

New Castle County Police Department



Colonel Michael McGowan
Chief of Police

NEWS RELEASE

Officer First Class John Weglarz Sr.

Media Coordinator's Office

(302) 395-8005

Mobile phone (302) 540-7560

February 16, 2011

Man Arrested for Hate Crime, 7 Victims

New Castle County Police have arrested **Jason Patton**, a 29 year old male who resides in the unit block of Golf View Drive in the Cavalier Country Club Apartment complex. He has been charged with several hate crimes and related offenses after he intentionally threatened a family because of their race.

On Tuesday (2/15) at 8:00 p.m., County Police responded to the aforementioned area for a male subject who was reportedly being disorderly outside of his apartment. When police arrived, the victims indicated that they were confronted by a neighbor (Patton) who was complaining about a gas odor that was emanating from their apartment and began shouting racial slurs.

The investigation revealed that the family was watching another family member's children at an apartment in the unit block of Golf View Drive. A neighbor knocked on the door to the apartment and when a 59 year old female answered they began talking about the odor coming from the apartment. Moments later, Patton exited his apartment and began shouting racial slurs at the victims as he was complaining about the gas odor.

Patton continued yelling racial slurs and began making threatening statements while he was in the outside stairwell, as the female and a 61 year old male were in the doorway to their apartment. Other family members then returned home and were walking up the stairwell when Patton took an aggressive stance and started threatening a 34 year old male victim and a 33 year old female victim.

Patton started walking toward the family members as he was swinging his arms and some of the victims were forced into a corner. While protecting the other family members, the 61 year old male victim struck Patton and he fell to the ground. Although he was knocked to the ground, Patton continued to call the victim's harsh names.

Patton was later apprehended at his apartment and taken to Christiana Hospital where he was treated for a minor injury to his head and released. Patton was charged with three counts of a hate crime, three counts of terroristic threatening, four counts of menacing and three counts of endangering the welfare of a child.

He was arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Correctional Institute after failing to post \$6400 secured bond and was ordered to have no contact with the victims.



Jason Patton