



# OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**KEVIN R. STEELE**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**EDWARD F. McCANN, JR.**

FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY**

COURTHOUSE

P.O. BOX 311

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

19404-0311

**SAMUEL J. GALLEN**

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

**JESSE S. KING**

CHIEF OF STAFF

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX**

**COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU**

**(610) 278-3090**

**(610) 278-3095**

**(610) 278-3368**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kate Delano 610-278-3148

**FIVE ARRESTED FOR ARMED ROBBERIES, ASSAULT AND ATTEMPTED  
KIDNAPPING RELATED TO INCIDENTS AT A NORRISTOWN CAR DEALER**

**Two suspects—Calvin Berkins and Rebecca Roman—are being sought.**



**Wanted** - Calvin Berkins



Charlie Franco



Eric Santana



Damon Murphy



Theophilus Berry



Michael Dukes

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Sept. 9, 2018) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele and Norristown Municipal Police Chief Mark Talbot announce the arrests of five of seven individuals who conspired to commit two armed robberies and attempted kidnapping at El Camino Motors at 747 E. Main St., in Norristown and a later incident where the victim was threatened.

Arrested were Charlie Franco, 30, Eric Santana, 35, Damon Murphy, 32; and Theophilus Berry, 31, all of Philadelphia; and Michael Dukes, 27, of Norristown. Arrest warrants for Calvin Berkins, 29, of Norristown, and Rebecca Roman, 28, of Philadelphia, have been issued, and they are actively being sought by law enforcement.

The arrests were the result of a multi-agency investigation led by the Montgomery County Detective Bureau's Violent Crime Unit and the Norristown Municipal Police Department, with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Pennsylvania State Police, Philadelphia Police Department and the United States Marshals Service. The investigation revealed that these individuals operated within an organization that orchestrated two armed robberies, collectively planning, facilitating and committing these crimes that occurred April 30 and July 18, 2018 and then a subsequent incident on Aug. 1, 2018.

The investigation began at 8:05 p.m., April 30, 2018, when Norristown Police responded to a report of a gunpoint robbery at El Camino Motors. In this incident, Roman, Murphy and another female who has yet to be identified robbed the salesman of \$8,000, a wallet, iPhone and 100 vehicle titles.

The second armed robbery and attempted kidnapping occurred on July 18, 2018. Three males with semiautomatic weapons arrived at El Camino Motors and forced the victim into the office, where they robbed him of \$1,200. The victim was walked outside, where a 2018 Silver Ford Explorer was waiting, and the defendants attempted to force the victim into the backseat of the vehicle. The victim was able to run away, and the multiple defendants fled in the vehicle. Using video surveillance footage, the actors were identified as Franco, Santana and Berry.

On July 24, 2018, Franco and Santana were arrested and arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Gail Hunsicker, who set bail at \$500,000 each. The defendants were unable to post bail and were remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing was then scheduled for Aug. 3, 2018.

On Aug. 1, 2018, Dukes arrived at El Camino Motors for a meeting arranged by phone with the victim. Dukes told the victim that he had a firearm, which could be seen in his waistband, and discussed the upcoming preliminary hearing for Santana and Franco. He told the victim that the victim needed to lie at that hearing and pressed him about whether he would agree to do so. At that point, law enforcement, who were observing the arranged meeting, moved in and arrested Dukes. A loaded Sturm Ruger was recovered. Dukes was arraigned on Aug. 2, 2018 before Magisterial District Judge Gregory Scott, who set bail at \$500,000. He was unable to post bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility.

Murphy and Berry were arrested on Sept. 7, 2018 and arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Edward C. Kropp, who set bail at \$1 million cash each. They were unable to post bail and were remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility.

Today, new charges were filed against Santana and Franco, and Dukes was arrested. All three defendants were arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Patricia Zaffarano, who set bail at \$1 million cash each. They were unable to post bail and were remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for all defendants at 10 a.m., Sept. 14, 2018 before Judge Hunsicker.

**Arrest warrants have been issue for:**

Calvin Berkins, a 29-year-old black male with brown hair, brown eyes and a short bushy-style beard. He is 5 feet, 6 inches tall and weighs approximately 230 pounds.

Rebecca Roman, a 28-year-old Hispanic female with brown eyes and long hair that has been black or blonde. She is 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighs approximately 135 pounds.

Both Berkins and Roman should be considered armed and dangerous. Anyone with any information on either suspect is asked to call Montgomery County Detectives at 610-278-3368 or Norristown Police at 610-270-0977. Or anonymous tips can be texted using MontcoCrimeTips on the STOPit! app. The free STOPit! app can be downloaded from the App Store for iPhones or on Google Play for Androids, then enter the code: MONTCOPA. All text tips are completely confidential.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.