



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: July 15, 2008

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Police Arrest Suspect in Commercial Burglary Spree

Howard County Police have arrested a man believed to be responsible for multiple recent “smash-and-grab” commercial burglaries in Howard County. Marvin Eugene Harding, 46, of no fixed address, was arrested by Howard County Police warrants detectives in Baltimore City on June 30.

Investigators initially identified Harding through surveillance video and uncovered additional evidence linking him to other smash-and-grab burglaries. Detectives also recovered a stolen vehicle in Harding’s possession that was used during the commission of several of the burglaries.

Investigators have charged Harding with 16 second-degree burglary incidents, with additional charges expected. In the two weeks since Harding’s arrest, the number of smash-and-grab burglaries reported in the county has reduced dramatically, with only one being reported. There were 15 reported in the two weeks leading up to Harding’s arrest. Harding also faces numerous felony destruction of property and theft charges and police are continuing to link him to additional cases. Harding is currently being held at the Howard County Detention Center on no-bond.

Since January, police have received 79 reports of smash-and-grab style burglaries, which are burglaries where a large rock or similar object is used to shatter a glass door or window pane in order to gain entry into the business. The police received 28 reports of commercial burglaries using a similar method during the same time period in 2007.

Howard County Police still encourage business owners to be diligent, and remind them to make sure their security systems and surveillance equipment are functioning properly and are activated when the business is unoccupied. Police also remind citizens to report all suspicious activity by dialing 911.

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