

Office of the District Attorney

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PRESS RELEASE-November 9, 2023

On November 7, 2023, Lebanon City Police became involved with CESAR ROMERO COLON as a suspect in an armed robbery committed with a firearm. The victim fled; the suspect fired a single round into the air before he escaped the scene via bicycle.

COLON proceeded through the city. He next stole a vehicle after threatening the vehicle's owner at gunpoint. The suspect fled from police and entered South Lebanon Township. COLON fled the wrong way down Route 422 in the stolen car and wove in and out of traffic. Law enforcement pursued and attempted to take COLON into custody.

Ultimately COLON drove the stolen vehicle to the intersection of Narrows Drive and Route 422 in South Lebanon Township. The suspect crashed his vehicle directly into another car; COLON's third victim sustained serious injury. Medical personnel extracted the third victim from the scene via ambulance; the collision victim is expected to survive.

After he caused the crash, COLON lost control of his stolen vehicle. The car rolled and skidded before it came to rest in the field adjacent to the oncoming lane of traffic. The suspect exited the crashed vehicle. Rather than give himself up, COLON fled on foot through the field and directly onto Route 422. He approached oncoming traffic and tried to again carjack a vehicle. Both Lebanon City and South Lebanon Police continued to pursue COLON in a valiant effort to stop the ongoing and escalating danger.

A City Police Officer tried to save the victim of the attempted carjacking. The City Officer opened the police vehicle's driver's door and commanded COLON submit to police; the Officer gave commands for COLON to give up and surrender.

Instead, COLON immediately turned and moved towards the Officer's vehicle. COLON possessed and displayed a firearm. He approached the Officer's open, driver's side door. COLON brandished the firearm and struggled to gain control of the Officer and enter the police vehicle. Thankfully, the Officer successfully maneuvered the police car away from COLON to safety.

During COLON's final efforts to steal the police car vehicle at gunpoint, the South Lebanon Police Department approached COLON and the ongoing scene. As COLON turned on the City Police Officer, as COLON brandished a weapon and tried to gain control of the Officer and the police vehicle, a South Lebanon Police Officer fired two (2) gunshots at the suspect. Neither shot struck or injured COLON. The suspect submitted to police thereafter; police took COLON into custody without incident.

In Colon's possession at the time of arrest was a stolen 9 mm handgun. Upon inspection by police, COLON's stolen handgun was loaded with a round chambered and ready to fire.

The Lebanon County Detective Bureau and the Lebanon City Police Department jointly filed charges against COLON on November 7, 2023. Detectives charged COLON with multiple Counts of Felony Robbery, Aggravated Assault on Police, Possession of a Stolen Firearm, Possession of a Firearm without a License, and Flight from Police. COLON remains in custody; Magisterial District Justice Anthony Verna set bail in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.

“Cesar COLON risked the lives of multiple people within Lebanon County. He committed crime after crime with a stolen handgun; he valued no life besides his own. We remain thankful today that every officer involved survived this incident and we continue to pray for the recovery of the victim injured during COLON's car crash. This spree of violent and senseless behavior shows lessons to us all: our police must remain vigilant of the grave risks their job poses every day and with every incident; our citizens can rest assured their officers and their District Attorney takes crimes committed with guns and criminal activity seriously; and our criminals have a direct example of the dire consequences they face when brought to justice in Lebanon County. We are not Philadelphia or Chicago – if you attack our residents, if you attack our police, we will prevail. I intend to handle COLON's charges and trial personally,” said DA Pier Hess Graf.

Anyone with information relevant to COLON's criminal activity should contact the Lebanon County Detective Bureau and/or the Lebanon City Police Department.

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