



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Suspect Charged in Howard County Shooting

Howard County Police charged a suspect today in yesterday's homicide of Jessup business owner Kwang Jun Kim. Walter Blannon, 38 (DOB: 9/9/65), of 1619 Calvert Street in Baltimore, was charged with first degree murder, robbery, assault and a handgun violation. Police also are applying for an arrest warrant for a second suspect, who currently is hospitalized and under guard by a Howard County police officer. The second suspect's identity will be confirmed after an arrest warrant has been issued.

Today's charges stem from a shooting incident at Jessup Plaza yesterday morning. Kim, the owner of the Jessup Deli, was shot outside the business at around 11:30 a.m. as he carried two bank bags of cash.

A witness provided police with the suspect's vehicle description and tag number. A Howard County police officer spotted the vehicle minutes after the shooting traveling east on Rt. 40. The officer called for police assistance and attempted to make a traffic stop. The driver of the vehicle refused to stop and continued into Baltimore County. Baltimore County police officers responded to offer assistance.

The pursuit traveled through Baltimore County into Baltimore and ended near S. Athol Avenue when the suspect's vehicle struck a stone pillar. Baltimore County Police initiated the apprehension of two suspects inside the car. According to the Baltimore Police Department, one of the suspects was shot by an officer during the apprehension and remains hospitalized.

The investigation is continuing. Additional information will be released as it becomes available.

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