



## PRESS RELEASE

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Attorney General Frosh Announces Indictments of Four Defendants for  
Participating in an Organized Carjacking Ring  
*Multi-Agency Investigation Results in Defendants Charged  
Under Maryland's Gang Crime Statute;  
Violent Carjacking Ring Flaunted Stolen Cars on Social Media*

**BALTIMORE, MD (August 13, 2018)** – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today announced the [indictments](#) of four defendants: Dalante Graham, 18, of Baltimore; Tyheim Gray, 19, of Baltimore; Daquan Johnson, 18, of Baltimore; and Travon Williamston, 17, of Baltimore for participating in a violent, organized carjacking ring. The ring is alleged to have perpetrated multiple vehicle thefts in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

After stealing cars from their victims, the defendants would document themselves “joyriding” and posing next to the stolen vehicles, posting videos and photos on their social media accounts. The defendants would also wear the key fobs taken from victims on their belts as trophies. The defendants often used weapons, such as pellet guns, knives, and handguns in order to commit the carjackings and auto thefts. In some instances, the defendants used unnecessary violence, continuing to assault victims after they had already seized control of the vehicle. Injuries to the victims ranged from minor bruising to a fractured skull.

Members of the ring used multiple tactics to commit the carjackings. Often, after intentionally causing superficial vehicle collisions, members of the ring would attack the victims, take their keys and personal items, and then drive away in both vehicles. Victims were also targeted as they parked in residential or commercial areas, and while victims were walking to or from their homes to their vehicles.

“The defendants used guns, knives, and violence to carry out their carjackings,” said Attorney General Frosh. “They left a trail of stolen cars, stolen phones and broken bones. They showed no remorse. In fact, they flaunted their exploits on social media. They face many years behind bars.”

Additionally, members would sometimes target victims more than once. Specifically, when the defendants stole a key ring with multiple car keys, they would use stolen identification cards or insurance information to determine the victim’s address. After traveling to the residence, sometimes days or months later, the defendants would use the keys to steal additional vehicles owned by the victim.

“These arrests are indicative of the success that can be attained when agencies combine resources to remove violent criminals off the street,” said FBI Special Agent in Charge Gordon B. Johnson. “The citizens of Maryland have the FBI’s commitment that we will work with our local, state, and federal partners to remove violent criminals from their neighborhoods.”

“I count the announcement of these indictments as another battle won against the senseless violence plaguing our communities,” said Baltimore City State’s Attorney Marilyn Mosby. “I applaud the work of my prosecutors and all the partner agencies whose collaborative efforts made these arrests possible.”

“Often times when we see crime spikes it is a result of a small group of individuals who carry out many of these crimes,” said Baltimore Police Interim Commissioner Gary Tuggle. “This case is an example of that, but also highlights the teamwork of federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors to investigate and dismantle suspected criminal organizations.”

Charges in the indictments include 26 carjacking or auto-theft incidents, including counts for participating in a criminal gang, armed carjacking, armed robbery, theft between \$1,500 and \$25,000, use of a handgun in a crime of violence, assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, rogue and vagabond, and participating in a theft scheme totaling over \$100,000. If convicted of all charges, the defendants face a maximum penalty of more than 100 years in jail.

The defendants’ arraignments will be set in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. The investigation was led by the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office, the Baltimore County State’s Attorney’s Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Baltimore City Police Department, and the Baltimore County Police Department.

In making today’s announcement, Attorney General Frosh thanked Organized Crime Chief Katie Dorian, Assistant Attorney General Dennis G. Clark, Jr., Assistant Attorney General Zachary Norfolk, Agent John Krajnak of the FBI, Detective Steven Mahan of Baltimore City Police Department, and Detective Phillip Crumbaker of the Baltimore County Police Department. Attorney General Frosh also thanked State’s Attorney for Baltimore City Marilyn Mosby and Assistant State’s Attorney Brandis Marsh as well as State’s Attorney for Baltimore County Scott Shellenberger, and Assistant State’s Attorney Karen Gross for their assistance in this investigation. And finally, Attorney General Frosh also thanked Assistant United States’ Attorney Zachary Stendig and Assistant United States’ Attorney Mark Gurzo.

A criminal indictment is merely an accusation of wrongdoing, and a defendant is presumed innocent until the State proves the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.