



## Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

### David Leyton, Prosecutor



## Five Men Charged with Ethnic Intimidation in Connection to Felonious Assault in Flint Township

January 6, 2011

**FLINT** – Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton announced today that he has charged five men with felonious assault and ethnic intimidation related to an incident that occurred on Miller Rd. in Flint Township just before the new year.

According to police reports, on December 30, 2010, a group of five white and hispanic men pulled up in a van in a commercial parking lot just west of I-75 and made derogatory hand gestures and verbal comments to a group of black customers who were standing outside a restaurant. The van then pulled into an adjacent parking lot and blocked in a vehicle that was parked. This other vehicle was being driven by a black man who was a relative to the other customers who had just been verbally assaulted.

The group of five white and hispanic men then got out of their van and began yelling racial slurs and physical threats at the black man and his relatives. Two of the men from the van made comments and gestures indicating that they were carrying guns and threatened to shoot and kill the black man. One of them also pulled out a knife and made physical threats to the victim who said he believed he was about to be killed.

When one of the black females called 9-1-1 on her cell phone, the assailants got back into their van and headed east down Miller Rd. According to witness accounts, prior to getting back into the van the driver attempted to bend down the corner of the van's license plate.

Police were dispatched to the area and found a van fitting the appropriate description being filled with gasoline at a station east of I-75 on Miller Road. The van's passengers and its driver fit the victims' and eyewitness' descriptions and all five were arrested for felonious assault and ethnic intimidation.

Charged are:

- Earl James Arnold, of Flint, d.o.b. 03/09/1971
- Jeremy Scott Brown, of Mt. Morris, d.o.b. 09/22/1978
- Jerry Michael David King, d.o.b. 10/02/1991
- Americo Villarreal, of Mt. Morris, d.o.b. 04/10/1974
- James Harrison, of Flint, d.o.b. 05/27/1987

"This sort of behavior is deplorable," said Prosecutor Leyton. "There is no place for it in our community and it will not be tolerated."

Leyton continued "These men will be held responsible for their actions under the law and my office will seek justice for the immediate victims and for our community as a whole which is also a victim when such hateful acts occur."

Felonious assault carries a penalty of up to four years in prison and ethnic intimidation is punishable by up to two years in prison. A pre-trial will be scheduled for next week with a preliminary examination in 67<sup>th</sup> District Court on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

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