
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon. Michael A. Hammer
 :
 v. : Mag. No. 18-4003
 :
 JARRETT NELSON and :
 TARRANCE ATKINS : **CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

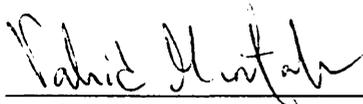
I, Vahid Mustafic, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.



Vahid Mustafic, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,
February 5, 2018 at Newark, New Jersey

HONORABLE MICHAEL A. HAMMER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE



Signature of Judicial Officer

ATTACHMENT A

COUNT ONE

(Conspiracy to Commit Carjacking)

Beginning on or about June 12, 2017 and continuing until on or about June 18, 2017, the exact dates being unknown, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendants

JARRETT NELSON
and
TARRANCE ATKINS,

did knowingly, intentionally, and unlawfully combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together, with other persons both known and unknown, to commit a certain offense against the United States, that is, carjacking in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Sections 2119(1) and (2), and the defendants and others both known and unknown committed and caused to be committed at least one overt act in furtherance thereof.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

COUNT TWO

(Conspiracy to Use and Carry a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence)

Beginning on or about June 12, 2017 and continuing until on or about June 18, 2017, the exact dates being unknown, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendants,

JARRETT NELSON
and
TARRANCE ATKINS

did knowingly combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c).

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(o).

COUNT THREE

(Carjacking)

On or about June 13, 2017, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendants,

JARRETT NELSON
and
TARRANCE ATKINS

with the intent to cause death and serious bodily harm, did knowingly take a motor vehicle that had been transported, shipped, and received in interstate and foreign commerce, namely, a red 2017 Honda Accord from the person and presence of another, namely, Victim 5 and Victim 6, by force and violence and by intimidation.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2119(1) and 2.

COUNT FOUR

(Using and Carrying a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence)

On or about June 13, 2017, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendants,

JARRETT NELSON
and
TARRANCE ATKINS,

during and in relation to a crime of violence for which the defendants may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, namely, the carjacking charged in Count Three of this complaint, did knowingly use and carry a firearm, which firearm was brandished, and did aid and abet the same.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 924(c)(1)(A)(iii) and 2.

ATTACHMENT B

I, Vahid Mustafic, am a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I am fully familiar with the facts set forth herein based on my own investigation, my conversations with witnesses and other law enforcement officers, and my review of reports, documents, and items of evidence. Where statements of others are related herein, they are related in substance and in part. Because this complaint is being submitted for a limited purpose, I have not set forth each and every fact that I know concerning this investigation. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date, I am asserting that it took place on or about the date alleged.

1. From on or about June 12, 2017 to on or about June 18, 2017, a series of carjackings and attempted carjackings occurred in Jersey City, New Jersey. For each carjacking or attempted carjacking, the victims were inside the vehicles, parked on residential streets when a minivan approached. On each occurrence, two males exited the minivan, with at least one other participant remaining in the minivan. On each occurrence, one or both of the males who exited the minivan brandished a handgun. On each occurrence, the victims exited the vehicles after being ordered to do so at gunpoint.

2. On or about June 12, 2017, at approximately 3:15 a.m., defendant JARRETT NELSON and at least one other unidentified male exited a minivan and approached a black 2012 BMW X-5, which was pulled over to the side of a residential road in Jersey City, New Jersey. Defendant JARRETT NELSON and an unidentified male exited the van, approached the BMW while brandishing a black handgun, and ordered the driver, Victim 1, out of the vehicle. Defendant JARRETT NELSON and an unidentified male took Victim 1's wallet from his pocket and fled in the BMW. A second unidentified male followed in the minivan.

3. On or about June 12, 2017, at approximately 3:56 a.m., two unidentified males, approached a silver 2013 Audi Q7, which was pulled over to the side of a residential road in Jersey City, New Jersey. A minivan double parked on the passenger side of the Audi, blocking the Audi's means of egress. At that time, Victim 2, a Lyft driver, was in the driver's seat of the Audi, and Victim 3, the Lyft passenger, was entering the backseat on the driver's side. Two unidentified males exited the minivan, approached the Audi while each brandished handguns, and ordered Victim 2 and Victim 3 out of the vehicle. The unidentified males fled in the Audi following the minivan, which was driven by a third unidentified male.

4. The Automatic License Plate Reader ("ALPR") on the Lincoln Highway Bridge in Jersey City, New Jersey, revealed that shortly after the BMW and Audi carjackings, the silver 2013 Audi Q7, a stolen white 2000 Dodge Caravan, and the black 2012 BMW X-5, crossed the Lincoln Highway Bridge in sequence.

5. On June 12, 2017, at approximately 5:18 a.m., the black 2012 BMW X-5 was recovered unoccupied in Newark, New Jersey. Defendant JARRETT NELSON's fingerprints were located on the black 2012 BMW X-5.

6. On June 12, 2017, the silver 2013 Audi Q7 was recovered unoccupied in Newark, New Jersey after it was involved in a motor vehicle collision. The Audi contained the Audi victim's (Victim 2) cell phone and the BMW victim's (Victim 1) iPad.

