



Central Falls Police Department Office of Public Information

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 19, 2013

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Armed Gunman Attempted to Hold-Up Local Food Mart; Thwarted by Good Samaritans:

CENTRAL FALLS – Central Falls police were dispatched to Kandel Food Mart, located at 390 Broad Street, for a report of an armed robbery Sunday evening. Responding units were advised that several bystanders were detaining the gunman.

Officers arrived to find that a male, later identified as Jason Dias (41) of Cranston Street in Providence, was held down by several male patrons whom advised officers that Dias had just robbed the food mart with a loaded sawed-off shotgun; which was immediately located and seized as evidence.

According to witnesses, Dias entered the store at approximately 8:45pm, trained the weapon at the store clerk and demanded all the money in the register. There were several customers inside and Dias threatened to “kill everyone” if he did not get the cash he demanded.

The female clerk, who was also eight months pregnant, put the money into a plastic bag and handed it to her assailant. Witnesses then reported that Dias began to leave the store; however, as soon as he got to the exit he turned and fired one shotgun round towards the back counter, adjacent to where the pregnant clerk was standing, narrowly missing her.

Witnesses recounted that as Dias turned to exit the store the shotgun he brandished reportedly fell apart and he nervously dropped the bag of cash; which gave way to several opportunistic and heroic patrons tackling the suspect and holding him long enough until the police

arrived. Dias was subsequently placed into custody and arraigned on the following charges earlier today:

First Degree Robbery; five separate counts of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon; Possession of a Sawed-Off Shotgun; Carrying a Firearm when Committing a Crime of Violence and Firing in a Compact Area.

He was subsequently held without bail on the new charges and was sent over to Superior Court as a Probation Violator from a prior conviction of First Degree Child Molestation.

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