



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police Increase Reward in Rape Case** *Investigators Renew Call for Public's Help*

Howard County Police have increased the reward in a Columbia rape case reported early this month to \$3,000. Investigators are asking the public to take a close look at the police sketch of the suspect and call (410) 313-3200 with any information.

On Aug. 6, a 21-year-old Columbia woman reported to police that she was sexually assaulted by a stranger in the 5700 block of Stevens Forest Road. She told police that the suspect approached her around 3 p.m. as she entered the laundry room of an apartment building. The victim reported that the suspect engaged her in conversation and then assaulted her.

The suspect is described as a black male, dark complexion, approximately 23-25 years old, 5'11"-6' tall, heavy set, and clean-shaven with a short haircut.

The victim was taken to Howard County General Hospital where she was treated and released the same day.

Since the report of the assault, police have canvassed neighborhoods, distributed flyers and urged the community to provide information about the case. Detectives currently do not have a suspect and have increased the reward in an effort to encourage anyone with information to come forward.

Reward money is being offered in this case by Metro Crime Stoppers and the Howard County Police Department.

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