



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Contact: Sherry Llewellyn
(410) 313-2236

Police Capture Man Wanted in Sexual Assault of 14-Year-Old *Fermin Mejia Found in North Carolina*

Howard County Police have located a man wanted for sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl in Ellicott City. Fermin Mejia, 42, formerly of the 3200 block of Normandy Woods Drive, was captured by authorities in Marsh, N.C., this week.

After Howard County detectives learned Mejia may be staying at a residence in North Carolina, a U.S. Marshals fugitive task force located him Sept. 18. Mejia was arrested without incident and is being held in the Wake County Public Safety Center on a \$500,000 cash bond.

Mejia has been charged in a Howard County warrant with attempted second degree rape, third and fourth degree sex offenses, second degree assault and indecent exposure. He is fighting extradition back to Maryland, but detectives are working to have him returned to face charges.

The assault occurred Aug. 22 around 2:15 p.m. in the 3000 block of Oak Green Circle. The victim, who will not be identified due to her age and the nature of the crime, was walking back to her family's apartment when the suspect grabbed her. The girl told police Mejia pulled her into a laundry room and sexually assaulted her. The victim was able to flee and reported the incident to her mother, who contacted police.

Based on information from the victim, detectives were able to quickly identify Mejia as the suspect. When investigators attempted to locate Mejia, they found he was no longer in the area.

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