



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police Obtain Warrant for Suspect in Two Home Invasions, Sex Offense

Detectives Offer \$2,500 Reward for Ronnie Gordon Smith, Jr.

Howard County police have obtained a warrant for a 39-year-old man who is wanted for committing two home invasion burglaries in Columbia, one involving a sexual assault. Ronnie Gordon Smith, Jr., of no fixed address, is wanted for attempted rape, assault, burglary, vehicle theft, theft and a sex offense.

Detectives are asking for the public's help in locating Smith. Police are offering a reward of \$2,500 for information leading to his arrest.

In the first case, police believe Smith entered a ground floor apartment in the 5300 block of Smooth Meadow Way around 8:30 a.m. Dec. 6. The resident, a 60-year-old woman, heard someone enter the apartment and was confronted by the suspect. He bound and gagged the victim, ransacked the apartment, and stole money, jewelry, credit cards and her car. She was not seriously injured during the incident. Her car was recovered in Baltimore.

The second case occurred Dec. 11 when a man police also believe to be Smith entered an apartment in the 5200 block of Brook Way around 6 p.m. The 24-year-old female resident came home and was confronted by the suspect, who was already inside. The man struck the victim repeatedly and bound and gagged her. He sexually assaulted her and stole electronics and cash before fleeing.

Police were led to the Smith through pawn records. He had pawned items stolen from each burglary on the day of each incident.

In each case, the suspect entered the residence through an *unlocked* window or sliding glass door. Police are reminding citizens to keep all doors and windows locked at all times, even when the house is occupied.

Anyone with information about these cases is urged to call police at 410-313-3200.

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