



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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NEWS RELEASE

Michael Lassiter and Clarence Powell were charged today in a second superseding indictment¹ with the December 1, 2008 and December 18, 2008 armed home invasions of business owners that occurred in Marple Township and Upper Darby, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, announced United States Attorney Michael L. Levy.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	City/County	AGE
Michael Lassiter	Philadelphia	28
Clarence Powell	Philadelphia	22

This investigation and prosecution is part of *Project Safe Neighborhoods*, a joint initiative by the United States Attorney's Office, each of the nine District Attorney's Offices in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute dangerous firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction. As an extension of Project Safe Neighborhoods, the United States Attorney's Office, FBI, ATF, Philadelphia Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies have established the *Hobbs Act Robbery Task Force* to investigate and prosecute organized gangs and groups committing commercial armed robberies in this district.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of life imprisonment.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Philadelphia Police Department, the Marple Township Police Department, and the Upper Darby Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Arlene Fisk and Thomas Zaleski.

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Page 2

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