



NEWS RELEASE

Paul M. Tiernan, Chief of Police

April 26th, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Newark Man Arrested for Hate Crime Incident

On April 25th, 2012 the Newark Police Department arrested 21 year old Derek Didonato of Newark following an offensive touching incident on April 15th which has been designated as a hate crime incident.

Shortly after midnight on April 15th, 2012 Newark Police Officers responded to a house party in the unit block of East Cleveland Avenue to investigate an offensive touching incident involving an 18 year old white male victim. During the investigation it was learned that the male victim who had attended the party with several friends was approached by Mr. Didonato who made derogatory statements to him regarding his sexual orientation. Mr. Didonato then knocked the victim to the ground. The victim's friends then quickly separated the pair and exited the house. The victim was not injured during the incident.

Didonato was arrested for the incident on April 25th, 2012 and released on \$1,000 unsecured bail.

Defendant 1: Derek Didonato DOB 12/01/90
9 Litette Drive
Newark, DE 19702

Charges: Hate Crime
Offensive Touching

Anyone with additional information about this incident should contact Corporal Andrew Pagnotti at (302) 366-7110 x 415 or andrew.pagnotti@cj.state.de.us You can send an anonymous text message tip by texting 302NPD and your message to TIP411. Information can also be provided anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at www.tipsubmit.com where a reward may be available.

The Newark Police Department affirms that all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Media Contact: Lt. Mark A. Farrall, Public Information Officer, 302-366-7110 ext 125 or mark.farrall@cj.state.de.us.

