



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police Arrest Man for Impersonating a Police Officer *Second Case in Howard County in Three Weeks*

After two cases of police impersonation in the last three weeks, Howard County Police are alerting citizens to be aware of anything that appears suspicious during a traffic stop. While a subject was arrested in each of the two recent cases, police want drivers to be aware that this type of impersonation does occur.

In the most recent case on Aug. 29, a patrol officer observed a traffic stop in progress on Rt. 1 near Davis Ave in Laurel. The officer saw a man in a Dodge Stratus, which appeared to be an unmarked police car, initiate the stop with emergency lights activated. The patrol officer pulled to the shoulder of the road to assist in the traffic stop and discovered that the man was posing as a police officer. The patrol officer observed that the man was wearing a badge and handcuffs on his belt and had a police baton on the front seat of his car. A search of the car, which had magnetic antennas on the trunk, revealed a billy club hidden under the front seat. Brian Franklin Rogers, 25 (DOB: 3/9/78), of 5310 West North Ave. in Baltimore, was charged with impersonating a police officer and concealing a deadly weapon.

In a similar but unrelated case, a patrol officer observed an unattended Ford Crown Victoria with its engine running on Rt. 1 near Freestate Dr. in Laurel on Aug. 10. The patrol officer believed the vehicle, which had antennas on the trunk, was an unmarked police car and approached to offer assistance. The officer observed a gun bag on the front passenger seat of the car, a placard in the sun visor that read "Police Official Business," and an emergency light mounted in the back of the car. A man then approached the officer and advised that he was the driver of car. The officer discovered that the man was concealing two knives on his person, as well as two guns and ammunition in the car. The officer placed the man under arrest and discovered false police identification and additional emergency lights in the vehicle. Oley Burgess Rust, III, 45, (DOB: 7/9/58), of 15957 Dorset Rd. in Laurel, was charged with impersonating a police officer, concealing deadly weapons and displaying a police shield without authority.

Howard County Police are reminding citizens that they may request to speak with a uniformed officer if they are stopped by an officer not in uniform who is driving an unmarked police car. Drivers also may drive to a well-lighted area, such as a fire station, police station or shopping center, before stopping for an unmarked police car. However, police advise that in such a situation, a driver should activate the vehicle's hazard lights to acknowledge the officer and obey the speed limit until coming to a stop. This will let the officer know that the driver is not refusing to stop, but is traveling to a safer location.

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