7. On or about June 13, 2017, at approximately 1:50 a.m., defendant JARRETT NELSON and at least one other unidentified male exited a minivan and approached a blue 2013 Chevy Malibu, which was parked on a residential road in Jersey City, New Jersey. Defendant JARRETT NELSON and an unidentified male exited the van, approached the Chevy while brandishing a black handgun, and ordered the driver, Victim 4, out of the vehicle. Victim 4 pressed the "OnStar" button in his vehicle, which opened a line of communication with a 911 operator, then complied with the order to exit. Defendant JARRETT NELSON and an unidentified male attempted to enter the Malibu, but upon hearing the 911 connection, retreated to the minivan, leaving the Malibu in its parking place. Defendant JARRETT NELSON and at least two unidentified participants fled in the minivan.

8. On or about June 13, 2017, at approximately 2:04 a.m., defendants JARRETT NELSON and TARRANCE ATKINS, with at least one other unidentified participant, approached a red 2017 Honda Accord, which was pulled over to the side of a residential road in Jersey City, New Jersey. Defendants JARRETT NELSON and TARRANCE ATKINS exited a minivan, approached the Honda while each brandishing black handguns, and ordered the driver, Victim 5, and the passenger, Victim 6, out of the vehicle. After Victim 5 and Victim 6 complied, defendants JARRETT NELSON and TARRANCE ATKINS fled in the Honda while at least one other unidentified participant fled in the minivan.

9. The Automatic License Plate Reader ("ALPR") on the Lincoln Highway Bridge in Jersey City, New Jersey, revealed that at approximately 2:07 a.m., the red 2017 Honda Accord and a gold 2003 Dodge Caravan, which was stolen from Irvington, New Jersey earlier that day, crossed the Lincoln Highway Bridge in sequence.

10. On June 13, 2017, at approximately 2:10 p.m., the red 2017 Honda Accord was recovered unoccupied in Newark, New Jersey after it was involved in a motor vehicle collision. Defendant TARRANCE ATKINS's fingerprints were located on the license plate of the red 2017 Honda Accord, which was located inside of the red 2017 Honda Accord at the time the Honda was recovered.

11. On June 16, 2017, the gold 2003 Dodge Caravan was recovered in Newark, New Jersey. Defendant JARRETT NELSON's fingerprints were located on the gold 2003 Dodge Caravan.

12. Victim 6 later positively identified defendant TARRANCE ATKINS in a six-photo array as the individual who approached the passenger's side of the red 2017 Honda Accord.

13. On or about June 18, 2017, at approximately 2:11 a.m., defendant JARRETT NELSON and at least two unidentified participants, while driving in a minivan, approached a silver 2010 Mercedes Benz E350, which was pulled over to the side of a residential road in Jersey City, New Jersey. Defendant JARRETT NELSON exited the minivan, approached the Mercedes Benz while brandishing a black handgun, and ordered the driver, Victim 7, and the passenger, Victim 8, out of the vehicle. As Victim 7 and Victim 8 complied, an unidentified male got out of the passenger side of the minivan and approached the Mercedes Benz. Defendant JARRETT NELSON and the unidentified male entered the Mercedes Benz, but were unable to operate it.

Defendant JARRETT NELSON and the unidentified male then exited the Mercedes Benz, returned to the minivan, and fled with an additional unidentified participant driving the van.

14. On or about June 18, 2017, at approximately 2:20 a.m., defendant JARRETT NELSON and at least two unidentified participants, while driving in a minivan, approached a gray 2013 Dodge Durango, which was pulled over to the side of a residential road in Jersey City, New Jersey. Defendant JARRETT NELSON and an unidentified male exited the minivan. Defendant JARRETT NELSON brandished a black handgun and approached the driver's side of the Durango and ordered Victim 9 out of the car. The unidentified male approached the passenger's side of the Durango, lifted his shirt to display the handle of a black handgun in his waistband, and ordered the passenger, Victim 10, out of the vehicle. Victim 9 and Victim 10 complied with the order to exit the Durango, at which time defendant JARRETT NELSON entered the driver's seat. The unidentified participants fled in the minivan, and defendant JARRETT NELSON followed in the Durango.

15. Defendant JARRETT NELSON's fingerprints were located on the silver 2010 Mercedes Benz E350.

16. On June 18, 2017, at approximately 2:20 a.m., a blue 2002 Dodge Caravan was recovered abandoned in Jersey City, New Jersey. It contained the Honda passenger's (Victim 6) debit card and health insurance card.

17. One June 20, 2017, at approximately 1:22 a.m., the gray 2013 Dodge Durango was recovered unoccupied in Irvington, New Jersey. One license plate had been removed.

18. Defendant JARRETT NELSON and Defendant TARRANCE ATKINS reside within five blocks of each other in Newark, New Jersey. The black 2012 BMW X-5, the silver 2013 Audi Q7, and the red 2017 Honda Accord were all recovered within close proximity to where defendant JARRETT NELSON and defendant TARRANCE ATKINS reside.

19. The 2012 BMW X-5, the 2013 Audi Q7, the 2013 Chevy Malibu, the 2017 Honda Accord, the 2010 Mercedes Benz E350, and the 2013 Dodge Durango were each transported, shipped, and/or received in interstate commerce.

20. In a post-*Miranda* statement to law enforcement on July 19, 2017, defendant JARRETT NELSON admitted to his involvement in the carjackings and attempted carjackings as described above.