's assistance in apprehending Mr. Blackwell. He is currently on State Parole supervision. His last known address is 647 Wildwood Boulevard, Williamsport. Mr. Blackwell was convicted of delivery of controlled substances in 2010, for which he received a sentence of 3-10 years. He was convicted in 2011 of Assault by Prisoner for which he received a sentence of 2-4 years. Mr. Blackwell was paroled just four months ago, in June 2015.

The crime and violence that the City of Williamsport is presently experiencing is directly related to the increase in heroin use that we are seeing, not only in the city, but throughout the County. One need not look further than the newspaper headlines to know that this is a problem that has impacted nearly every community not only in Pennsylvania, but throughout the Country. We are not immune.

As I have stated previously, success in addressing the heroin crises requires action in four major areas: prevention, treatment, education and enforcement. And we are doing so. From our work with the Heroin Task Force, and now Project Bald Eagle, through our placement of MedReturn Boxes in police stations throughout the County, through the continued good work of our Treatment Courts, and the work we continue to do with our young people in our schools.

From a law enforcement perspective, I continue to urge our County Commissioners to approve the hiring of two additional full time narcotics officers to our Narcotics Enforcement Unit. Additionally, our office for the eighth year continues to bring together our County's police agencies in conducting County-wide saturation patrols.

At my direction, police have been directed to operate highly visible pro-active units to take a zero tolerance approach to street crimes, drug trafficking and quality of life issues. Joint operations of the Pennsylvania State Police, Williamsport City Police, Lycoming County Sheriff, US Marshal's Fugitive Unit, Montgomery, Old Lycoming, South Williamsport, Hughesville, Muncy, Muncy Borough, Penn College, Montoursville, and Tiadaghton Police Departments, along with agents from Pennsylvania State Parole and County Probation, continue to persist in saturating city neighborhoods in a show of force designed to apprehend offenders and bring safety to our city's most troubled neighborhoods.

Our most recent saturation patrol effort took place just last night, bringing together more than 60 law enforcement officers in a coordinated effort across the County.

In the last five months alone, these saturation patrols have resulted in the arrest of more than 91 individuals, including 47 individuals for drug violations, 15 individuals for Possession with Intent to Deliver Controlled Substances, 10 people have been arrested and charged with DUI, 12 individuals have been apprehended on outstanding warrants, 7 people have been detained for parole violations, 187

citations have been issued, 5 search warrants have been executed, eight vehicles have been seized, more than 63 warnings have been issued, and \$3,849 in illegal drug proceeds has been taken.

These saturation patrols will continue as long as they prove effective, and our budget allows.