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TWO MEN CHARGED WITH 19 ARMED ROBBERIES, ILLEGAL FIREARMS POSSESSION IN MONTGOMERY AND PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES



DYKES



LOWMAN

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Aug. 15, 2019) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Springfield Township Police Chief Michael E. Pitkow and Cheltenham Township Police Chief John Frye announce the arrests of Yasin Lowman, 24, and Isaiah Dykes, 24, both of Philadelphia, on multiple felony charges related to 19 armed robberies of commercial establishments in Montgomery and Philadelphia counties, which occurred between Aug. 17, 2018 and Sept. 25, 2018.

The 19 armed robberies occurred in a short time span, as the defendants oftentimes committed more than one armed robbery in a day. Each time, one defendant or both defendants would enter the store, pharmacy or restaurant wearing distinctive clothing, brandish a handgun and threaten employee(s) and sometimes customers with bodily harm before fleeing with varying amounts of cash. All but four armed robberies occurred during the daylight hours. The armed robberies and locations were:

Armed Robbery 1: Aug. 17, 2018, 12:54 p.m., Family Dollar Store at 1812 W. Cheltenham Ave., Philadelphia: \$600 cash stolen; Dykes charged;

Armed Robbery 2: Aug. 17, 2018, 2:05 p.m., Family Dollar Store at 6555 Green St., Philadelphia: nothing stolen, Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 3: Aug. 22, 2018, 5:17 p.m., Little Caesar's Restaurant at 7153 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia: nothing stolen, Dykes charged;

Armed Robbery 4: Aug. 22, 2018, 9:20 p.m., Rite Aid Pharmacy at 7401 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia: \$850 cash stolen, Dykes and Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 5: Aug. 24, 2018, 5 p.m., Rite Aid Pharmacy at 6744 N. 5th St., Philadelphia: \$200-\$300 cash stolen, Dykes and Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 6: Aug. 24, 2018, 10:45 p.m., Walgreens Pharmacy at 2727 W. Cheltenham Ave., Montgomery County: \$332.79 cash stolen, Dykes and Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 7: Sept. 6, 2018, 4:06 p.m., Family Dollar Store at 1812 W. Cheltenham Ave., Philadelphia: \$451 cash stolen, Dykes charged;

Armed Robbery 8: Sept. 7, 2018, 1:05 a.m., Rite Aid Pharmacy at 1401 W. Cheltenham Ave., Montgomery County: nothing stolen as the robbery was interrupted by off-duty police officer, Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 9: Sept. 13, 2018, 2:10 p.m., MetroPCS at 7147 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia: \$1,000 cash stolen, Dykes and Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 10: Sept. 14, 2018, 12:35 a.m., Rite Aid Pharmacy at 1401 W. Cheltenham Ave., Montgomery County: \$260 cash stolen, Dykes and Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 11: Sept. 17, 2018, 5 p.m., MetroPCS at 6201 N. Front St., Philadelphia: \$1,114 cash stolen, Dykes and Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 12: Sept. 18, 2018, 2:47 p.m., MetroPCS at 7147 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia: \$500-\$600 cash stolen, Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 13: Sept. 20, 2018, 1:26 p.m., MetroPCS at 1555 Wadsworth Ave., Philadelphia: \$100 cash stolen, Dykes charged;

Armed Robbery 14: Sept. 22, 2018, 3:40 p.m., MetroPCS at 6342 Rising Sun Ave., Philadelphia: \$1,100 cash stolen, Dykes charged;

Armed Robbery 15: Sept. 23, 2018, 12:52 p.m., Cricket Wireless at 7145 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia: \$105 cash stolen, Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 16: Sept. 23, 2018, 1:20 p.m., MetroPCS at 5007 N. Broad St., Philadelphia: \$180 cash stolen, Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 17: Sept. 23, 2018, 3:15 p.m., MetroPCS at 2239 Ceil B. Moore Ave., Philadelphia: \$4,300 cash stolen, Dykes and Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 18: Sept. 23, 2018, 8:25 p.m., Family Dollar Store at 1812 W. Cheltenham Ave., Philadelphia: dollar amount unknown, Lowman charged;

Armed Robbery 19: Sept. 25, 2018, 2 p.m., Lukoil Service Station at 630 Bethlehem Pike, Montgomery County: \$800 cash stolen, Lowman charged.

The cash stolen during these 19 armed robberies was \$11,892.79 to \$12,092.79, with some amounts unknown beyond that amount.

The lengthy investigation involved multiple law enforcement agencies, including the Cheltenham Township Police Department, the Springfield Township Police Department, the Philadelphia Police Department's Northwest Division, and the FBI's Violent Crime Unit with assistance from the Montgomery County Detective Bureau.

Both defendants were charged in October 2018 with some of the armed robberies, but the ongoing investigation led to more extensive charges. Lowman is charged with 14 felony counts of Robbery with Threat of Serious Bodily Injury, eight felony counts of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery, 14 felony counts of Person Not to Possess a Firearm, and related charges. Dykes is charged with 12 felony counts of Robbery with Threat of Serious Bodily Injury, seven felony counts of Conspiracy to Commit Robbery, one felony count of Firearms Without a License, and related charges.

Lowman was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Elizabeth McHugh Casey, who set bail at \$5 million cash. Dykes was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Juanita A. Price, who set bail at \$1 million cash. A preliminary hearing for both defendants is scheduled for 10:30 a.m., Sept. 26, 2019, before Magisterial District Judge Christopher J. Cerski.

All 19 robberies will be prosecuted by the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office and will be handled by Assistant District Attorney Scott Frank Frame.

Approved for release:

Edward F. McCann, Jr.
First Assistant District Attorney

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