



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Howard County Police Arrest Suspect in Columbia Sex Offense

Howard County Police have arrested a suspect in a Sept. 26 sex offense committed against a woman in Columbia. Ji Hwan Shin of 2941 Brookwood Road in Ellicott City was charged with a fourth degree sex offense and second degree assault.

Police responded to the bike path in the 6300 block of Tamar Drive around 2:50 p.m. after a 23-year old woman reported that a man had grabbed her from behind, thrown her to the ground and fondled her. The suspect fled towards Tamar Drive after the incident was interrupted by a bicyclist on the path.

A Howard County detective recognized that Shin, who had once been on the Maryland sex offender registry, matched the description of the suspect provided by the victim in this case. After further investigation, police arrested Shin at his home late last week. He posted bail, which was set at \$50,000, and was released to await trial Jan. 10.

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