



**Office of Genesee County Prosecutor  
David Leyton**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FLINT MAN CHARGED IN BURTON CARJACKING**

**FLINT** – Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton has charged a Flint man in the Wednesday morning theft of a vehicle from a Burton gas station which led to a public Amber alert after it was discovered that two young children were inside the vehicle when it was stolen.

Leandree Lavelle McNeal, 29 (d.o.b.4/11/1987), is charged with one count of carjacking and one count of unlawfully driving away a motor vehicle. The carjacking charge carries a possible penalty of life in prison. The Prosecutor's Office will also seek to attach a violent habitual offender status against McNeal once the case is transferred to Circuit Court which would mandate a minimum sentence of 25 years in prison upon conviction.

According to the police investigation, just before 7:00AM on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, the victim was exiting the Admiral Gas Station store located at the corner of Saginaw Road and Schumacher Avenue in the City of Burton when she saw a man in the driver's seat of her car. She began to yell at the man to stop and that her kids were in the car. Instead, the man backed out of the parking spot and began heading east on Schumacher.

Officers from the City of Burton Police Department arrived on the scene and made contact with the victim who informed them that her 2-year-old daughter and 9-month-old son were in the back seat of the car. As part of the ensuing investigation and search for the stolen vehicle, Burton Police entered the vehicle description into the Amber Alert System.

At approximately 9:42 AM that morning, police were able to locate the vehicle with the children inside near East Bundy Avenue and Premier Street just south of Dort Highway and east of 475 in the City of Flint.

At approximately 4:30PM that afternoon, police and FBI agents located their suspect, Leandree McNeal, at a house in the City of Flint and took him into custody without incident.

"This was a very close call," said Prosecutor Leyton. "With two young children in the stolen vehicle, things could have turned tragically worse in quick fashion," he said. "Fortunately, thanks to the quick and effective response by police and others, we were able to recover the stolen vehicle within just a couple of hours and return the young children safely to their mother," he said.

McNeal was arraigned on the charges this afternoon in 67<sup>th</sup> District Court.

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