


NEWS

Alleged target for execution admits trying to steal UPS truck

 Alleged target for execution admits trying to steal UPS truck

Alleged target for execution admits trying to steal UPS truck

By **CARL HESSLER**

UPDATED: August 19, 2021 at 2:16 AM EDT

NORRISTOWN >> A Pottstown man, who authorities reportedly saved from being executed by an alleged rival gang member in February, has admitted to charges he tried to steal a UPS truck while high on PCP in May.

Lazaro “Laz” Morgalo, 29, of the first block of Custer Court, was sentenced in Montgomery County Court to 11½ to 23 months in the county jail after he pleaded guilty to a felony charge of attempted robbery in connection with the May 14 incident involving the UPS truck. Morgalo, who also listed an address in the 500 block of Russwood Drive, Norristown, also must complete three years’ probation following his jail term, according to the plea

**FLASH
SALE!****ONLY \$1 FOR 1
YEAR**

Hurry, this deal won't last!

SAVE NOW

✕

Judge Steven T. O'Neill said Morgalo will be under addict supervision during the probationary period and will undergo drug tests regularly. Morgalo, who was represented by defense lawyer Douglas Breidenbach Jr., reportedly was under the influence of PCP at the time of the incident.

“He admitted that he attempted to steal a UPS truck from the driver. He did physically remove the driver from the vehicle and placed himself in the driver seat,” alleged Assistant District Attorney Heather Hines, who sought jail time against Morgalo.

Morgalo was unable to drive away in the vehicle because the driver took the key as he was ousted from the truck.

An investigation of Morgalo began about 4:30 p.m. when Pottstown police responded to the area of South Hanover Street and Security Plaza after witnesses reported a man got onto a UPS truck and attempted to take it, according a criminal complaint. A witness told police she saw a Hispanic male get onto a UPS truck which was stopped in traffic next to her.

[Read More](#)

00:00

02:00

“The witness advised that the male, who was later identified as the defendant, walked onto the UPS truck and pushed the driver off of the truck and sat down in the driver seat,” Pottstown Police Corporal Brian Weitzel alleged in the arrest affidavit, adding the witness pulled her vehicle in front of the UPS truck in an attempt to prevent Morgalo from driving away.

×

**FLASH
SALE!**

**ONLY \$1 FOR 1
YEAR**

Hurry, this deal won't last!

SAVE NOW

The UPS driver informed police Morgalo walked up to his UPS truck and entered it. The driver stated he pushed Morgalo off but Morgalo got back on the truck and began ramming the driver with his shoulder, according to the arrest affidavit. The driver then grabbed the key to the truck as he was forced to exit the vehicle.

“The UPS driver stated the defendant then sat down in the driver seat,” Weitzel alleged.

Police eventually caught up with Morgalo as he walked near Penn Street. Police identified the smell on Morgalo’s breath as that of PCP and observed that he slurred his words and spoke incoherently.

Other charges of robbery of a motor vehicle, robbery, simple assault, public drunkenness and harassment were dismissed against Morgalo as part of the plea agreement.

Court documents revealed Morgalo is the same man county detectives reportedly saved from being executed by an alleged rival gang member, months earlier. Morgalo allegedly had been targeted for execution on Feb. 28, according to court documents, by Alexander “Dot” Scott, a member of the “Straight Cash Money Gang,” whose members were rounded up in May during an investigation dubbed “Operation War Ready.”

Morgalo is identified in court papers as an associate of the rival gang “Brothas From Anotha.”

Scott, 21, of Haak Street, Reading, allegedly had phone conversations with “trusted confederates,” including Jose “Jun” Charriez Jr., 34, of Pottstown, on Feb. 28 during which he threatened the life of Morgalo under the alleged belief that Morgalo had robbed his “little brother” several days earlier, according to court documents.

“In a series of intercepted phone calls the two prepared to shoot a rival member. Investigators determined that Scott was en route to (Pottstown) armed with a TEC-9 semiautomatic handgun. We also determined the firearm was loaded to full capacity. Law enforcement intervened and prevented the shooting,” detectives wrote in the arrest affidavit filed against

x

**FLASH
SALE!**

**ONLY \$1 FOR 1
YEAR**

Hurry, this deal won't last!

SAVE NOW

“Knowing Lazaro “Laz” Morgalo’s life was in extreme danger, law enforcement officers conducted a pedestrian stop on Morgalo at the corner of Warren and Chestnut streets,” detectives alleged, adding officers noticed Morgalo was intoxicated and arrested him for alleged public drunkenness and placed him in a holding cell at the Pottstown Police Department.

Morgalo “was not shot because he was no longer on location,” detectives wrote in court papers.

District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman previously credited detectives for preventing “the attempted cold, calculated execution of the rival gang member.”

Scott faces a charge of criminal attempt at murder while Charriez faces a charge of conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the alleged plot to kill Morgalo. Morgalo was not charged in connection with any of the alleged gang activity.

Start your day with us: Our top stories curated & delivered to your inbox each morning.

By signing up, you agree to our [Terms of Use](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and to receive emails from Daily Local News.

Originally Published: October 25, 2015 at 6:26 PM EDT

Around the Web

REVCONTENT

**FLASH
SALE!**

**ONLY \$1 FOR 1
YEAR**

Hurry, this deal won't last!

SAVE NOW

×