



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police Arrest Former Security Guard in Mall Burglaries

Howard County Police arrested a former Columbia Mall security guard Friday following a series of recent burglaries at the mall. Donald Ray McNeil, 37, of 4101 Boarman Ave. in Baltimore, was charged with assault, reckless endangerment, burglary, theft and destruction of property.

Police charged McNeil after investigating an incident that occurred at the Columbia Mall on Nov. 10. Security officers at the mall called police to report an assault and burglary. After spotting a man acting suspiciously at a cellular phone kiosk inside the mall, a security officer approached and called out to the subject. The man ran and two security officers followed him outside. The security officers reported to police that the man was wearing a "Security" T-shirt and carrying a police-style radio. One of the security officers recognized the subject as the same person who had run from mall security units twice before.

Once outside, the security officers observed the suspect enter a black Ford Explorer. One of the security officers stood in front of the parked vehicle in an attempt to stop the suspect from fleeing. The suspect started the car and drove forward, striking the security officer. Mall security units followed the Explorer and obtained a tag number.

Police responded to the scene and determined that the cellular phone kiosk had been burglarized. Through investigation, detectives identified McNeil as a suspect. McNeil was employed by Mall Security during 2001 and still possessed the security radio issued to him. After further investigation and the execution of a search warrant, police charged McNeil in numerous burglaries at the mall dating back to June. He was charged with assault, reckless endangerment, 11 counts of burglary, five counts of theft and two counts of destruction of property.

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