

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR COUNTY OF WARREN

413 Second Street, Belvidere, New Jersey 07823
Phone: (908) 475-6275; Fax: (908) 475-6344

JAMES L. PFEIFFER
COUNTY PROSECUTOR

ANTHONY J. ROBINSON
First Assistant Prosecutor
KEVIN R. BROTZMAN
Chief Assistant Prosecutor
WENDY H. RILEY
Manager



BRENTON S. WARNE
Chief of Detectives
MELISSA A. FEHR
Deputy Chief of Detectives

PRESS RELEASE

CHARGED: JOHN G. HARGREAVES
115 BEECHWOOD DR.
BELVIDERE, NJ 07823

On September 20, 2023, the above referenced individual was taken into custody after deliberately crashing his vehicle into a private residence and then the Independence Township Police Department.

The first offense occurred in Liberty Township (NJ) and was investigated by the New Jersey State Police. The investigation showed that at approximately 6:17 p.m. the defendant deliberately crashed his gold Toyota SUV into the garage door of a private residence in an attempt to scare or harass the homeowner, who the defendant knew. As a result of this incident, the defendant was charged as follows:

- 1) One count Burglary, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:18-2(a)(1), a third degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of five (5) years in the New Jersey State Prison, with a minimum of three (3) years;
- 2) One count Criminal Mischief, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:17-3(a)(1), a third degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of five (5) years in the New Jersey State Prison, with a minimum of three (3) years;
- 3) One count Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4(d), a third degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of five (5) years in the New Jersey State Prison, with a minimum of three (3) years;
- 4) One count Harassment, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-4(c), a third degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of five (5) years in the New Jersey State Prison, with a minimum of three (3) years.

After the first incident, the defendant drove to the nearest police station and intentionally drove his vehicle through building causing significant damage. The entire vehicle came to a final resting point in the squad room. The defendant exited the vehicle and appeared to be celebrating as he was apprehended by officers on scene as his car stereo blared the song "Welcome to the Jungle". In relation to this attack, the defendant was charged with the following:

- 1) One count Terrorism, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:38-2(a)(4) a first degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of a life sentence in the New Jersey State Prison, with a minimum thirty (30) years. The offense is subject to the No Early Release Act;
- 2) One count of Causing Widespread Injury or Damage, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:17-2(a)(1) a second degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of ten (10) years in the New Jersey State Prison, with a minimum five (5) years;

- 3) One count Aggravated Assault, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1(B)(5)(a) a fourth degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of eighteen (18) months in the New Jersey State Prison;
- 4) One count Burglary, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:18-2(a)(1), a second degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of ten (10) years in the New Jersey State Prison, with a minimum of five (5) years;
- 5) One count Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4(d), a third degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of five (5) years in the New Jersey State Prison, with a minimum of three (3) years;
- 6) One count Criminal Mischief, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:17-3(a)(1), a third degree offense. This offense carries a maximum of five (5) years in the New Jersey State Prison, with a minimum of three (3) years.

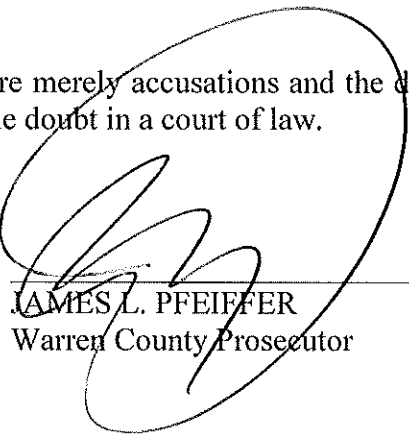
Hargreaves remains lodged in the Warren County Jail pending detention motions in Warren County Superior Court.

Prosecutor James L. Pfeiffer would like to thank the Warren County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit, the Independence Township Police Department and the New Jersey State Police, who were involved in this investigation.

Please be advised that the charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Approved by:

Date: September 29, 2023



JAMES L. PFEIFFER
Warren County Prosecutor