

Member of Latin Kings New Bedford Chapter Charged with Unlawful Possession of Firearm Following Robbery

A member of the New Bedford Chapter of the Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation ("Latin Kings") was charged today with illegal firearm possession following an investigation into an armed robbery in New Bedford and a shooting in Boston.

Ramon Martinez, a/k/a "King Razor," 26, was charged in a criminal complaint with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Martinez, who is currently in custody in Bristol County, will make his initial appearance in federal court at a later date.

According to charging documents, on April 30, 2020, a victim reported to police that he had been robbed and punched in New Bedford by two men who were in a black Ford Fusion. The men put a knife to the victim's back and stole his wallet and motorized scooter. The victim was allegedly targeted because he beeped his horn at a friend and the men in the Ford Fusion believed that the victim was honking at them. During the investigation, Martinez, a known member of the Latin Kings, was identified as one of the robbers and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

According to court documents, also on April 30, 2020, police responded to a report of shots-fired in the area of Callender Street in Boston where three .45 caliber casings were recovered. Investigators viewed Martinez's SnapChat account and observed postings related to this shooting incident.

It is further alleged that, on May 7, 2020, police observed Martinez exit a residence on Crapo Street in New Bedford and

walk to the rear of a black Ford Fusion. They observed Martinez open the trunk and quickly close it, and then get into a nearby vehicle. Officers stopped the vehicle, placed Martinez under arrest for the April 30th armed robbery and located a set of keys for the Ford Fusion. In the trunk of the Fusion, officers located a Glock Model 30S .45 caliber firearm with four rounds of ammunition. Preliminary testing linked the Glock Model 30S to the casings recovered on Callender Street in Boston.

Due to multiple prior convictions, Martinez is prohibited from possessing firearms. Martinez was also known to investigators to be a member of the New Bedford Chapter of the Latin Kings.

The charge of being a felon in possession of a firearm provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Kelly D. Brady, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, New England Field Division; New Bedford Police Chief Joseph C. Cordeiro; and Boston Police Commissioner William Gross made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was also provided by the Bristol County District Attorney's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Philip A. Mallard of Lelling's Organized Crime and Gang Unit is prosecuting the case.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions reinvigorated PSN in 2017 as part of the Department's renewed focus on targeting violent criminals, directing all U.S. Attorney's Offices to work in partnership

with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and the local community to develop effective, locally-based strategies to reduce violent crime.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.